



MEDIA RELEASE - 24/01/2019

60 YEARS, 60 VOICES: NATIONAL CHARITY PAINTINGS IN HOSPITALS CELEBRATES ITS 60TH ANNIVERSARY WITH 60 BLOGS FROM PROMINENT ARTS & HEALTH VOICES

National charity Paintings in Hospitals celebrates six decades of transforming the UK's health and social care spaces with 60 weekly blogs detailing the impact of art on our wellbeing from well-known artists, academics, critics, patients, carers and more.

60 Years, 60 Voices aims to highlight the contribution Paintings in Hospitals has made to the nation's physical, mental and social health since the charity's founding in 1959 by sharing personal stories from its diverse community of supporters.

The online campaign kicked off this month with a BBC archive audio clip of Paintings in Hospitals' founder Sheridan Russell speaking about the beginnings of the charity on Desert Island Discs in 1970. This was followed by a heartfelt article 'Food of the human spirit' by renowned contemporary artist and Paintings in Hospitals patron Maggi Hambling CBE.

The *60 Years, 60 Voices* campaign will consist of weekly posts across the Paintings in Hospitals website and social media (using #60Voices) and will feature testimonials, research, history, images, audio and videos from a range of contributors working across arts, health and social care, academia, museums, politics and more.

Ben Pearce, Director of Paintings in Hospitals, explained why the campaign is so important:

"We are very excited to celebrate 60 years of Paintings in Hospitals in 2019. For six decades, we have been working across every type of care site to transform the UK's health and wellbeing through art. Art is proven to help us stay well and aid our recovery from illness and injury. We also know that art has the potential to save the NHS money. Now more than ever, it is vital that people are aware of the enormous contribution art has made and can still make to public health in these challenging times and beyond. We believe that by sharing stories from some of our greatest advocates, we can inspire others to join us in creating a future in which art is an integral part of everyday care."

ENDS



MEDIA ENQUIRIES

For further details or interview requests, please contact:

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EDITOR'S NOTES

ABOUT PAINTINGS IN HOSPITALS

Founded in 1959, Paintings in Hospitals was an early pioneer of the now flourishing 'arts in health' sector and remains the only national art collection dedicated to inspiring better health and wellbeing for patients and carers. Paintings in Hospitals is partnered with 180 health and social care organisations in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, loaning its artworks and hosting hands-on art workshops to create care spaces that encourage, enrich and empower everyone who uses them.

The Paintings in Hospitals collection holds 4,000 artworks, including pieces by Bridget Riley, Antony Gormley, Ian Davenport, Maggi Hambling, Andy Warhol, Anish Kapoor, Howard Hodgkin, Patrick Caulfield, Helen Chadwick, Sonia Boyce, Alexander Calder, and many more. Paintings in Hospitals has also partnered with national museums and collections, including the V&A, Arts Council Collection and Wallace Collection, enabling the charity to bring more world-class art to people who cannot reach it alone. Paintings in Hospitals receives no Government funding and relies entirely on grants and donations to continue its unique work. Paintings in Hospitals is a Registered Charity (1065963).

Hashtag: #60Voices

Website: www.paintingsinhospitals.org.uk/60voices

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END OF ALL