

**Media
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Bethesda Health Care Commissions Renowned Western Australian Female Artists for Significant Artworks at the Bethesda Clinic.



Two stunning artworks from Western Australian artists Penelope Forlano and April Pine will contribute to Bethesda Health Care's newest mental health clinic in Cockburn.

The artworks, commissioned in response to the City of Cockburn's Percent for Art Policy, have been developed based on the themes of Hope and Connection, reflecting the importance of these elements in the mental health care journey. The commissions, managed by the arts and culture team at element, represent an investment of over \$200,000.

The Silver Thomas Hanley designed Clinic will provide much needed amenity for Perth's southern suburbs in line with Bethesda Health Care's existing high-quality services. The Clinic will take an innovative, patient-centred approach, delivering an upmarket facility which responds to Bethesda's vision for delivering high quality healthcare, in line with the values of excellence, respect and compassion.

The integration of high-quality public art by local West Australian artists will contribute to the creation of an engaging and dynamic environment, which is much-loved by residents and visitors alike. In the health care environment, this is particularly relevant, where public art has the capacity to enhance patient's everyday experiences, create opportunities for interaction and discussion; and contribute to the amenity and identity of the neighbourhood.

Award winning artist Penelope Forlano has 25 years of practice experience with training across design, arts, and town planning disciplines. Her screen-based artwork for the Bethesda Clinic is abstracted from banksia leaves and nuts endemic to the area. The artwork is sensitively lit to appear to be slowly pulsing/breathing – with a pace based on diaphragmatic breathing which reduces cortisol levels.

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April Pine is one of Australia's leading emerging sculptors, working from her studio in Welshpool, Western Australia. Pine has attracted the attention of some of Australia's biggest art collectors, as well as public clients across WA, ACT and NSW.

April's artwork is a large-scale sculptural work, designed as 'beacon of light'. The artwork will create a warm, soft, welcoming glow at the entry of the Clinic. The artwork creates an immediate sense of calm - the viewer is invited to wonder in its detail, the changing light, and 'sparkle' created as the artwork emits a glowing light.

The Bethesda Clinic's lived experience consumer consultant, Sharon Taylor, was involved in the evaluation of the artists' concepts, and said "I am glad that art by local female artists will be an important feature that patients, staff, families, visitors and the people who drive and walk past the Clinic will see, notice and reflect upon."

The artworks are due for completion in the first quarter of 2022.

Comments attributed to Bethesda Chief Executive Officer, Dr Neale Fong:

"The Percent for Art Policy has provided us with a fantastic opportunity to engage local artists to enhance and compliment the aesthetic of our building. Each piece tells an inspiring story around hope and connection to the Beeliar region."

Comments attributed to Artist Penelope Forlano:

"This proposed artwork not only references local flora, but also 'forest-bathing' which is found to improve well-being. Enhanced lighting is also activated by pedestrians and travels at their pace on their journey to the entry as if to say "we see you, we are here for you". Other times, it slowly pulses with light at a restful, breathing pace. It's a pleasure to contribute to the design team's project to deliver an important and much needed facility."

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