

HEALING EFFECTS OF ART

WHILE ART MIGHT NOT BE THE FIRST THING THAT COMES TO MIND WHEN YOU THINK OF A HOSPITAL, THE IMPACT THAT IT HAS IS EVIDENT—AND IMPORTANT.

“Studies show that art, especially with natural or floral themes, enhances patient recovery, promotes tranquility, and provides respite for visitors and staff,” explains Jodi Moise, Director of The Fine Art Program and Collection at Montefiore Medicine, including at Burke.

The Art at Burke program aims to provide this experience through permanent installations as well as rotating exhibitions. For instance, from November 2019 through June 2020 Louis Comfort Tiffany’s Shade Garden—an exhibition featuring four Tiffany lamps—was on display in the lobby of the inpatient hospital. It was a first for Westchester and just

the second time the exhibit, from The Neustadt Collection of Tiffany Glass, had ever been on display.

Another example: A permanent installation, called *Fusions*, by artist Jamie Harris, will soon be on display in the neurorehabilitation gym in the main hospital. With uplifting colors and imagery that evokes a sense of motion and movement, the commission will serve as a backdrop on 31 feet of the gym’s main wall. “My hope is that doctors, therapists, patients, and family members will experience the artwork as they move through the gym and that it transforms the experience of the rehabilitation work/process,” says Moise.

Photographed: *Artwork adorning the New Patient Welcome Center*



“As Burke continues to develop its Fine Art Program, we are always looking for new and innovative ways to integrate arts in this unique healthcare environment. Many new programs are in development and we look to philanthropy to support these efforts. We invite you to share your comments and ideas. Art humanizes the patient experience and together we can continue to support the healing presence of fine art at Burke Rehabilitation Hospital.”

- Jodi Moise, Director of The Fine Art Program and Collection at Montefiore Medicine

So how does Moise choose the art featured at Burke? “When selecting artwork for healthcare environments, it is important to be mindful of the patient population and the general environment in which treatment is being given,” she explains. “For Burke, the theme of ‘movement’ guides all curatorial selections. The beauty of nature as illustrated in the tranquil setting of rolling lawns and leafy trees on the main campus also plays a crucial factor in the curatorial efforts.”

And there’s more to come. Moise’s vision for Burke “is to continue developing and building an art program that speaks both to this institution’s history while also looking towards its future.” For instance, she’s talking with a ceramic artist about a lobby installation for summer 2022, as well as looking into the possibility of installing an outdoor sculpture garden on Burke’s grounds. “A healing sculpture garden would connect the indoors to outdoors and be restorative to all visitors, and especially therapeutic for patients,” she says.

Overall, Moise finds that art is another avenue to help support health and healing—and choosing themes of nature and movement also helps further fulfill Burke’s mission. “Meaningful interactions with contemporary art can improve one’s mood, comfort and/or pain levels,” she says. “Artwork that evokes movement can also encourage patients to ‘move’ during their rehabilitation. I feel strongly that art plays an important role in the restorative process.”

