

bethlem
gallery

Bethlem Gallery Annual Report 2018–19



Overview

In 2018/19 Bethlem Gallery expanded the programme to include satellite exhibitions at the Long Gallery at Maudsley Hospital and the ORTUS Learning Centre. At the Long Gallery this included Alternative Seventy our collaboration with Bethlem Museum to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the NHS; Founder's Award, Bethlem Art Fair award winners selected by artist Mark Titchner; and Daniel Regan's I Want to Live, a collaboration with the Maytree Suicide Respite Centre. We are developing a touring programme and this year Our Future Likes which included a collaboration with young people and staff at the Bethlem Adolescent Unit at Bethlem Royal Hospital opened at the gallery and then toured to the ORTUS. It launched in September 2018 to support Maudsley Charity's fundraising for the new Children and Young People's Centre on the Maudsley site.

Our ambition is to develop new audiences both through this expanded programme and through off-site collaborative exhibitions. This year Bethlem Gallery artists presented work as part of several significant exhibitions including the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition selected by our patron Grayson Perry - 10 Bethlem Gallery artists entered 15 artworks free of charge and the majority of the artists sold their work. We took part in Manchester Contemporary Art Fair which increased our reach in relation to mainstream art audiences. And one of our artists participated in a collaborative residency funded by RIVA with Outside In and Southward Park Galleries which culminated in the exhibition Realm. Visitor numbers for the satellite and offsite collaborative exhibitions have increased from 60,581 in the previous year to 347,999.

The gallery hosted an Arts Council Collection

This was the first year of the four-year Mental Health and Justice project working with researchers from the Institute of Psychiatry Psychology and Neuroscience (IoPPN) supported by the Wellcome Trust. Artists with lived experience, supported by the gallery, will lead the public programme. The initial focus was on the two principal areas of enquiry central to the research: the concept of support in decision-making and the concept of decision making ability.

Curator's Day exploring arts and mental health with 35 curators from across the UK. The day included presentations and activities led by staff and artists. And our international links included research and development lead, Dr Michaela Ross, presenting at Rikkyo University in Tokyo, a visit from key members of the European Outsider Art Conference.

We are continuing the artist residency programme with the Wellcome Collection who are hosting Bethlem Gallery artists to research the arts and health collection. And a different kind of residency this year involved the artist Eleanor Minney and neuroscientist Liz Tunbridge spending several weeks throughout 2018 facilitating workshops with groups of patients on the National Psychosis Unit at Bethlem Royal Hospital. The exhibition

Switching Perceptions presented some of this work and a new project is taking shape that will be shown at the Barbican.

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Bethlem Museum appointed Colin Gale as their new director in the Autumn and we are delighted to be working with Colin and his team

and to be exploring strategic and collaborative projects including joint programming over the coming years. The gallery director has been on maternity leave this year, this position has been covered as a job-share and has introduced new ways of working. The process has been very positive and we feel we now have robust succession planning and future-proofing in place.

We are extremely grateful to the Maudsley Charity for their continued funding, their new five-year strategy outlines their long term commitment to partner institutions including the Bethlem Gallery and Museum through their anchor programme. The Mental Health and Justice grant from Wellcome has increased our annual budget and it has been another year of successful sales totalling almost £27,000 exceeding our projections. Our reserves this year have grown by £16,500.

The Board of Trustees would like to thank the gallery team and volunteers for all their hard work and commitment and we look forward to the year ahead.



15

Gallery Exhibitions

5964

Bethlem Gallery
Visitors

347999

Visitors, offsite & partnerships

201

Participant Artists

15

Volunteers

Aims and Objectives

Artists and Patients

Showcase, celebrate & support

the endeavours and achievements of people who have had contact with mental health services, respecting their status as artists.

Support and add value to

the health of patients in hospital, and for those across our hospital services who engage with the gallery programme.

Recognise the 'living archive' of today, contributing to the on-going collection and documentation of artwork, experiences and perspectives of current or former patients, by collaborating with and feeding into the historical collection in the museum with the work of our artists.

Feedback

Artists, Volunteers & Staff

I value the workshop space, the emphasis on being creative, taking risks and experimentation. People have the chance to meet with exhibiting artists and those who are artists in residence and have a more personal experience of their work.

As a stepping stone to moving on I think the gallery enhances and improves skills that an institution can't help with. The gallery is a blending of the two communities and helping me make that transition between institutional care and life beyond institutional care'...I'm using art as a vehicle to have a conversation with the outside world....It's complementary medicine. My treatment is all about dialogue and I'll only get better and stronger by developing my social skills so that my circle expands and so does my support.

Normalising life. Lifting barriers. Assisting in my personal growth.

