

AND THEN SOME BECOME STRONG IN THE BROKEN PLACES

Much like the Japanese art of kintsugi, where breaks in ceramic objects are mended with gold, I believe that when something has a history it becomes more beautiful. Rather than attempt to hide the damage, the breaks are accentuated, and considered to be just as important as the object itself. Not only applicable to ceramics, this mending occurs in humans too and while often the resulting scars are ignored or hidden from view, it is these events and traumas in our lives that makes us stronger and more interesting people.

Throughout my residency I have explored this philosophy in the context of FMC in two ways. Firstly, looking particularly at suturing and wound management, I have been interested in the obvious, physical damage that occurs to the human body and how we intervene in order to repair it; and secondly the role that positivity and celebration might play in this process.

The works in this exhibition are for the most part quick responses to what I have experienced, rather than completely resolved pieces in themselves. I have used gold and happy colours to instil a sense of preciousness and joy into an experience that is generally unpleasant - a visit to FMC is rarely for fun – in the belief that healing the soul will help heal the body. Ranging from an installation in the courtyard to works on paper that highlight the medical processes that we take for granted, even the smallest and ickiest of moments is acknowledged.

My project wouldn't be what it is without the help and support of the following people: Plastics and Reconstructive Head of Unit Dr Nicola Dean; Jane Sparks, Jess Fawcett and everyone else in Theatre 12 on June 21 and 22 whose name I didn't catch but who made me feel so welcome; Andrea Smallman; Wound Management Nurse Practitioner Margi Moncrieff; Dr Sean Leow; Awen Griffiths, Belinda and Sharon for all the times I observed in Clinic A; Orthopaedic and Plastics Ward Clinical Services Coordinator Helen Fuss for the chat early on; President of the Flinders University Surgical Society Reuben White for allowing me to attend the Suture Night; Julie for the coffee; all of the patients who kindly let me observe while they underwent procedures; and the visitors, volunteers and hospital staff who engaged and chatted over the last 5 months, however briefly. THANK YOU to all for being so open to having an artist on board, and for being so willing to share your knowledge and experiences with me.

Thanks also to the SALA Festival team Penny Griggs and Kate Moskwa; and everyone at Arts in Health at FMC, in particular Sally Francis and Meg Wilson, for making me feel like a part of the team right from the very start.

Jessie Lumb

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