

Press Release June 2008

Children at the Royal Alexandra Children's Hospital create a giant sculpture

As part of Brighton & Hove Children's Festival 2008 textile artist Tamara Violaris was commissioned to design a sculpture to be hung in the six floored atrium in the new children's hospital on eastern road.

The project is collaboration between the Children's Festival and the new Children's Hospital and the artwork has been made by over 150 young patients at the Royal Alexandra.

Tamara and two other artists ran six days of creative felt-making workshops in the hospital to create the felt pieces for the sculpture. The aim of the workshops was to teach patients aged 3-19 a new creative skill and promote the therapeutic nature of creative activities. The workshops were designed to be flexible so that the artists could respond to the individual needs of each patient and make the whole project as accessible and inclusive as possible.

Tamara said of the project 'My idea was to create a giant felt installation for the empty atrium space and fill it with a lot of colour, softness and life.'

She continued 'The project has been a total privilege and joy to be a part of, filled with everlasting memories of all the people I met and worked with. The biggest compliment of all is that the hospital has now commissioned a second project, in the children's surgical ward, a hanging wall of felt encapsulated in Perspex and called 'Tamara's Felt Garden'. I will of course be enlisting the help of the children on the wards to assist in making the garden grow'

The final artwork is now on display in the hospital atrium for the next few months.

For more information please contact Tamara Violaris at visitus@feltish.co.uk

The project was funded by Brighton and Hove Children's Festival, BSUH NHS Trust and The Friends of Brighton and Hove Hospitals.