

Art for Tolworth



Brief 01 — Primary Arrival

Main Entrance and adjacent circulation and connecting spaces

Commission: £18,000

Opportunity: Principal permanent artwork

Location: Main Entrance, new Tolworth Hospital

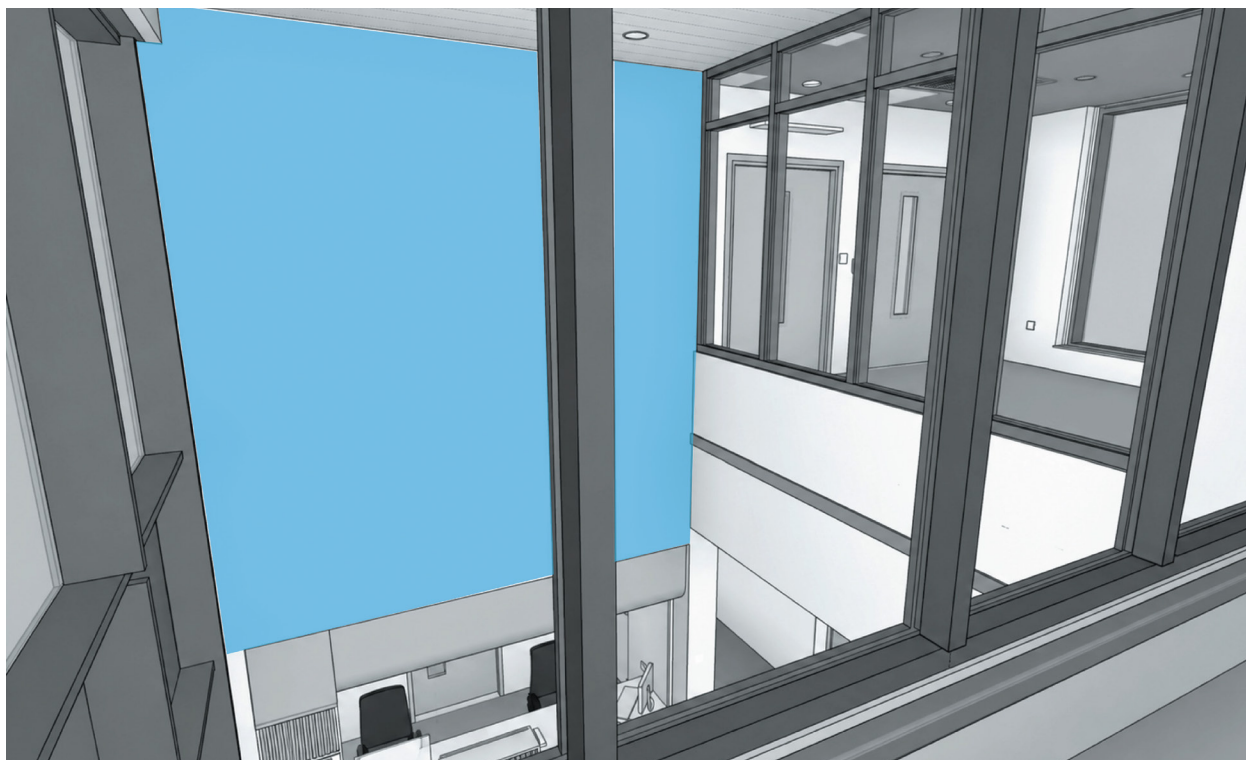
Application: Proposal submission

Deadline: Sunday 1 November 2026, 11:59pm UK time

Commissioning organisation: The Community Brain, in partnership with South West London and St George's Mental Health NHS Trust

Please read this brief alongside the [Art for Tolworth webpage](#), which provides the wider programme context and information about co-creation, participation and working within a healthcare environment.

Architectural plans, drawings and visualisations are included within this brief to provide further information about the location and spatial context of the commission.



Looking down into the Double Height Space of the Main Entrance and Front Reception.



