

COLLECTIVE VISION — The Fine Art of Health

A PUBLIC ART PROJECT in PRHC MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Project description:

Collective Vision is an innovative public art project consisting of both a rotating exhibition and permanent installation to be mounted in the Mental Health Services Department of the Peterborough Regional Health Centre. The two calls for submissions (**see attached**) are extended to the region's visual artists—both professional and amateur—for paintings, drawings or original prints to enrich the healing environment of Mental Health Services.

Purposes and goals:

*I want express my feelings, not illustrate them.
Jackson Pollock*

By creating these installations of art in the Mental Health Services Department, the Committee is hoping to achieve several goals both inside and outside the department. Inside, we aim to:

- enrich the healing environment for patients and their families;
- allow the imagination of the artist to help ignite and strengthen spirit;
- inspire quiet compassion and respect;
- celebrate life and remind us of our shared humanity;
- rejuvenate healthcare staff;
- seize the opportunity presented by a beautiful new building and create an innovative, long-lasting project as a response.

Outside the department, we intend the project to have a wider impact by:

- fostering and raising awareness of mental health and mental illness;
- inspiring quiet compassion and respect;
- contributing to building a dynamic culture of public art in our community;
- motivating other Canadian hospitals to initiate similar projects.

*Draw what you see; paint what you feel.
Francis Boag*

Mental Health and the Visual Arts:

One in five Canadians personally experience a mental illness during their lifetime. *Recovery is possible.* It is a unique and individual journey that can be enriched and supported by a culture of acceptance and the opportunity to experience diverse and complementary interventions.

Although mental illness may affect 1 in 5 Canadians, mental well-being affects all of us. The Mental Health Commission of Canada in the foreword of their 2009 report, "Toward Recovery and Well-Being" reminds us that there is no health without mental health. A recent study by the Arts Council of England revealed that the arts and creative expression can have a profound therapeutic effect on an individual - whether it be as an active participant through the creation of work or as a passive recipient of different art forms.

*A painting is good not because it looks like something,
but rather because it feels like something.*

Phil Dike

Collective Vision is an opportunity to engage the community and to help send a positive message about mental well-being and recovery. Using the project to dispel some of the myths and stigma associated with mental illness is a valuable goal. The project can also inspire artists—some of whom may have been personally impacted by mental health issues—to contribute meaningful work.

I healed because I knew you walked with me and I was one with you. We shared a vision which painted a picture of hope.

Deadline for Submissions: Friday, February 10th, 2012 (see attached applications)

Enquiries: art@prhc.on.ca , or John Whitehead of Mental Health Services: 705-743-2121 ext 3779