

Artistic Statement for The Gulf Stream

The 2019 Stevens Competition challenge was to design a panel for the Reception Area waiting room of the Proton Beam Therapy Cancer unit at University College Hospital London. A location which is 3 floors underground with no natural light and in a highly clinical environment.

The vision for this artwork was threefold:

Firstly, to celebrate this huge triumph in building construction, engineering and medical science in the heart of London

The glasswork needed to shine and sparkle with some of this achievement!

Secondly, the vision was to 'be present' in some way with the NHS staff who would be working underground 24/7 with no natural light

The glasswork needed to bring the outside world in with an easy to read image – nothing too abstract, something to spark a good memory and uplift the soul

Thirdly, for the patients and families of all ages, all faiths and none, some who will be going through some of the toughest moments of their lives, perhaps scared and anxious as they wait for treatment and healing...

The glass needed to distract and lighten the atmosphere in the waiting room

The starting point was the universal natural world, with its potential to soothe and offer its elixir for the well-being of the patient.

A journey in nature with a message of hope began to take shape...inspired by Aboriginal song lines, dreaming tracks, pathways across the land, sea and sky...being drawn to turtles who for the last 200 million years or so migrate to their precise birth place for better weather, nesting and feeding, journeys which symbolise rhythm, longevity and good health...leading to natural links with precision treatment, the circular nature of ocean currents and the cyclotron equipment, the behavioural characteristics of turtles showing a refusal to stop until their migration programme of 10,000 miles is complete: all these powerful connections were intended to support and encourage cancer patients through their healing treatment; the bold design circles were intended as symbols of strength, light and hope.