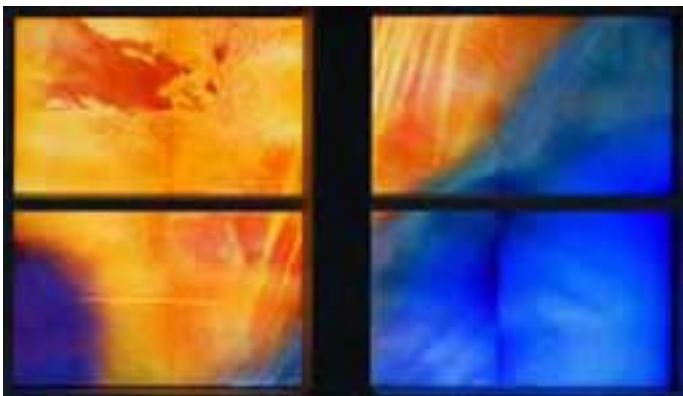


architectural art glass window & colour scheme:
the nightingale centre and genesis prevention centre
university hospital of south manchester nhs foundation trust
project managed by helen kitchen

Architectural Art Glass Window
42 sqm, Main Entrance
Handmade Mouth Blown Antique Glass
Artist: Martin Donlin
2007

The Architectural Art Glass Window and Film Installation at the Nightingale Centre and Genesis Prevention Centre which was completed in August 2007 received the Highly Commended award for the Best Use of Art in Healthcare category of the Building Better Healthcare Awards 2007.



The main window at the front of the Nightingale Centre and Genesis Prevention Centre has been transformed into a stunning glass collage of rich and vibrant colours.

The Aim was to create a welcoming, optimistic and uplifting environment, from the moment people walk through the door. The Art Glass Window is designed to have an impact from a distance as well as many

subtle textures and treatments at closer inspection, revealing nuances at different times of day and in different weathers. The design is based on natural organic forms including trees, leaves, water, sun and sky. The artwork extracts the essence and nature of these forms, interpreting its subject rather than imitating it.

At the start of the project, an arts group comprised of staff and patients were involved in selecting the Artist – including writing the Artist's brief and short listing candidates for interview from submissions from Glass Artists throughout the UK.

Staff, patients and volunteers were then invited to a series of creative consultation sessions with the selected Artist, Martin Donlin. During Sessions participants used images from nature, a photocopier, slide projector and coloured gels to visually explore the theme of organic forms. Participants were also able to talk in small groups and one to one with the Artist, see examples of contemporary art glass techniques he has used on other commissions and to express their ideas on the concept, design and 'feel' of the Art Glass Window for their new Centre. Patients said that they wanted a design which reflected energy and optimism, and abstract forms which left interpretation open to the viewer.





arts in health through
innovation and creativity

All of the glass is handmade mouth-blown flashed antique glass using a recipe which is over 500 years old. The molten glass is gathered into a small ball on the end of a glass blowing pipe, then the glassblower rolls the ball into another colour of glass to create a thin "flash" of colour on the surface, the glass is then blown into a cylindrical form and left to cool in the kiln, once the glass has cooled it is scored to break the glass and then it is put back into the kiln to flatten out. All of the coloured glass in the window is in fact a "double flash" as it has a very thin layer of white and then a layer of colour. Once the glass has cooled it is cut to size and is ready for the treatments to begin. The glass has been acid-etched sandblasted painted and stained with ceramic melting colours and then fired in the kiln to "fix" the added colours, finally the antique glass is bonded to the toughened glass backing sheet.

In addition to the Art Glass Window the artist has designed 30 donor recognition plaques using the same art glass technique as the main window. The names of individuals and companies, who have donated over a certain amount funding, have been etched into unique and beautiful pieces of glass and are permanently exhibited throughout the Centre (one name per plaque). The artist has also created small circular 'art glass' manifestations for doors and windows linking through the building.

The Art Glass Window commission was supported by Siemens PLC.



Colour Scheme 2007

Lime has worked closely with staff and patients on aspects of interior design to create a warm and friendly and non-institutional environment.



This included choosing seating colours and fabrics and coordinating the colour scheme with a professional interior designer who is also a Nurse who had been a patient of the Nightingale Centre.

