

The background of the entire page is an abstract composition of thick, expressive brushstrokes in various shades of teal, turquoise, and deep blue. The strokes are layered and overlapping, creating a sense of depth and movement. The colors transition from lighter, almost white tones on the left to darker, more saturated blues on the right and bottom.

**HOSPITAL
ROOMS**

**2026-28
PROJECT
OPEN
CALL**

**“THIS IS A REAL
CHAMPION IN
PEOPLE’S RECOVERY.”**

- Service User

Alvin Kofi, Company Amongst Ferns, 2022. Trinity Building, Springfield Hospital



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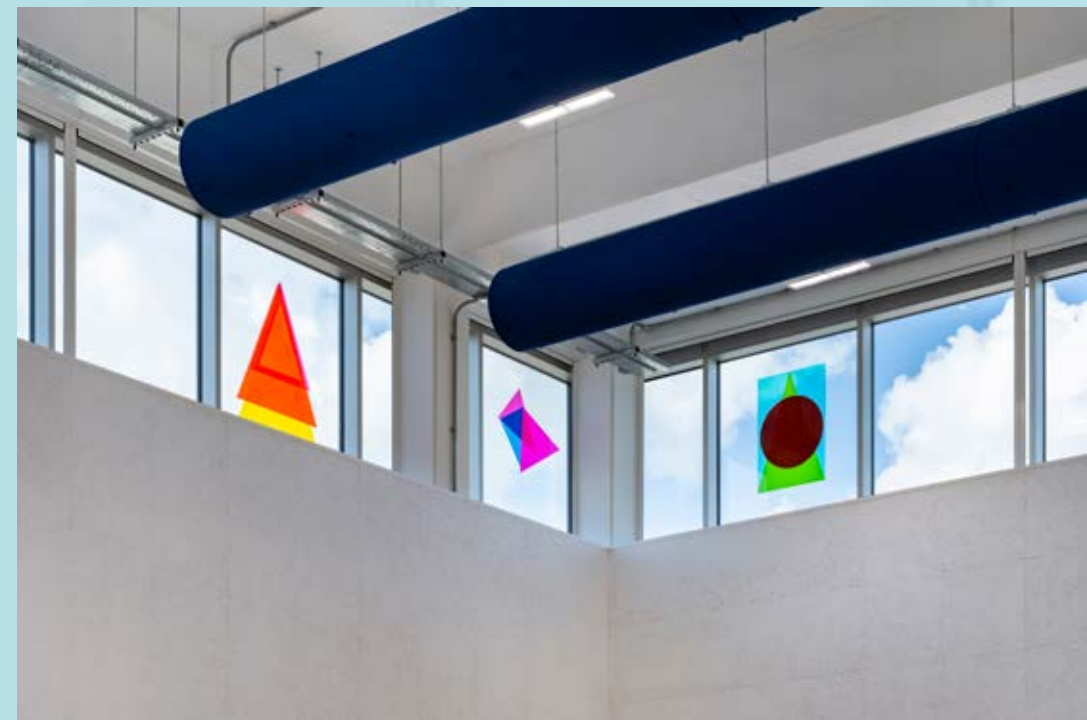




INTRODUCTION

Arts and mental health charity Hospital Rooms invites NHS Mental Health Trusts to apply for projects taking place 2026 - 28.

We lead transformative art programmes that culminate in co-produced world-class artwork for mental health settings.



Shepherd Manyika, Sports Hall, Springfield Hospital

What we see around us sends a very clear and explicit message about who we are, what we can expect, and how we are understood.

We want a world where:

- Mental health environments are imaginative and cultural spaces that are connected to those they care for, offering solace, comfort and dignity.
- Meaningful creative opportunities are abundantly accessible to people in mental health services.

We are seeking out collaborators who are committed to bringing this vision to life for the benefit of patients, staff and the wider community. We are committed to creating environments and experiences that are trauma informed, autism informed and culturally competent.

