



News Release

25 January 2019

New art exhibition highlights the importance of organ donation

An up and coming artist is using a series of embroidered t-shirts to encourage people to stop and think about organ donation.

Student Emma Williams has launched a new art exhibition at Dorset County Hospital, highlighting the organs that can be donated.

Emma, who is studying for a Foundation Degree in Contemporary Fine Art Practice at Weymouth College, wants her exhibition to get more people talking about organ donation.

Putting her exhibition together, Emma interviewed a number of organ donors, donor families and transplant recipients about their experiences.

From the interviews, she printed phrases that stood out to her onto the t-shirts where the scar of that particular organ transplant operation would be. She then sewed representatives of the organs onto the t-shirts around the scar.

Emma said: "There are so many inspirational stories to tell around organ donation, and I hope to continue creating work around this theme to get more people talking and signing up as donors.

"I would like more people to have the conversation about organ donation with their friends and family and whether they wish to donate so that their wishes are known."

Andrew Ball, Clinical Lead for Organ Donation at DCH added: "We are very excited to host this exhibition. We are especially pleased to see that the message seems to be spreading throughout the community of the importance of not only registering your intentions, but also talking about your decisions with your family.

"Not infrequently at a difficult time we and a family are left wondering what a person might have wanted when they are in a position to allow organ donation. Make a choice, make it known."

Previously trained as a doctor, ill health forced Emma to rethink her direction in her life. Since studying her degree at Weymouth College, it has been social issues that have interested her and that have taken a lead in her work.

Her past projects include themes of mental health and the juxtaposition between wealth and poverty.

Emma added: "I feel the arts are the perfect tool for expression."

The exhibition, organised by Arts In Hospital, can be found on North Wing Level 2, leading towards Damers Restaurant, until Saturday 2 March.

Arts In Hospital is a charity at Dorset County Hospital that exists to bring arts and culture into the hospital for the benefit of patients, visitors and staff, and to connect the hospital to the wider community it serves.

To sign up to be an organ donor go to <https://www.organdonation.nhs.uk>

To find out more about Arts in Hospital go to <http://www.dchft.nhs.uk/about/arts>

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PHOTOS: The exhibition at Dorset County Hospital

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