



TOUCH

a site specific installation by Lyndall Phelps
16 September – 28 November

The new exhibition at Leamington Spa Art Gallery & Museum, *TOUCH*, will run from 16 September until 28 November 2010.

Contemporary artist Lyndall Phelps explores the use of the Royal Pump Rooms as a centre for healing, where medical treatments, including hydrotherapy and physiotherapy, were undertaken from the early 19th century to the mid-1990s. When the Art Gallery & Museum moved from its premises on Avenue Road to the Royal Pump Rooms in 1999, it acquired medical equipment and photographs relating to this chapter of the building's history.

Phelps has acted as artist and curator in researching the Royal Pump Room's medical history collections and oral histories. She has a particular interest in medical science and has displayed a combination of new works in conversation with items from the medical history collections at the Art Gallery & Museum.

Examining the personal stories of those who received treatments or worked at the Royal Pump Rooms when the building operated as an NHS treatment centre between the 1948 and 1997, the artist has created installation work that explores contrasts in the experience of receiving medical treatments: healing and fragility, pleasure and pain, comfort and fear.

Phelps has previously worked with several museums and galleries including Milton Keynes Gallery and the Natural History Museum.

Curatorial Officer Sarah Brown adds: 'This exhibition invites you to think about how it felt to have been a patient here. With contemporary work that draws on the past, the artist reflects on the feelings and experiences of those who worked in or visited the Royal Pump Rooms.'

A catalogue has been published to accompany this exhibition. This includes an essay on Phelps' installation by Arts Consultant and Curator Frances Lord.

An *In conversation with Lyndall Phelps* will celebrate the opening of the exhibition on Thursday 16 September, 6 – 7pm. Phelps will discuss her response to the former use of the Royal Pump Rooms as a centre for medical treatments with Frances Lord. The cost is £3 per person (free entry to FLAG members and students). Advance booking is essential as places are limited, please call 01926 742700.

LEAMINGTON SPA ART GALLERY & MUSEUM

Royal Pump Rooms . The Parade . Leamington Spa . CV32 4AA . Tel: 01926 742700 . Email: prooms@warwickdc.gov.uk . www.warwickdc.gov.uk/royalpumprooms
Open: Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday 10.30am - 5pm, Thursday 1.30pm - 8pm, Sunday 11am - 4pm, Monday closed (except Bank Holidays) Admission Free.





The exhibition is accompanied by a series of workshops:

- **Adult Craft Workshop, Saturday 6 November, 10.30am – 4.30pm**

Working with artist Lyndall Phelps, participants are encouraged to develop their own response to the Museum's historical collection of medical objects and photographs. A range of traditional and non-art materials will be available.

£15 per person. Places are limited, please call 01926 742700. Payment required to confirm booking.

- **Half Term Art Club, Thursday 28 October, 2 – 4pm**

Let your imagination run wild! Be inspired by the *TOUCH* exhibition and create your own patchwork wall hangings. Art Club sessions last 30 minutes, final entry 3.30pm.

FREE, drop in and join in. Recommended for ages 6 – 12 years. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

- **ANIMATE!, Saturday 20 November, 11am – 4pm**

Work with a professional film maker to create animated films inspired by the *TOUCH* exhibition. The results will be screened as part of our *Thursday Flickers* programme.

£6 per person. Recommended for ages 12 – 16 years. Places are limited, please call 01926 742700. Payment required to confirm booking.

This exhibition and the related events have been supported by the National Lottery through the Arts Council England.

ENDS

Further information and images - please contact Sarah Brown, Curatorial Officer (Visual Arts) on 01926 742702 (sarah.brown@warwickdc.gov.uk) or Tammy Woodrow, Publicity Officer (Acting) on 01926 742709 (tammy.woodrow@warwickdc.gov.uk)