

Art in Healthcare

About Us

We were **founded in 1991** (originally affiliated with Paintings in Hospitals).

We **became an independent charity in 2005**.

Our Mission is to provide engaging and impactful creative opportunities to support and improve the mental and physical health and wellbeing of individuals in Scotland. Many of these activities take place in community, health and social care settings.

Our Vision is that Art and creativity will improve health and wellbeing for everyone in Scotland.

Our Values

We have three organisational values which guide our decision making and inform our behaviour as an organisation. These are:

Care

We care for people, our art collection and our environment.

Communities

We work collaboratively to make connections between people and art and to encourage health and social equality.

Creativity

We believe the arts have a positive effect on health and wellbeing and should be available to everyone.

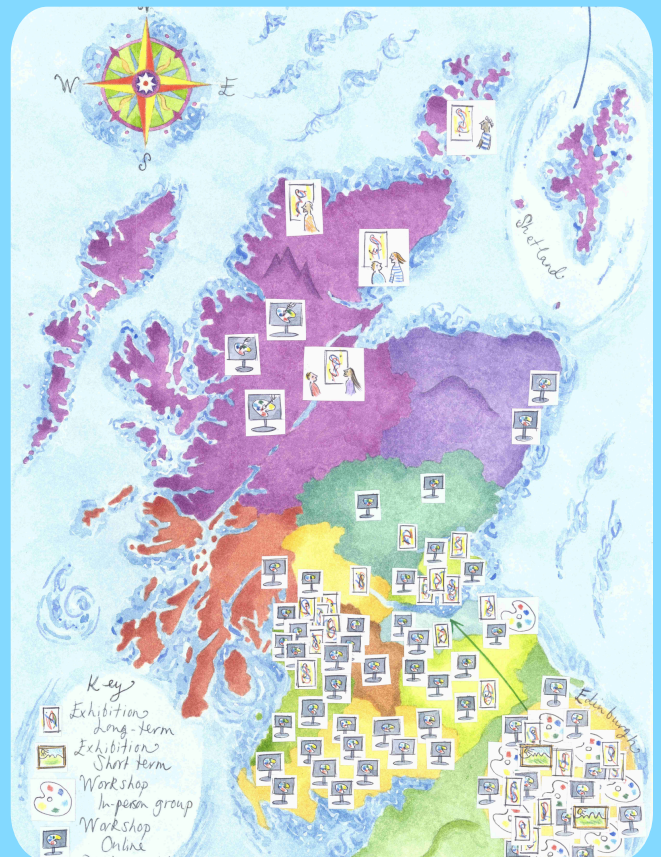


Image: "An Illustrative Map of Art in Healthcare's Services" by Emily Learmont. Acrylic, Ink and Pencil on Paper.

Art in Healthcare

Art Workshops

We deliver **over 200 free visual art workshops per year**, supporting **8+ quality teaching artists**.

Our workshops are designed to improve health and wellbeing through creativity. We believe art is for anyone at any age, regardless of experience.

Examples of our workshops include:

Caring Spaces: our ongoing partnership with Carers of East Lothian (CoEL) and Voice of Carers across Lothian (VOCAL) supporting unpaid adult Carers.

Room for Art: our social prescribing project established in 2016. These workshops run across six areas of Edinburgh.

Taking Art Home: our project which delivers accessible online art workshops for adults living with long term health conditions, including long COVID, arthritis, fibromyalgia, and chronic fatigue syndrome.



Image: A participant painting during one of our workshops.

Testimonials

“

Art sessions are like having an oasis in the caring calendar – something to have on the horizon to keep you going. Everything supplied and there to top you up! Leave replenished and refreshed having had a bit of TLC!

Workshop participant 2025

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The classes help in many ways, mainly in an improvement in my mental health, but I just feel less ill during class. I feel like I am lighter, I am certainly calmer both during and after class.

Workshop Participant 2025

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It offers a precious time to explore my own creativity, reflect on art produced by others, learn about new techniques and artforms and make connections with other people. Through art, I have made lots of new friends whose support is important to my sense of wellbeing.

Workshop participant 2025

Art in Healthcare

Art Collection

There are over **1,500 artworks** in our collection, consisting of **modern and contemporary** pieces dating from the **1930s to the present day**. The collection includes artworks by both established and emerging artists, including **paintings, prints and photography**.

We are proud to have works by many well known artists such as **Elizabeth Blackadder, Alan Davie, Eduardo Paolozzi, Barbara Rae** and many more.

We have established longstanding and are nurturing new working relationships with NHS Charities nationwide through our artwork loan scheme.

There are many benefits of having artworks on display:

- Improving mood
- Providing interest and distraction
- Reducing anxiety
- Making a space more welcoming for staff and visitors

Currently, over half of our collection is on display in health, social care and community spaces across Scotland, from Balfour Hospital in Orkney to Ayr University Hospital in Ayrshire. We are committed to increasing the number of people who experience our artwork.

Artworks from our collection are also used as part of exhibitions promoting health and wellbeing and provide great sources of inspiration for our creative workshops.

Testimonials

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I'm proud to be part of the Art in Healthcare collection, where even a monochrome print can offer a steady breath in a place that holds so much feeling.

Knowing that my work can bring a moment of quiet or clarity to someone moving through a challenging day gives it a life far beyond the studio.

Ade Adesina 2025

“

It means a great deal to me to know that my work is part of the Art in Healthcare Collection. I believe strongly that art should be accessible to everyone, especially in spaces where people may need comfort or a moment of reflection.

Rowan Rosie 2025



Image: One of the works from our collection on display at Balfour Hospital, Orkney.

Coming Up

Evolution of the Room for Art 'Quiet Group'

The Room for Art 'Quiet Group' is a co-created space designed to support individuals who may find traditional groups overwhelming due to neurodiversity, anxiety, or sensory sensitivities. Funded by EVOG and supported by Rowan Alba, the project focuses on developing bespoke accessibility tools to ensure a safe and inclusive environment for creativity.

RSA 200

Art for Health Collective

We are delighted to be taking part in RSA 200: Art for Health, a landmark collaboration bringing together art and health organisations across Scotland. Two exhibitions from the Collective opened on the 1st of April 2026 and will tour to major hospital sites throughout Scotland, highlighting the powerful contribution that artists have made to the wellbeing of people across Scotland.

'Breathing Space' Exhibition

'Breathing Space' (29th August - 18th of October 2026) is an exhibition presented by The Park Gallery in partnership with Art in Healthcare. 'Breathing Space' will feature a selection of artworks from the Art in Healthcare Collection, celebrating a commitment to improving lives through engaging with art and creativity.

Caring for The Collection

Funded by the **National Lottery Heritage Fund Scotland**, 'Caring for the Collection' is a project that will result in 300 art works currently in our art store being made 'exhibition ready' for display across Scotland by the close of the year

Future Plans

We are working towards identifying new premises that will allow us to bring our office, art store and a gallery/workshop space together in one location.

Contact Us

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