I've had a really positive experience of working with the gallery over the last few years. From running workshops with patients to exhibiting and submitting funding applications, I've always felt supported by gallery staff. As someone with my own lived experiences running workshops, particularly on the adolescent ward, has proven challenging. Sometimes having lived experience is a positive way of connecting with others, but it does come with its own challenges which I feel the gallery understand and respect.

*Connection
Creativity
Celebration of skills and qualities that are often hidden behind diagnosis
Public involvement
Awareness of Mental health
Place of safety and calm
Collaboration of Art and Science
Helping people to reclaim their lives through art.*

*Gives me a voice that is heard... Feeling that anything is possible — solution led — make things happen — great facilitators. Think outside the box — instigators of change
Diversity — interesting and a learning experience. Connections with many people / institutions / charities / organisations — people I wouldn't be able to talk with / learn from on my own — gives me a truly rounded experience and differing points of view. Challenge me intellectually and creatively, developing my practice. Introduce me to like minded people and artists who I can share experiences with — amazing Collaborative opportunities and peer led learning. Professional environment — take me seriously.*

It's a way of being part of an artistic community for service-users. Even when patients are very unwell and actively psychotic, they are immensely proud of their work. They think, "I'm not invisible, I've been able to make something in the world". It affirms their existence. Nursing staff or their mum can say, "It's lovely" — but it's very different when a professional says it. These people have never been properly supported by the education system and don't think their capacity for lateral thinking is something to be valued.

It's a confidence building thing. I've got a past that's not quite nice and I can look forward to the future here. I've helped with installs and learnt loads. I've tried to be continuous with my artwork due to my connection with this place. This is a familiar place with familiar people and it's an uplifting place for me. It feels good to know people purchase my work and value it.

Partners

The partnership between Bethlem Museum of the Mind and Bethlem Gallery has always been strong. Since 2015, when the Museum and Gallery began to share premises, that partnership has been critical to our success. Though we are separately governed, our aims and values dovetail, our back office operations synergise and we comprise one proposition as a visitor attraction. I am convinced that we are more than the sum of our parts, and that our collaboration makes us unique. Over the last twelve months, the Museum and Gallery have intensified their joint programming for exhibitions, events and marketing. It has been professionally rewarding, and a great pleasure, for me and the Museum team to work closely with the Gallery's Director and other members of Gallery staff toward the promotion of mental health awareness and wellbeing.

— Bethlem Museum

We have had a very positive experience working with the Bethlem Gallery on this [Mental Health and Justice] project. There is a connection though shared experiences between our audience and the artists whose work is presented and discussed, and the events have been vibrant and engaged.

— Dragon Café

Wellcome Collection's Research Development team are excited to be partnering with Bethlem Gallery to offer an artist a supported research residency. We are supporting the artist to explore and research material held by Wellcome Collection, to bring new and creative perspectives to our collections and to provide an opportunity for artists' professional practice to develop.

— Wellcome Library

Working with the REALM artists was an amazing learning experience for all of us. Witnessing their collaboration and respect for each other and how they incorporated their varying practises, was inspiring. Mr. X brought joy to the residency with his work ethic and attitude, seeing him gain confidence throughout our time together was truly a pleasure. The work of the Bethlem Gallery team is so valuable, evidenced through Mr. X's work as a (literally) shining example of the power of creative processes.

— Southwark Park Galleries London



Activity Exhibition Programme

Bethlem Gallery Exhibitions

Apr–Jun 2018
IN/DI/VISIBLE

Group exhibition as part of our research and development strand. Exhibiting artists: Daniel Regan, David Blandy, Esther Maxwell-Orumbie, Larry Achiampong, Leon B, John M and Mr X.

Jul–Sep 2018
The Journey

Solo exhibition by Bethlem artist, Michael Meikle.

Mo B

Solo exhibition by Bethlem artist in the gallery studio space.

Sep–Nov 2018
Our Future Likes

Curated group exhibition showcasing work by young people including collaborations with Bethlem Adolescent Unit, local schools and Art Assassins, South London Gallery Youth Group.

Nov–Dec 2018
Bethlem Art Fair

Group exhibition of artwork for sale by patients and staff of SLaM.

Jan–Mar 2019
Switching Perceptions

Exhibition with Artist Eleanor Minney, in collaboration with Professor Liz Tunbridge and patients from the National Psychosis Unit at Bethlem Royal Hospital.

Lynda Bean

Solo exhibition by Bethlem artist in the gallery studio space.

Satellite Exhibitions

ORTUS

April–Nov 2018
Charity Showcase

Photographic exhibition showcasing the work of Maudsley Charity to mark their independence and relaunch.

Nov–Dec 2018
Bethlem Art Fair pop up

Group exhibition of artwork for sale by patients and staff of SLaM.