Link to New York Times Article - <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/11/17/arts/design/hospital-rooms-murals.html> Bringing World-Class Art, and Wonder, to Mental Health Patients



“The work you’re doing is so important, and as someone who’s been in and out of psych wards my whole life, I can tell you without any doubt that it makes a difference.”

- Service User, Bowman Ward

Amy McCarthy, Dining Room, Salus Ward



OPEN CALL

The Hospital Rooms Project Open Call is open for submissions between **Monday 3rd March and Friday 28 March**.

There are currently more requests for projects than we have capacity to undertake and so the process is competitive. All applications are carefully considered and feedback will be given to applicants.

Project Period

During this open call, we are looking to hear from Trusts who would like to work with Hospital Rooms on a project starting from **Spring 2026 - Autumn 2028**.



“I have always believed, from the start, that the seeds we are planting are going to grow to be something amazing.”

- Service User, Bowman Ward

Julian Opie, Jasmine Lodge



HOW TO APPLY

Please read the project guidelines below carefully and send any questions or comments you may have to Zarina at zarina@hospital-rooms.com

To apply, please submit the Application Form by the end of day **28 March 2025** to be considered for this opportunity. Submit application [here](#).

Accessibility

If you need any assistance completing this application or require the information in a different format, please contact Zarina at zarina@hospital-rooms.com

Events

We're offering two **Open Forum Sessions** via Zoom for applicants to ask any questions about the application process or project criteria.

1. Thursday 20 March, 1-2pm | Register [Here](#)
2. Tuesday 25 March, 1-2pm | Register [Here](#)

WHEN YOU'LL HEAR FROM US:

- All applicants will receive confirmation of their application from Hospital Rooms on submission.
- Shortlisted NHS Trusts will be notified in late March where we will work with you collaboratively to create a project scope and final proposal.
- Final costed recommendations for projects will go to our board of Trustees during our May meeting.
- All shortlisted NHS Trusts will be notified of their outcome in early June 2025.

Future Opportunities

If you're interested in working with Hospital Rooms, but your Trust does not currently meet the project criteria or you are not able to apply during this open call period, we will have an Expressions of Interest form available to submit from **1 April 2025** onwards and we will continue to consider projects to take place at a later date.



Melanie Stidolph, Carbis Ward, Female Lounge

OVERVIEW OF HOSPITAL ROOMS

Hospital Rooms is an arts and mental health charity that believes all people in mental health hospitals should have the freedom to experience extraordinary art. We commission world-class artists to transform hospital environments in collaboration with patients, clinicians, allied health professionals and the wider community.

We are a registered charity (Reg: 1168101) and part of Arts Council England's National Portfolio.

Hospital Rooms has an excellent track record in delivering high quality projects on time and to budget. We have worked in a range of mental health settings including forensics, Psychiatric Intensive Care, rehabilitation care, dementia care and Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services.

We have been noted for Outstanding Practice by the CQC for both the environments we create and our patient involvement. We have also featured in a profile for the New York Times as well as BBC, Financial Times, Channel 4 News, and many more. Our Digital Art School has won international awards including a Webby and the Art Explora - Académie des Beaux-arts European Prize. We have global creative and research partners that support our work.

“Since the pandemic I have been greatly helped and nourished by the output of Hospital Rooms. It has helped me so much with my anxiety and has given me back a great deal of confidence and is propelling me forward again.”

- Maxine Jarrett, Hospital Rooms Digital Art School



Sarah Dwyer, Digital Art School , Abstract Drawings and Painting workshop

PROJECT OUTLINE

Hospital Rooms is driving national movement in humanising environments and experiences in mental health services through access to high quality, sensorily sensitive and culturally aware creative programmes and artworks.

We combine the expertise of artists, patients, mental health professionals and people with lived experience of mental health services. Our artworks are fully compliant and fit for purpose (hygiene, safety, security, durability, ligature) for the particular mental healthcare settings we work in, while simultaneously being visually and conceptually engaging.

Our brief to artists is to work closely and collaboratively with patients and staff on wards, and with people with lived experience in the community, to ensure that the artworks they create have an ongoing relationship with and meaning to the people who encounter them.

