



Detail of decorative stained glass by Tamsin Abbott
Image: Paul Highnam

Project:

Macmillan Renton Unit, Hereford

Artists:

Tamsin Abbott, Jean Miller, Petter Southall (itre studios), Emma Waller



Glazing pieces in main reception desk by Emma Waller
Image: Paul Highnam

Macmillan Cancer Support commissioned Willis Newson to create and deliver a public art plan for the new Macmillan Renton Unit (MRU) in Hereford in 2009. The new unit is a partnership between Macmillan and Hereford Hospitals NHS Trust and replaces an existing building, providing an integrated cancer care and information service. The new MRU came into operation in June 2011.

The public art plan was developed through research including engagement with stakeholders, initial 'visioning workshops' with staff, patients and visitors and consultation with the design team. We commissioned two main artists. Emma Waller produced surface glazing treatments for the main reception and waiting areas and ran a workshop in which patients and staff created wireframes for glazing panels now hung in a linking corridor. Contemporary furniture designer Petter Southall has crafted beautiful external sculptural seating made from Herefordshire oak, for a courtyard garden. We also placed donated prints from local artist and cancer patient Jean Miller and commissioned a single glass panel from another local glass artist, Tamsin Waller.



External sculptural seating by Petter Southall of i tre studios
Image: Paul Highnam

This project benefited from the contribution of a committed and hard-working steering group including representatives from all key stakeholders and from our existing knowledge of Macmillan's needs and methods of working.