Feb–ongoing 2019
Our Future Likes

Exhibition of work by young people as above to coincide with launch of the Maudsley Charity's Children and Young People's Fundraising Campaign.

Long Gallery

Jul–Sep 2018
Alternative Seventy

Collaboration with Bethlem Museum to celebrate 70th anniversary of NHS.

Dec 2018–Mar 2019
Founder's Awards

Group exhibition showcasing work by Bethlem artists selected for the Bethlem Founder's Award 2017 by artist Mark Titchner.



Off-site Collaborative Exhibitions

Summer Exhibition, Royal Academy

Curator: Grayson Perry, our patron.
Showing: Jun–Aug 2018.
Visitors: c. 296, 442.

Realm, Southwark Park Galleries

Showing: Mar–Apr 2019 (+ residency).
Visitors: c.1058.

Manchester Contemporary

Showing: 3 days (Oct 2018).
Visitors: c.4,859.



Feedback from Royal Academy exhibiting artists

I had heard of the Royal Academy and wanted to enter it for years but I never thought I would have a chance. The effort, the cost and the procedure were all barriers. I didn't know what the procedure was to submit something and so, by doing it through Bethlem Gallery, it took all the hard work out of it. It's such a big exhibition and I'm used to entering smaller exhibits so it can be overwhelming. I'm very proud that someone wanted to own my work. It's a nice feeling. It inspired me to paint some more.

I'm honoured and it feels like an achievement to be part of something this big. It was an amazing experience. It was the best thing of my summer. I was on the street, with no money and nothing to eat and I saw the bill board advertising the exhibition and it felt amazing.

"I did sell my work and that was the cherry on the cake. I told my friends and family and it helped me get respect and belief back from some of the family and friends. It felt like a great achievement."

What did exhibiting in the Royal Academy mean to you?

I visited the exhibition in the first week. I had to be escorted to the gallery. I thought 'Ah, there you are!' That was the first time I'd been inside the Royal Academy and I have never seen so much art work in one place.

I am glad that my work is seen by so many people. Hopefully a few of them might look up my name on the internet and find out more about my work. My work is also concerned with recreating the art from the asylums and the borough of Bromley that was lost during that era.

It was awesome to see my work on the wall. I stopped in front of it and gave thanks. I told my family and my friends who were proud of me that I had reached so far. It is a great opportunity for me to go further. It is a great thing to meet people from that art world and know that they will see your work. I have been painting for twenty years and for the first 15 years I painted day and night. I have had other opportunities before but nothing as high profile as this.





Mental Health and Justice

The project team has been established for this significant public engagement programme working with researchers from the Institute of Psychiatry Psychology and Neuroscience (IoPPN) supported by the Wellcome Trust. The 4 year programme is co-produced with artists, the majority of whom have lived experience of mental health. We have contracted five artists and arts organisations as part of our artists' programme: Bethlem Wood Library, ReCreate Psychiatry, OOMK, Mark Titchner and James Leadbitter. The role of the artists and their practice is two-fold: to communicate nuance within the wider research project and to provide an additional platform for underrepresented voices to feed into the research.

We have also worked with artists and academics Courtney, Xavier White, Mr X, Hannah Hull, Dr Rachel Seoighe, Irit Rogoff, Stephen Scrivener and David Gilbert on our engagement programme and partnered with Dragon Cafe, McPin Foundation and Wellcome Library as well as Bethlem Royal Hospital Anxiety Disorders Residential Unit and the River House Medium Secure Unit. A space on the hospital site has been secured as a work space and we have invested in a risograph as part of a long-term plan to put artists in control of the making process and to enable us to print and distribute work to spaces such as wards where there is no internet access and restricted leave. Members of the project team have attended and presented at 6 of the research events including the annual colloquium attended by everyone participating in the entire Mental Health and Justice (MHJ) project. We have had an incredibly receptive and responsive working relationship with the researchers and several of the artists have chosen to immerse themselves in the research and the research practice.

We have successfully engaged with a range of publics from those who are in secure wards on the hospital site to general members of the public who have not previously engaged with discussions around mental health. The project has hosted mixed groups, open to all and made up of individuals from within and without hospital communities and we have also run groups tailored to specific needs and kept deliberately private. The aspiration is to keep

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reviewing the public we engage with, and the artists we programme, to encompass the breadth of experience and opinion which we know is vital to the project. In addition to looking at the many considerations which could exclude certain public from the work we do, we have also been looking at the explicit or implicit hierarchies between artists and researchers, patient and clinician, well and unwell. In this spirit, our first public event was to explore the commonalities between artist and researcher where our artists showed practical examples of their making as research.