This is facilitated through a programme of imaginative and adventurous workshops that take place in the first half of the project, providing a space for creations and conversations to unfold that will inform the artworks that are made for the wards. These workshops are designed to be suitable for participants of all abilities. Our aim is to create an empowering model that inclusively enhances the ward environments, while also contributing to learning around and development of psychiatric care environments.

Our staff team and artists work with the utmost sensitivity and follow best practice when coming onto the wards to minimise the risk of confusion, disorientation or unfamiliarity for patients. We pay close attention to requirements identified by patients and staff in the process of designing and delivering workshops and artworks. Health and safety regulations are adhered to at all times and full RAMS provided prior to workshops and installations. We discuss and schedule our workshop and installation programmes with hospital staff to ensure maximum participation and minimal disruption.

Hospital Rooms has a governing statement that is approved by the Charity Commission and we will adhere to the guidelines outlined in this throughout the project. In addition, we have a strong Equality and Diversity policy and we consciously encourage participation from artists and service users from underrepresented communities. In our workshops and in the artworks that we create, our aim is to promote an environment of mutual respect. We do not tolerate racism, homophobia, transphobia or sexism.

We adhere to safeguarding vulnerable adults and young people regulations including performing DBS checks, adhering to confidentiality and consent protocol in participation and documentation, and recognising that creating art within a mental health setting is not solely related to hope or repair but can involve encountering anxiety or difficult psychological processes.

Please see our Safeguarding Policies [here](#).



“Art captures something beautiful that the world can’t destroy. Art is everlasting.”

- Service User, Bluebell Lodge

Richard Mark Rawlins, Titian Ward

Project Methodology

Our projects follow a standardised framework that is flexible and adaptable to the communities we work with.

Research and Development

Through a research and development phase, we learn the needs, challenges and preferences of the community we will work with to craft project aims and design.

Preparedness

Based on this knowledge, we select artists who bear relevance to or have some shared experience with the community.

Co-production

Artists facilitate creative workshops with service users and NHS staff to collaboratively imagine new ideas of how mental health services should look and feel.

Installation

Artworks that have been informed by these sessions are fabricated to meet all of the clinical requirements of the mental health space and are installed to museum quality.

Public Engagement

Ambitious local and national public exhibitions celebrate the contributions of all those involved in our projects. We attract widespread national and international press coverage including the Guardian, the New Yorker, the Financial Times, and BBC.

Legacy

Our Digital Art School and partnerships forged with local cultural organisations and artists provide ongoing artistic opportunities for service users and staff.

“By having people other than doctors and nurses come into our wards and telling our residents ‘we see you, and you matter’ Hospital Rooms is not only rejuvenating the external spaces that surround our residents, creating therapeutic environments for them to heal within, it is also rejuvenating their internal spaces, their inner dialogues. It is changing their personal narratives, the stories that they tell themselves about who they are, and what they’re worth.” - *Staff Member, Hellingly Centre*



**“We all have creativity
deep within us.”**

- Service User, Hellesdon Hospital

Rose Pilkington, De-Escalation room, The Junipers

Project Criteria

- Must take place in or around mental health hospitals or services;
- Meaningful involvement from patients, staff and artists must be facilitated and encouraged throughout, from initial stages to completion;
- Must support a forward-thinking approach to creativity;
- Must be focused on movement to disrupt barriers to arts and culture for people in mental health hospitals;
- Must adhere to the principles of Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion;
- Artworks must be fabricated to a high quality and be maintainable for a minimum of 5 years from installation

Hospital Rooms asks NHS Trusts to contribute funding towards the cost of a project. A full budget will be costed after further consultation, however Hospital Rooms projects total costs range between £300,000 and £700,000. We ask that partner Trusts contribute a minimum of 50% of the project budget, depending on project costs and timings. Hospital Rooms takes responsibility for raising any remaining funds from a variety of sources including Arts Council England, Trusts, Foundations, and other grant-making bodies, corporate partnerships, our committed Patrons and supporters, and fundraising events.

Payment Terms

Contributions from the Trust can be made in installments over multiple financial years as agreed with Hospital Rooms. This will be agreed at the project scoping stage.

