

Press release for immediate use - Wednesday 2nd May 2018

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## **New exhibition to explore therapeutic art and design at Edinburgh's City Art Centre**

### **The Re(a)d Bed**

**- Art & Therapeutic Design**

**Saturday 12 May to Sunday 8 July 2018,**

**City Art Centre, 2 Market Street, Edinburgh EH1 1DE**

**FREE ENTRY**

Each painting in '**The Human Comedy**' series by **James Pryde** (1866-1941) depicts a facet of the human condition alongside a trademark imposing large four-poster bed. From that series, this exhibition at the City Art Centre features '**The Red Bed**' (1916) from the **City of Edinburgh collection**, alongside work from **Lothian Health Services Archive** and the **Alt-w Fund**.



**James Ferrier Pryde *The Red Bed* from City of Edinburgh collection.**

The legacy of **Scottish neurosurgeon Prof Norman Dott** (1897-1973) guides the exhibition. Originally an engineer, he retrained in medicine following a long spell in hospital recovering from a motorcycle accident. He constantly innovated with respect to his designs for neuroscience including the design and creation of the spherical Dott operating theatre at Edinburgh's Western General.

In addition to works from the partners' collections, a major focus of the exhibition is the current work of the **NHS Lothian's Art & Therapeutic Design programme and winners of the Alt-w Production Award**. Exploring the activity and research interests of the Department of Clinical Neuroscience (DCN) in Edinburgh, **Susana Cámara Leret, Tomoko Hayashi, Stacey Hunter, Gavin Inglis, Jack King-Spooner, Alex Menzies, Aidan Moesby, Florence To** and **Sven Werner** present their work across design, music, graphic novels, film including interactive elements and 3D design. [More on the artists and their work below]



Photo of **NHS Lothian's Art & Therapeutic Design fellows** visiting the Dott Theatres in the existing Department of Clinical Neuroscience (DCN) at the Western General Hospital.

The exhibition forms part of NHS Lothian's [Beyond Walls](#) programme of art and therapeutic design, which is curated by Ginkgo Projects and funded by the Edinburgh and Lothians Health Foundation. The Alt-w LAB at the City Art Centre has hosted a series of fellowships and residencies as part of this programme.

The City Art Centre is owned and managed by City of Edinburgh Council. From 1 June it extends its opening hours to seven days a week 10am to 5pm. Entry to the exhibition is free.

**Councillor Donald Wilson, Culture and Communities Convener**, said:

“Edinburgh is home to one of the largest neuroscience networks in Europe so it’s fascinating to see this element of the city and of science influence local artists and their craft. Participating in art and culture is known to assist mental health, but good design can

also have therapeutic benefits. This exhibition shines a light on the work of Norman Dott, who as a case in point, used his creative understanding to develop clinical design at the Western General. The worlds of art and science aren't so separate after all, and this exhibition proves it. I am delighted the City Art Centre has been able to support the display, and in so doing, the profile of these artists and their work."

**Robin Grant, Consultant Neurologist, NHS Lothian**, said: "This exhibition mines the rich history and strong identity of the Department of Clinical Neurosciences, reflecting patient experience and creatively interpreting some of the high calibre research taking place here at NHS Lothian".

**Susan Grant, Arts Manager, Edinburgh and Lothian Health Foundation**, said: "Edinburgh and Lothians Health Foundation is delighted to have initiated and funded these multi-arts fellowships, presented here in the context of the City Art Centre. The artists have developed genuine collaborative relationships with staff and patients in Clinical Neurosciences as part of a diverse programme of Arts in Health and Wellbeing across the service."

### **NHS Lothian's Art & Therapeutic Design programme and winners of the Art-w Production Award artist contributions:**

#### **Susana Cámara Leret**

##### **DCN Creative Research Artist Fellowship - Design**

Throughout her fellowship, Susana Cámara Leret has been researching health ecologies and the process of olfaction, from the remarkable ability of Joy Milne, who can diagnose Parkinson's Disease by smell alone, to exploring how fragrance on a molecular level can trigger memory.

Working with the radiology department at DCN, she has created 'The Smell of Onyx: Aspirations', a series of hand blown glass vessels containing the breath of patients who have undergone embolization treatment for Arteriovenous Malformations (AVMs) of the brain and spinal cord.

#### **Alex Menzies & Florence To**

##### **DCN Creative Research Artist Fellowship - Music**

Musician and composer Alex Menzies regularly collaborates with art director and installation artist Florence To. They are collaborating on a special performative installation in the unique spherical Dott Theatres after the DCN has moved from the Western General to Little France.

Alex has created a pervasive twelve channel audio work for the exhibition that explores his research into music therapy. Florence presents OCM\_01, an animation for Sediton, that visualises a tangible sense of gravity and the psychological effects of experiencing a full dome environment.

