

It's only a few months since manifesto part one was delivered, and now here's part two, born kicking and screaming into 2012 – our glorious Olympic year! This hybrid: warts and all, is our very own, evolving statement. When a voice in the first manifesto session proudly proclaimed, 'This is my hypothesis: prove me wrong,' we felt a shift in our thinking.

WOW – and this is not the WOW factor of sound bites: this is the moment we realise that we are alive, and the possibilities of our work reaches beyond the individual and stretches into communities; touches those beyond our day-to-day reality and engages these ideas beyond borders.



WOW! PART TWO^a BIG BANG DIVERGENCE CONVERGENCE

Who are you?

What did you think of this expanding and contracting thing, we call a manifesto?

Well, here is a taste of your passion – our vision

We dump the mouldering strategy: meaningless in the face of spiraling inequalities.

These are our reflections and refractions – this is our PART TWO

This is our BIG BANG...our hypothesis.

our DIVERGENCE and CONVERGENCE

*flourish
utopia
process
evolve*

I AM PART OF THIS MOVEMENT

I MIGHT BE IN THE NORTH OF ENGLAND

I MIGHT BE ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD

WE ARE THE SAME

WE ARE UNIQUE

WE BELIEVE THE ARTS SHAPE AND CHALLENGE THINKING

WE BELIEVE THE ARTS ARE A VEHICLE FOR HEALTH,

WELLBEING AND SOCIAL CHANGE



Medicine, I fear, has forgotten healing in an orgy of technology. The arts can help us heal not so much through comforting but more through challenging and making us fully human.
Dr Richard Smith

If the arts hadn't been invented we would now do so as a front line health service.
Alan Yates, Chief Executive, Mersey Care NHS Trust.

Everyone should have the opportunity to freely exercise their own imagination and not just passively consume Art.
Art should be a verb and not a noun.
Holly Marland, Royal Northern College of Music

...I am glad you use the phrase about utopia without apologising for it, because a culture with freedom of creativity is my kind of utopia...
Martin Turp Artist and Activist

The timely and inspirational manifesto process is helping us navigate beyond 'arts and health' as a mere antidote to bare-wall pathologies, and into a place where art will become key to the way we live and feel and think and relate and pass on and evolve.
Dr Langley Brown

The manifesto brings hope to health and strengthens our resolve in creatively challenging dehumanising or 'warehousing' models of care which can so easily corrode self expression and remove meaning from life. The manifesto supports us as policy makers and practitioners in exploring groundbreaking concepts of both 'wellbeing' and 'being ill better'; endeavoring to ensure that we can creatively flourish in all stages of the cycle of living and are supported to age artfully as 'humans ' being'; sustaining moments of creative meaning and joy even at the end of life or at moments of acute challenges to our wellbeing.
Ruth Passman, Senior Health Policy Adviser
Department of Health North West

In embarking to heal, one must first understand the full complexity of the human condition, looking beyond the mere flesh and bone of anatomy and the physiological processes necessary for animation, perception, thought and emotion. For it is the products of these processes that truly distinguish us from all other earthly creatures. We all tell stories, adorn our bodies, design our dwellings, hum our songs, choreograph our movements, and create objects for our visual contemplation. It is the artist who amplifies this humanness and makes it their profession. The manifesto recognizes and calls upon the power of artists to help everyone connect with the healing power of art that dwells in each of us.
Gary Christenson, M.D.
President of the Society for Arts in Healthcare

I think this arts and health thing is as much about feeling pain as feeling better. The chance to dream and to know our desires and what has been lost, are all critical for mental wellbeing, as is the ability to forego things lost.
Walking into a museum or art gallery which is stuffed full of thousands, sometimes millions, of precious things, confronts us with desire and loss. I think that museums are 'good for you' not because they make you feel good or provide knowledge of the world but because they can elicit an understanding of yourself.
Myna Trustram

Arts and Health are together a means to flourish and so are key to any benign politics to nurture a better and fairer society.
Mike White, Centre for Medical Humanities

Art Health