A 25% deposit to secure the project appointment will be invoiced in September 2025.

Hospital Rooms Commitment

The following outlines a general brief for our projects and what Hospital Rooms will commit to to make the project a success.

Creative Programming

- to commission a group of high-calibre artists to create brand new permanent, site-specific artworks for designated areas across one or more mental health units within a Trust;
- for those artworks to be created in close collaboration with patients, mental health professionals and people with lived experience of mental health services through a programme of imaginative and adventurous art workshops both on and off the wards;
- to work closely with patients and staff on the wards to ensure that engagement with creative workshops and the development of artwork proposals is as appealing, accessible and open as possible;
- to work proactively alongside established NHS internal initiatives including the Culture of Care standards and the Patient Carer Race Equality Framework
- to develop a network of committed artists and cultural organisations and to support the Trust in building relationships to provide ongoing opportunities for creative engagement after the project is complete;
- to celebrate and raise awareness of the project with a public exhibition, an accompanying series of talks and events, and a book;

- to identify and organise additional opportunities for staff training and networking that ensure a long-term legacy for the project.
- to work collaboratively with Quality Improvement and Informatics teams to evaluate the project and its outcomes



Yinka Illori, Installation Springfield Hospital

Project Management

- to create a full project plan that details the deliverables, budget and timescale of the project and to review this at regular intervals throughout the project;
- to work together in raising the full project budget;
- to ensure that all artworks are fabricated to the highest quality and with materials and designs that comply with the Trust's policies on safeguarding, health and safety and infection control;
- to ensure that the installation of every artwork has a full Risk Assessment and Method Statement (RAMS) that has been signed off by all relevant parties;
- to ensure that all artworks are fabricated with minimal cost to the environment;
- to install artworks at convenient times and to cause minimal disruption to wards;
- to work in partnership with the Trust's Communications team to generate awareness of the project, including significant press attention project across the health and arts sectors and internal communications across the Trust.

Safeguarding

- to adhere to safeguarding guidelines for working with vulnerable adults and young people;
- to carry out a standard DBS check on every individual we bring onto a ward;
- to adhere to confidentiality and consent protocols in relation to participation and documentation;
- to adhere to the Hospital Rooms Bullying and Harassment policy.

We welcome feedback on the brief to ensure we align our proposal with your needs.



Re-imagining Narratives workshop, Hauser & Wirth 2022

“The Hospital Rooms project is one of those rare initiatives that seamlessly combines first-rate artists and real engagement with the patient and caregiver community to go beyond mere pleasant decoration. They transform austere patient holding areas into nurturing and healing environments, respecting not only the art and the science, but the essence of compassion which unites the two.”

- Christopher Bailey, Arts and Health Lead,
World Health Organisation

Emma Talbot, Greenfields



Your Commitment

To deliver a successful project, we ask that NHS partner Trusts commit to:

- Provide at least one key point of contact who is committed to the project and can give sufficient time to support its smooth-running;
- Commit to regular communication across all levels of the Trust, including current and (where appropriate) former patients, staff from a full range of clinical and domestic roles, and senior leadership, aimed at ensuring that the creation of artworks is fully collaborative;
- Provide support with evaluation and data for the purposes of project evaluation at the beginning and end of the project and at regular intervals throughout;
- Commit a financial contribution of at least 50% towards the project costs;
- Provide assistance with funding applications if necessary (i.e. providing relevant information on demographics, reach, results);
- Commit to maintaining the artwork and environment created with the assistance of Hospital Rooms;



- Provide suitable space and staff support for workshops and participatory projects, which will be agreed formally;
- Provide a Trust Safeguarding Policy and Safeguarding Lead contact
- Provide Health and Safety Policy and Lead contact
- Provide a Patient & Carers Race Equality Framework Lead contact and demonstrate engagement with the initiative

Please feel free to continue the design.

