

# OUTREACH IN HOSPITALS: AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The National Portrait Gallery was one of the first national museums to establish an education department, more than thirty-five years ago. The Learning Department offers a wide range of outreach talks and workshops for SEN schools, hospital schools and community groups that are unable to visit the Gallery.



In autumn 2007 the Gallery embarked on a year-long outreach project to work with four hospital schools, using its *Pop Art Portraits* exhibition as a starting point. Pupils worked with artists, photographers and animators to develop their own highly innovative work. The exhibition took place at the National Portrait Gallery from 11 October 2007 to 20 January 2008. It examined the role and significance of portraiture within Pop Art, one of the major art movements of the late twentieth century.

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The Pop Art Outreach Programme was supported by the Lehman Brothers Foundation Europe and Arts & Business. It was the first London-based programme in 2007 to receive an Arts & Business 'Invest' scheme grant. The project has enabled 289 children and young people to participate in a wide variety of practical activities. The sessions and accompanying worksheets were designed with hospital school teachers to complement the National Curriculum and hospital school objectives.

The aims of the project were:

- to develop pupils' confidence, enjoyment and understanding of portraiture and the National Portrait Gallery's Collection
- to develop the pupils' visual literacy skills
- to enable pupils to learn new skills while working in collaboration with artists
- to give pupils a greater understanding of Pop Art in order for them to make creative responses to the artworks from the exhibition
- to investigate a range of materials and processes, including drawing, collage and photography

The two key objectives of the programme were to assess the effect that hospital schools outreach projects have on pupils and teachers; and to record how this type of programme might be implemented.

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This toolkit has been developed to disseminate the methods used and challenges faced during the one-year programme, in order to provide practical information to arts practitioners, museums and galleries and hospital school staff who are thinking of establishing an outreach programme.



The toolkit has been developed in collaboration with hospital school teachers and play workers from Evelina Hospital School at Guy's and St Thomas's Hospital, Great Ormond Street Hospital School, St Mary's Hospital School and University College London Hospital School (UCLH). The desired outcome of this practical toolkit is to encourage other organisations that have not delivered programmes in a hospital school setting to do so, and to provide a framework for developing this type of outreach provision.