

Press release: 2 August 2012

Navigations

Animate Projects is pleased to announce Navigations, a project about the brain, cancer, and the respective approaches of medical science and art to how we understand the impact of illness.

Artists Alec Finlay and Iain Gardner will develop new work at Glasgow's Beatson Institute for Cancer Research and the Beatson West of Scotland Cancer Centre, engaging in a dialogue with the medical team and researchers about their respective disciplines, and developing ideas for, and producing two animations and a series of works on paper. The project will be documented online at animateprojects.org, and the works shown online, in cinemas and galleries - and in healthcare sites, as part of the Paintings in Hospitals Collection - in 2013.

Research at the Beatson Institute for Cancer Research aims to understand the molecular and genetic causes for cancer and to use this knowledge to develop better treatments. Complementary work at the Beatson West of Scotland Cancer Centre is more immediately patient focused and a key aim is to better support patients as well as striving to improve treatments and minimise side effects. Navigations will explore this work - the treatment, and the impact on lives, from the perspectives of scientists, artists, patients and their families.

The artists' initial responses are distinct but complementary - one focused on words as an alignment of ideas and feelings, and the other on images and personality. Alec Finlay says: "What interests me especially about working with the project team is the engagement with a confluence of specialist medical skills and the language of illness – the different ways that everyone within that environment (the patients, nurses, doctors and families) express their thoughts and feelings."

Iain Gardner says: "My immediate response was to the similarities between the imaging technology used to examine and treat cancer cells and the traditional (pre-

computer) equipment used in creating animation. I am interested in how tumours and treatment affect personalities; it could be argued that one of the main predilections of the animator is with characterisation.”

Navigations is supported by a Wellcome Trust Arts Award and is a collaboration between Animate Projects, Paintings in Hospitals, and Professor Anthony Chalmers and his teams at Beatson West of Scotland Cancer Centre and Beatson Institute for Cancer Research.

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Notes to editors:

www.animateprojects.org

About the Artists

Iain Gardner lives in Edinburgh. He studied illustration at Glasgow School of Art and has an MA in Animation from the Royal College of Art. His award winning films have shown around the world, and at festivals including Annecy, Hiroshima, Ottawa, Edinburgh, and Stuttgart. His film *The Tannery* was nominated for a Scottish BAFTA and qualified for entry to the Academy Awards by winning Best Animation at the Worldwide Short Film Festival, Toronto in 2011. He is animation programmer at the Edinburgh International Film Festival, and director of McLaren 2014, a festival celebrating Scottish born animator Norman McLaren's centenary.

www.iaingardner.co.uk

Alec Finlay was born in Scotland and lives in Newcastle upon Tyne. His work takes various forms and media, including poetry, sculpture, collage, and new technologies. Recent exhibitions include Sydney Biennale 2012, Scottish Poetry Library and Yorkshire Sculpture Park and he was shortlisted for the 2010 Northern Art Prize. His project *white peak | dark peak*, made with a team of poets for the Peak District National Park, is the most extensive public art work in the UK, with over 70 'poem views' and 20 letterboxes. A companion project, *the road north*, created a word-map of Scotland.

www.alecfinlay.com

About Beatson West of Scotland Cancer Centre and Beatson Institute for Cancer Research

The Beatson West of Scotland Cancer Centre is the lead centre for the delivery of non-surgical cancer care for the West of Scotland. It is Scotland's largest cancer centre and the second largest in the UK. Each year, the Beatson team sees more than 8,000 new patients, and more than 20,000 courses of chemotherapy and around 6,500 courses of radiotherapy are administered. Waiting times for radical treatment are among the lowest in the UK. An internationally renowned teaching centre, the Beatson incorporates the academic units of Medical Oncology, Radiation Oncology, Translational Research and Palliative Care.

The Beatson Institute is one of Cancer Research UK's core-funded institutes and carries out a programme of world-class science directed at understanding key aspects of cancer cell behaviour, seeking to translate these discoveries into new therapies and diagnostic/prognostic tools to help cancer patients.

Professor Anthony Chalmers is the Chair of Clinical Oncology, University of Glasgow, and Honorary Consultant, Beatson West of Scotland Cancer Centre. He is a Medical Research Council Senior Clinical Fellow and chair of the Novel Agents sub-group of the NCRI Brain Tumour Group.

www.beatson.scot.nhs.uk
www.beatson.gla.ac.uk

About Paintings in Hospitals

Paintings in Hospitals is a charity that uses art and creativity to improve the health and quality of life of people with illness, addiction, autism and disability along with carers and the public. Founded in 1959, the charity provides access to quality works of art, at subsidised rates, and implements interactive art projects to improve clinical outcomes and general wellbeing; its work benefits 1.8 million people across the UK every year.

www.paintingsinhospitals.org.uk

About The Wellcome Trust

The Wellcome Trust is a global charitable foundation dedicated to achieving extraordinary improvements in human and animal health. It supports the brightest minds in biomedical research and the medical humanities. The Trust's breadth of support includes public engagement, education and the application of research to improve health. It is independent of both political and commercial interests.

www.wellcome.ac.uk

About Animate Projects

Animate Projects is the only arts charity in the UK dedicated to championing experimental animation. The Animate Collection is the foremost online resource of experimental animation - animateprojects.org. Animate develops multi-platform projects, presenting work on digital platforms and in 'live' cinema and gallery spaces, alongside contextual materials, including production materials, stills, essays and interviews. The Navigations project is key to Animate's aim of developing projects where artists explore themes and issues that impact on people and their lives, and where the public can be engaged with the creative processes.

www.animateprojects.org

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