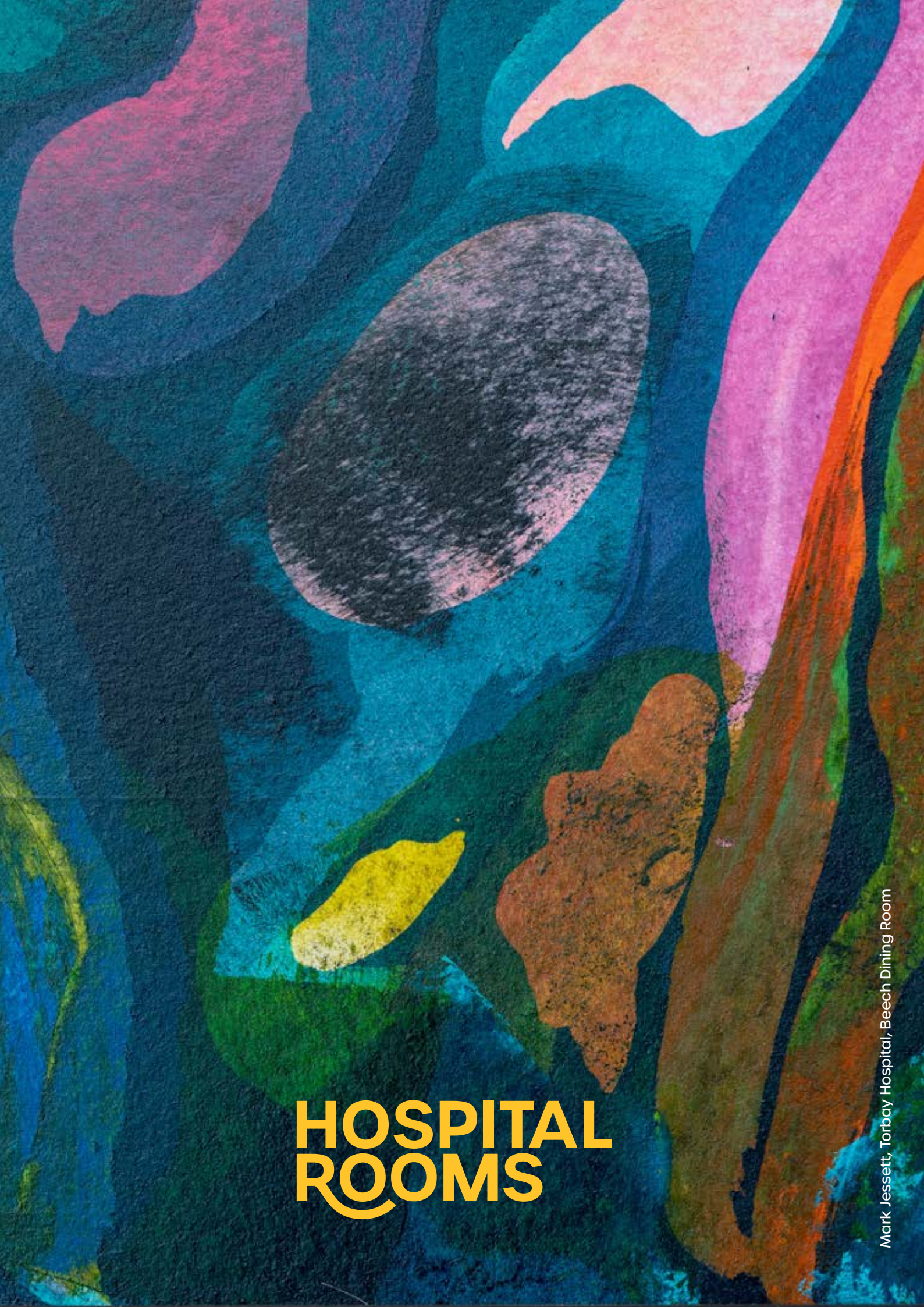
CONTACT:
zarina@hospital-rooms.com



“Everyone is capable of art. It is an amazing way to connect with our fellow humans and truly express ourselves.”

- Service User, Camborne Redruth Community Hospital

Giles Deacon, Digital Art School, 'All Things Paisley' Pattern Making workshop



HOSPITAL ROOMS