



Arts for Health presents

The Healing Presence of Art

A History of Western Art in Hospitals

An illustrated lecture by acclaimed art critic and author

Richard Cork

on his new book of the above title,
followed by a discussion

6.30 pm, Wednesday 13th June 2012
Lecture Theatre 3, John Dalton Tower, All Saints Campus, Oxford Road,
Manchester Metropolitan University, Manchester, M15

**The event is free, but we do ask you to book in advance by emailing:
langley.brown@mmu.ac.uk**

To celebrate the first year of the Arts for Health Archive, and to help place contemporary arts/health practice within a long-standing yet little-studied tradition, Arts for Health has invited Richard Cork to talk about his new and beautifully illustrated book on the history of western art in hospitals.

**This event will be of interest to anyone concerned with
the arts, the human environment, and wellbeing.**

Between birth and death, many of life's most critical moments occur in hospital, and they deserve to take place in surroundings that match their significance. In this spirit, from the early Renaissance through to the modern period, artists have made immensely powerful work in hospitals across the western world, enhancing the environments where patients and medical staff strive towards better health.

Distinguished art historian Richard Cork became fascinated by the extraordinary richness of art produced in hospitals, encompassing work by many of the great masters - Piero della Francesca, Rogier van der Weyden, El Greco, William Hogarth, Jacques-Louis David, Vincent van Gogh, Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera, Fernand Leger, Marc Chagall and Naum Gabo. Cork's brilliant survey discovers the astonishing variety of images found in medical settings, ranging from dramatic confrontations with suffering (Matthias Grunewald at Isenheim) to the most sublime celebrations of heavenly ecstasy (Giovanni Battista Tiepolo in Venice). In the process, he reveals art's prodigious ability to humanize our hospitals, alleviate their clinical bleakness and leave a profound, lasting impression on patients, staff and visitors.

Richard Cork is an award-winning art critic, historian, broadcaster and curator. Formerly Art Critic of *The Evening Standard* and Chief Art Critic of *The Times*, he now writes for *The Financial Times* and broadcasts regularly on BBC radio and TV. He was Slade Professor of Fine Art at Cambridge University in 1989-90, and Henry Moore Senior Fellow at the Courtauld Institute, 1992-5. He has acted as a judge for the Turner Prize and curated major exhibitions at Tate, the Hayward Gallery, the Barbican Art Gallery, the Royal Academy and other European venues.

Cork's many books include a ground-breaking study of *Vorticism*, awarded the John Llewellyn Rhys Prize in 1977; *Art Beyond the Gallery*, winner of the Banister Fletcher Award in 1986; a major monograph on *David Bomberg*, 1987; *A Bitter Truth: Avant-Garde Art and the Great War*, winner of the Art Fund Award in 1995; *Jacob Epstein*, 1999; four acclaimed volumes of his critical writings on modern art, 2003; *Michael Craig-Martin*, 2006; and *Wild Thing: Epstein, Gaudier-Brzeska*, Gill, 2009. He was appointed an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Academy in 2011.

"A comprehensive and magisterial monograph... Cork brilliantly conveys the extent to which hospitals provided a public arena for the display of art, long before the existence of museums."—Charles Saumarez Smith, *RA Magazine*

"There have been many studies linking aspects of art and illness but Richard Cork's scholarly and elegant book is the first to show just how closely the two have always been intertwined and just how various have been the responses."—Michael Prodger, *Literary Review*

"Cork's prodigiously researched book documents how art in hospitals developed and provides a solid foundation for its future role."—Colin Martin, *World Health Design*



Preparation
Barbara Hepworth, 1947