Performing Arts

The Charity’s Performing Arts programme brings a therapeutic mix of music, dance, drama, poetry, image, storytelling and poetry to patients, staff and visitors on wards and in public spaces. The programme also supports patients on outward bound day trips and organizes recitals for the hospital and people of historical interest.

Mini Museum (2004)

The Mini Museum displays historic artefacts associated with the hospital, including what is purported to be Thomas Guy’s seventeenth century strong box and his ring, archaeological finds from the foundations and nursing uniforms. The Museum also reports on outstanding firsts for the hospital and people of historical interest.

Out of the Blue (2000)

Commissioned to celebrate the millennium, Paul Marc Davis’ hammered steel sculpture dances gracefully above Atrium 1.

Children’s Memorial Sculpture (2005)

Allison-Tomkinson’s stainless steel sculpture was donated in 2006 by Guy Cooper and Gordon Taylor. It is seen aiming to enhance the space and mirror the Wave.

The London Bridge Niche (1176) and John Keats (2007)

When the London Bridge of 1176 was replaced in 1831, this stone niche was purchased by the hospital for 10 guineas. The niched statue of John Keats was once seen in the niche celebrating the life of the poet, who trained as a surgeon-apothecary at Guy’s from 1815-16. The statue, by artist Stuart Williamson, was commissioned to commemorate the life of Dr Robert Knight, who also trained and worked at Guy’s.

Children’s Memorial Sculpture

The glass sculpture with internal double helices representing DNA, was commissioned from artist Carol Misch in memory of those children who died at the Evelina Children’s Hospital before it was relocated from the Guy’s to the St Thomas’ site in 2005. The poetry inscribed around the glass is by Ben Jonson and was chosen by parents. It reads:

‘In small proportions we just beauties see; and in short measures life may perfect be’.
Guy’s and St Thomas’ Charity is committed to improving the experience of patients, visitors and staff at Guy’s and St Thomas’ NHS Foundation Trust, both by providing exciting new artworks and by preserving the historic art collections at the two hospitals which reflect their long and rich history.

The Charity funds and maintains a wide range of art forms – including sculpture, paintings, glasswork, photography, ceramics, interactive technology and a diverse performing arts programme. This forms part of our commitment to a holistic approach to healthcare, which takes into account the need for physical, spiritual and emotional well-being and supports the best possible atmosphere for treatment and recovery.

The work of the Charity’s Art and Heritage Department complements our other activities, supporting clinical innovation and excellence in research, and managing fundraising that ensures the hospitals stay at the forefront of world class healthcare. For more information about our work or to make a donation, visit: www.gsttcharity.org.uk

**THOMAS GUY (1739)**
A bronze statue of the founder of Guy’s Hospital by Peter Scheemakers, who also sculpted the statue of Edward VI at St Thomas’. As well as founding the original hospital, Thomas Guy’s legacy continues to support the work of the Charity today.

**DECORATIVE IRONWORK GATES (2005)**
The detail here is from one of three ironwork panels by George James & Sons Blacksmiths, based on the Guy’s Hospital motto – Dare quam accipere – ‘It is better to give than to receive’.

**THE WAVE (2005)**
Local artist Andrew Logan created a bespoke fibreglass and mosaic Wave suspended from the gantry in Atrium 1, visible from the ground and first floors as well as from offices and wards.

**PHOTOGRAPHERS**
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**BOILER SUIT (2007)**
Internationally renowned designer Thomas Heatherwick’s boiler house façade is made up of 108 undulating pieces of woven stainless steel and is illuminated at night to provide a welcoming beacon for staff and visitors arriving in the dark. It is the studio’s first ever NHS commission.

**AUTOMATON COLLECTING BOX (2003)**
Tim Hunkin’s automaton reflects the Guy’s Hospital motto – Dare quam accipere – ‘It is better to give than to receive’. Designed as a game, players must guess when to drop a coin in the nurse’s cup, encouraging donations to the hospital.

**THE MEMORIAL ARCH (1921)**
The Memorial Arch commemorates those who worked at Guy’s Hospital and died in the two World Wars. One side is etched with the 131 names of staff members who fought and died in World War I, and the other with the 94 names of those who died in World War II.