#### **Gavin Inglis**

### **DCN Creative Research Artist Fellowship - Language & Cognition**

Gavin Inglis is a writer of games and fiction. He created the interactive story 'Hana Feels' for Cycle 09 of the Alt-w Fund. He began his fellowship by exploring neurofiction, autonomous sensory meridian response (ASMR), artificial intelligence and generative fiction using neural nets.

The exhibition will include work in progress on a graphic novel entitled 'Not There' that explores functional neurological disorders. He has collaborated with Consultant Neurologist Dr Jon Stone and illustrator Fin Cramb to create this work, to be published in both print and digital formats.

### **Jack King-Spooner**

#### **DCN Mentoring Residency - I am in a hare's likeness now**

Artist Jack King-Spooner creates strange and wonderful things. During his residency he looked at ideas concerning hope and false hope within the framework of personal wellbeing, focused on Victorian spiritualism and Scottish witchcraft from the early 20th century.

Quackery through the ages, inadvertent acts of mindfulness and placebo effects were also explored. A facet of this research examined how engaging in an activity, although fraudulent or unproven, could prove worthwhile. He presents an 'amusement' arcade machine and book.

### **Sven Werner**

#### **DCN Mentoring Residency - Observer Cinema**

During his residency filmmaker Sven Werner created an installation and accompanying audio work. It tells the story of a man who, to his own surprise, finds he has a peculiar gift: he is able to recognise and inhabit the blind angles of people's attention so that he becomes to all eyes invisible.

He learns to move past hundreds of people every day while staying entirely unnoticed. He slowly becomes accustomed to inhabiting these hidden spaces and empty folds of daily life, until he decides to abandon his mundane existence to live only under the radar of the public's attention.

### **Stacey Hunter**

#### **DCN Mentoring Residency - Design and personal and social identity**

Stacey Hunter is a producer, curator and writer. In exploring how healthcare environments have implications for patients in terms of their identity and sense of self, she has been thinking about how the depersonalising effect of clinical environments might be positively counteracted.

As a design specialist, Stacey started with ideas of the 'dressing table' and 'vanity unit'. The residency then considered the accoutrements we surround ourselves with to communicate or sustain our 'best self', using international best practice as a resource and reference point.

### **Aidan Moesby**

#### **Cycle 09 Alt-w Production Award - Sagacity**

The Small Society Lab at Dundee Contemporary Arts worked with artist Aidan Moesby to construct a reflexive barometer of wellbeing, initially for Dundee, that provides a space – real, imagined or virtual – to reflect on ‘how things are’ and how can they be maintained or improved.

'The Periodic Table of Emotions' has now created multiple visible manifestations of the attitude and mood of many different people and places including hospitals, nurturing many ongoing personal connections. Use the hashtag #redbedfeels to engage with the work in the exhibition.

### **Tomoko Hayashi**

#### **Cycle 06 Alt-w Production Award - Mutsugoto**

Mutsugoto is a prototype body-drawing communication device intended for people who find themselves in long distance relationships. It allows partners to communicate through the language of touch as expressed in light on the canvas of the human body.

A custom projection system allows the two users to draw on each other's bodies whilst they lie in bed. Drawings are transmitted live between their two locations, enabling a different kind of communication that leverages the emotional quality of physical gesture.

<http://www.mediascot.org/taxonomy/term/227>

LINK TO IMAGES [HERE](#)

### **ENDS**

For more information on *Re(a)d Bed* please contact Susie Gray - [Susie@thecornershoppr.com](mailto:Susie@thecornershoppr.com) 07834 073 795 or Kate Bouchier-Hayes - [kate@thecornershoppr.com](mailto:kate@thecornershoppr.com) 07825 335 489

### **Photo/ Press Call:**

Thursday 10 May 2018 at 10am - 12noon

### **Venue Details:**

Address: City Art Centre, 2 Market Street, Edinburgh EH1 1DE  
Telephone: 0131 529 3993  
Website: [edinburghmuseums.org.uk](http://edinburghmuseums.org.uk)  
Twitter: @EdinCulture  
Facebook: Facebook.com/City.Art.Centre.CAC  
Pinterest: [pinterest.com/edinburghcc/city-art-centre](http://pinterest.com/edinburghcc/city-art-centre)  
Instagram: [instagram.com/museumsgalleriesedinburgh](http://instagram.com/museumsgalleriesedinburgh)

Opening hours:        May: Wednesday - Saturday 10am-5pm, Sunday 12noon - 5pm  
                              June & July: Monday - Sunday 10am - 5pm

**City Art Centre:**

The City Art Centre is one of Edinburgh's main public art galleries. It is owned and managed by the City of Edinburgh Council and is home to the City's collection of historic and contemporary Scottish art, one of the best in the country. The gallery hosts a vibrant programme of exhibitions from its collection and by contemporary artists and makers.