All artists will be engaging regularly with groups of service users, clinicians, carers and the wider hospital community. Our project will continue to create considered spaces to bring people together and encourage conversations and learning through their art practices. The emergent themes coming from our artist networks focus on two (interrelated) concepts:

- Justice as access to resources
- Justice as fairness & transparency in the forums for discussion/engagement



19

Collaborative
Partnerships

385k

Tweet
impressions

51517

Website page views

8

Talks, presentations and
consultation requests

36

TV, radio, print
or online articles

Aims and Objectives

Profile and Quality

Offer a world-class bridging platform where arts, health and public meet, developing our profile as leaders in the field of arts-in-health.

Engage audiences in learning about health and arts practices across all elements of our programme.

Challenge stigma, encourage debate and increase understanding about mental health.

Champion creative expertise and knowledge.

Offer a high quality and engaging arts programme within the creative hub of the gallery, and develop our reach beyond through strategic collaborations and partnerships.

Specialise in, and advocate for, quality visual arts provision within health care environments.

Undertake and contribute to arts and cross-disciplinary research collaborations.

Feedback Gallery Visitors

I felt touched by the pictures that convey profound human feelings.

I've literally had the best day visiting the gallery for the first time while the pop up art fair is on. Honestly the gallery is the most cutting edge best arts projects I have ever seen. Everyone is also really welcoming."

Really interesting second emotional visit should be part of SLAM induction for new staff like me!"

So good to see someone engaging their vulnerability so movingly and to hear hope and recovery. A wonderful gallery.

The fact all these works are by teenagers amazes me and inspires me.

So good made me laugh, think, and reflect. Thank you.

Comments from the Visitor book

Amazed to find that the grounds of the hospital are both open to the public and incredibly rich in wildlife and nature. Such an important aspect of maintaining good mental health.

Always something to make me think and sets off a conversation when I get home with family and friends.

I've learned so much from listening and looking at those deeply personal narratives. Am so grateful to hear those journeys and views. We need more of these.

Fascinating work, an artistic and very symbolic interpretation of complex scientific research. Very thought provoking.





Collaborations

Collaborations

Bethlem Museum
 Bethlem Occupational Therapy Dept
 London Arts in Health Forum
 The Lancet Psychiatry
 Kings Cultural Institute
 Wellcome Library
 CGP London
 Outside In
 Art Assassins, South London Gallery Youth Group
 Langley Park School for Boys
 Raw Sounds
 Bethlem Adolescent Unit
 Autograph ABP
 Iniva
 Royal Academy
 Manchester Contemporary
 National Psychosis Unit
 Department of Psychiatry, Medical Sciences Division at the University of Oxford
 The Royal Society Public Engagement Fund

Talks, presentations & consultation requests

- HERON Conference 2018: Current and Future Directions in Health Equity Research and Action.
- The International Workshop on Medical Museums and Galleries in Mental Health, Keio University, Japan.
- Birkbeck University.
- Dragon Cafe.
- Arts Council Collection: Curators Day
- Wellcome Collection.
- Kings College London: A Beautiful Mind.

Research partnerships

Bethlem Salons

Finding Fanon Screening of The Finding Fanon Trilogy and discussion with artists Larry Achiampong and David Blandy chaired by David A Bailey.

Looking Back on Our Future Likes A collaboration with staff and students from the MA Arts & Learning at Goldsmiths College working with the themes of the exhibition about art, young people and the way we live our lives on and off-line.

Think Tank Eleanor Minney and Professor Liz Tunbridge with people involved in the mental health care system explored some of the central questions and provocations from the exhibition Switching Perceptions.

Diversity and the Archive Seminar

In conversation: Teresa Cisneros, cultural producer and Daniel Regan, artist and exhibitor in IN/DI/VISIBLE exploring artists use of public and private archives.

Research Exhibition

IN/DI/VISIBLE in collaboration with Larry Achiampong, David Blandy, Iniva and Autograph ABP.

Advisory board discussions

- Models of Practice
- All Party Parliamentary Group for Arts Health and Wellbeing Report
- Mental Health and Justice Project
- The role of Patrons

Media

Wellcome Blog, Lancet Psychiatry, Lancet Psychiatry podcast, Creativity & Wellbeing, Week, The Psychologist, BBC Radio 4, News in Beckenham, Disability Arts on Line, London Arts in Health Forum, Bromley Times, All in London, Art Rabbit, Manchester Evening News, iNews, Creative tourist, Northern soul, New Art West Midlands, Disability Arts Online, The Resident magazine, Time Out, Crafts Magazine, Art Daily, The Jackal Magazine, Art Monthly, Art Licks, SE16, Culture 24, WiSE16, Art Map, Doncaster Heritage

