

# Heritage in Hospitals:

Exploring the potential of museum object handling as an enrichment activity for patients



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## Talk Overview:

- Outline of Heritage in Hospitals research
- A Partner's perspective – working with museums and universities
- A 'How to Guide' for developing partnerships
- Future directions



# Exploring the potential of museum object handling as an enrichment activity for patients: Funded by the AHRC

## *Aims:*

- Identify the therapeutic and enrichment potential of museum object handling sessions for improving patient health and wellbeing, and its role in staff training and development.
- Develop methods of measuring the clinical outcomes of ‘museum object therapy’.
- To explore how partnerships work with healthcare organisations and to explore the creative outcomes of such partnerships.
- Define ‘best practice’ guidelines for delivering successful museum object handling sessions.

## Co-Investigators and Partners:

- Dr Anne Lanceley & Dr Usha Menon, UCL Gynaecological Oncology
- Guy Noble, UCL Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- The British Museum
- Oxford University Museums Service
- Reading Museums Service
- Islington Education Library Service
- The Museum, Libraries and Archives Council

## **Touch and the Value of Object Handling**

A series of workshops funded by the AHRC  
organised by UCL Museums & Collections November  
2006 to May 2007

### ***Aim:***

- To bring together a diverse range of experts from academic and museum environments with a view to establishing a network where information regarding the value of object handling can be shared and developed.

# Workshops themes:

- The history of touch
- New technologies for exploring object interpretation
- Touch, memory and reminiscence
- Knowledge transfer in object handling
- Therapeutic approaches to touch



# UCLHARTS

- **6 hospital sites**
- **Provided 500,000 outpatient appointments and 75,000 inpatient or day case treatments last year**
- **Equivalent number of visitors**
- **6,000 staff**



## Exhibitions

- 3 exhibition areas
- open to the public



Street Gallery, UCH

## Music

- in public areas, patient bedsides, workshops



*Klectivo*, Music workshop by Musicians from Live Music Now!

## Artist Residencies



Frances Newman, scene unscene II

# Community Projects



Courtesy of Workshop and Company

## Site-specific commissions



*Algorithm*, Edward Allington



*Ectoscope*, Susan Collins



*Sundance*, Alex R

# Research



# Partnership working - a partner's perspective

## My aims for any partnership work

- improve the patient experience
- extending access to the arts and heritage
- contributing to the wider hospital community

## The benefits in partnership working

- Resources
- Justification of my role within hospitals
- Value for money
- Expertise
- Multiple perspectives
- Cross disciplinary working
- Contribute to medical education
- Profile raising of hospitals as venues for artistic /culturally collaborations

# How to Guide

- Find a Partner  
Networks: London Arts in Health Forum, Group for Education in Museums, University Museums Group
- Find a contact / guide within the organisation you are partnering with
- Being clear about your research aims and expectations (How, Where, Who, Why and the But). Agreement with your partner over common aims.
- Identify the risks and understand how you are going to deal with them.
- Implementation  
-Training, research ethics, recruitment of champions and participants, resources, marketing
- Dissemination of research – not just journal articles/papers at conferences, creative approaches such as art installations, new technologies.
- Sustainability  
What are the practical implications of the research, and how might this be funded, is it value for money?

## Future directions

Focused research ideas: Clinical impacts and Social, Cultural impacts

### 1. Clinical impacts

Clinical trial for specific patient groups (e.g. stroke/mental health/oncology) i.e. illness specific object therapy

### 2. Social, cultural impacts

e.g. understanding role of universities and museums within wider community and identifying social health and educational wellbeing benefits of museum object handling,

Partnership working affords the opportunity to extend research from the usual 'academic' setting to the wider community.....

## Contact us on email:

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