

Culture Night 2021



Welcome to Culture Night 2021 at the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital! Once again we are hosting our online event where just for this evening there's a whole host of new content to explore. You can learn about the history of the Mater and discover the work of some of our many departments such as Pharmacy, Medical Social Work, our Archive, Clinical Trials Research Unit and UCD School of Medicine/Department of Surgery.

Our centrepiece this year is what promises to be a unique and moving art installation, exclusively created for our Culture Night event by the Mater Hospital Artist-In-Residence Navin Hyder. The installation uses Navins' digital drawings captured in real-time in the Mater's operating theatres to give a sense of not only the intimate 'shared space' of the theatre itself but also captures the skill, dedication, and care of the staff towards their patients, evident in the images.

All along our main hospital entrance in the Whitty Wing, North Circular Road, the windows are transformed into large visual displays of Navins' artwork, drawn and created in real-time as she observed various surgical procedures in the Mater's operating theatres. There is also a film projection on the external wall of the Whitty Wing beside the main entrance from 4pm-11pm that illustrates Navins' creative process when forming these digital images, and the level of detail and attention that goes into each. Don't forget to tag and share on social media!



“This installation gives an opportunity to view the sometimes hidden world of surgery through the artist’s lens. It brings a unique perspective for our patients, our employees and the communities we serve” - *Dr Una Cunningham, Head of Transformation*

Artist-In-Residence Programme

The programme was created in 2019 as a collaboration between the U.C.D. School of Medicine, the Mater Hospital’s Department of Surgery and Mater Transformation.

Here, Professor of Surgery Ronan Cahill has a few words on the programme:

“In September 2019, the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital welcomed its first Artist in Residence, Ms Navin Hyder, a Fine Arts graduate from Karachi now living in Dublin. The hospital’s aim for this programme is to create connections between artists and the clinical community and the greater public and stimulate conversations about the role of the arts and creativity in healthcare and healthcare innovation.

Working out of a studio in the original 1861 Mater Hospital building, Navin has immersed herself in the hospital community. In particular, Navin found inspiration in the realm of oncology and especially surgery moving from a disease focus to the patient journey. To enable her to explore this, she has observed patient care, with consent, in the operating theatres and visited other areas of the hospital such as the wards, labs and radiology department. Navin exhibited some early pieces at

Culture Night 2019 and has donated other artwork for a charity auction, both of which events generated significant interest outside the hospital. Her goal now is to work toward a major public exhibition of her evolving body work at the hospital in September 2021 with further events planned in 2022.”



Artists Statement – Navin Hyder

“A lot of people might question, “Why theatre?”

While life drawing has always been part of my practice, when starting this residency the intention was never to make drawings of anyone in the hospital.

I first entered an operating theatre for the purpose of observation. The idea was to find inspiration and take that back to my studio to create artwork. Interestingly, the experience was nothing like I had imagined it would be. I was bracing myself to be bombarded with a lot of ‘grotesque’ images, yet the first experience was so bloodless that I’d seen more blood from a paper cut. That’s really

where my fascination with surgery started. As time went on and I was invited to other theatres, I found a lot more to intrigue me. I like to think of the operating theatre as one big body in which everyone has a specified role and so, no matter who they are and regardless of personality, there are no clashes of egos, no conflict or friction. There's a harmony that is almost surreal; an aspect I find absolutely amazing.

At some point I started to feel uncomfortable because I had no purpose beyond that of an observer, and I really wished to be a part of that positive energy. The experience of being in theatre was also very difficult to translate into artwork because I couldn't take back any visual references (photographs or videos) to my studio. Since I had recently started exploring drawing directly on a tablet with a stylus, I thought maybe the only solution was to make digital drawings *in situ*. With this in mind, I received permission from relevant authorities and patient consent, and returned to the operating theatre in December 2019.

It changed my theatre experience forever.

The reasons for starting to draw in theatre were very personal, but the effect it had was unanticipated. My interactions with everyone changed. My internal conversations became part of a much larger dialogue—which is why all theatre drawings were created within the chosen setting, and only worked on during operations, not reworked afterwards. I had also not quite realised the power of representational drawing: Everyone can connect with it.

The theatre became this 'shared space'. The drawings made in this space became a 'shared experience'. I feel the work belongs to not just me but to everyone else in that space, and hence should be displayed in a way that everyone can experience it."

Introduction to the Mater Hospitals' Art Installation and context for Ms Hyder's artwork and exhibition: <https://youtu.be/Nwy67LaWh0Y>

Mater Hospital Artist in Residence Culture Night Video Installation: <https://youtu.be/QhOCUK5OYWc>