

Royal College of Surgeons

TRANSPLANT AND LIFE UK

Royal College of Surgeons: Hunterian Museum

Tim Wainwright & John Wynne

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Client: Royal College of Surgeons: Hunterian Museum

Date: 2016 - Present

The Challenge

The Hunterian Museum traces through its collections more than four centuries of the history of surgery. They were about to close down for five years to undertake a complete transformation and recreation in a new space within the Royal College of Surgeons complex.

Artist, Tim Wainwright, and sound artist, John Wynne, have spent more then 20 years following the journeys of patients as they wait for, undergo, and live with the effects of transplantation surgery.

Transplant and Life is a powerful and intimate revelation of the patient experience through a collection of affecting 'sonic and visual portraits'. Tim and John were asked to put on the final installation at the museum, bringing the underheard patient voice into the clinical surroundings of the unparalleled specimen collection.

Lancet Review Link

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Our Response

Working with Tim and John, and the museum's curatorial team, we helped them design the exhibition and select and test the equipment for the multimedia installation. This included transducer speakers that turned the impressive showcases in the Crystal Gallery into speakers, as well as lightboxes to hold and illuminate Tim's portraits, and projectors for the film elements.

Alongside this, we worked with Tim to develop a digital catalogue as a free-to-access, permanent and evolving record of all final works associated with the project.

This digital catalogue was then extended to integrate with the exhibition design creating a range of in-gallery interactions and experiences for the visitors. Triggers in exhibition graphics and printed materials gave visitors access to the full range of patient recordings, information about the project and the artists, and input from renowned surgeons about the future of the field. The *Transplant and Life UK* experience was delivered through the *Nutshell* wed platform.

www.transplantandlife.uk

www.wainwright.work

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Learning

- Exploratory: Tim came to us with a very open question "What could 'digital' add to the exhibition experience?" We were able to work with the artists and the museum, applying more then 25 years' experience in exhibition design and creative communication, to test out and refine how different digital element could be applied in this sensitive exhibition environment.
- Unexpected: Transplant and Life UK, since the closing of the Hunterian Museum, has had a continued, and somewhat unexpected life. The Transplant project, started more than 20 years ago, is now being used as a research and professional development aid for medical clinicians in the UK, USA and Australia. The digital platform still accrues around 7,000 page views on average per month.
- **Continued:** We have continued working with Tim Wainwright, to help put on exhibitions and events around his work, on heritage and cultural projects that explore issues of identity and representation, and to create new projects that combine our passions and skills.

CONTACT

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