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The Opportunity

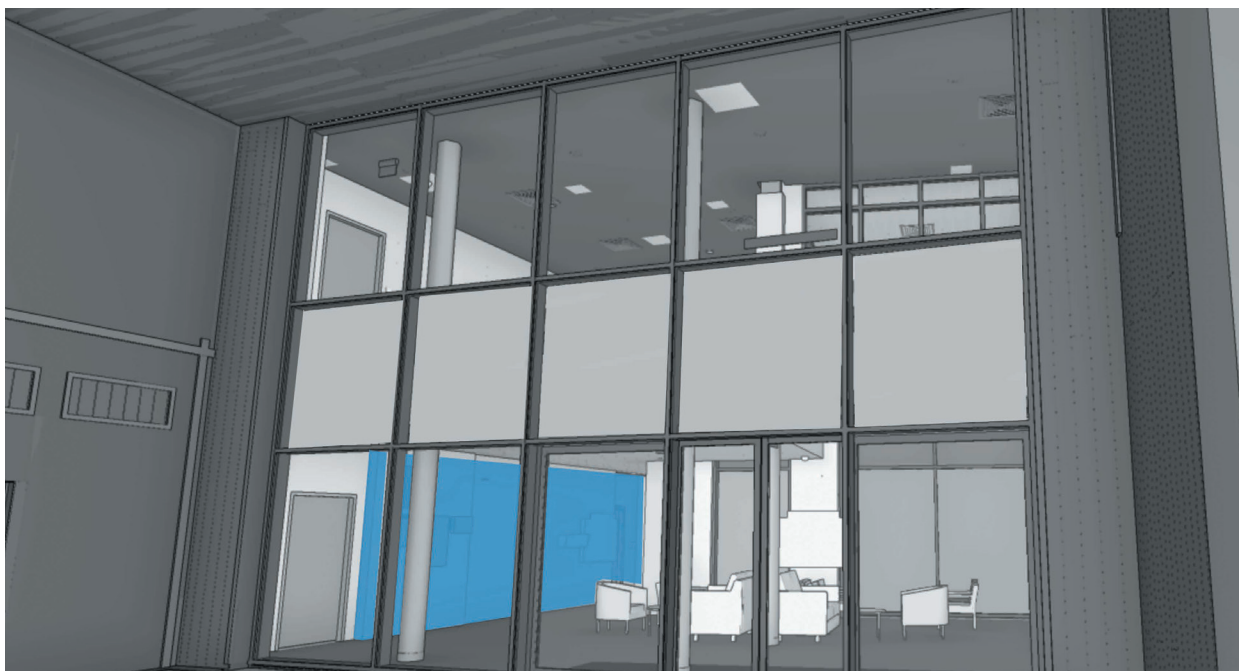
The Primary Arrival provides the opportunity for the principal permanent artwork within Art for Tolworth.

Located within the main public entrance to the new hospital, the commission centres on a prominent double-height space adjacent to reception. It will be one of the first creative encounters for patients, visitors and staff arriving at the building.

We are looking for an artist or creative practitioner to develop an ambitious permanent artwork that establishes a strong sense of arrival and contributes meaningfully to the identity and atmosphere of the new hospital.

Rather than prescribing a particular artistic response, medium or visual language, we are interested in how artists respond to the qualities of the space, the people who will experience it and the wider context of Tolworth.

The commission should be developed through engagement and co-creation, allowing the final work to evolve through relationships with patients, people with lived experience, staff, carers and the wider community.



View towards the Main Entrance and Waiting Area.

Architectural drawings are indicative and retain some internal project reference labels. The principal location described in this brief should remain the focus of the commission.



View Looking back at the Entrance Doors. Double Height space to Waiting area.

Arrival, Connection and Discovery

The main entrance is the focal location for the commission, but we are also interested in how the artwork might establish relationships beyond a single space.

There is an opportunity to consider whether elements, ideas, materials or visual relationships could extend into adjacent circulation or connecting spaces. This could involve a single principal artwork with more subtle elements appearing elsewhere, a family of related interventions or another approach proposed by the artist.

We are particularly interested in the potential for the work to create moments of discovery and continuity as people arrive and begin to move through the hospital.

We do not expect applicants to resolve these relationships at application stage, nor are artists required to propose work across multiple locations. The extent and form of any wider intervention should emerge through engagement, design development, technical coordination and dialogue with the wider Art for Tolworth programme.

The main entrance should remain the clear focus of the commission.



- Primary Arrival
- Narrator
- Secondary Arrival

Ground floor plan highlighting the current Creative Opportunities.

The Site

The main entrance is an important transitional space: between outside and inside, the wider community and the hospital, and arrival and onward movement through the building.

People will encounter it for many different reasons and in very different emotional circumstances. The artwork therefore needs to establish a meaningful presence while responding sensitively to the environment and the different people who will experience it.

Please refer to the plans, drawings and visualisations included within this brief for further information about the location, scale and spatial context of the commission.

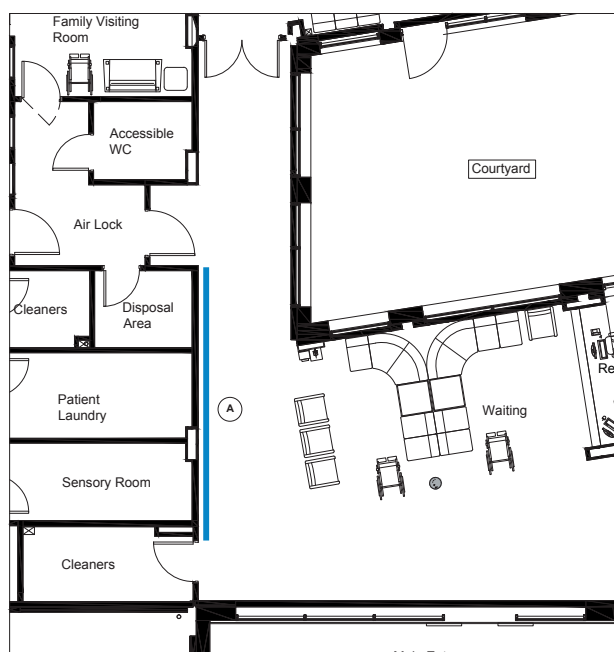


Early interior design visualisation, included for spatial context only. Artwork, furniture and finishes shown are illustrative and may change; this is not a final representation of the completed space or the commissioned artwork.

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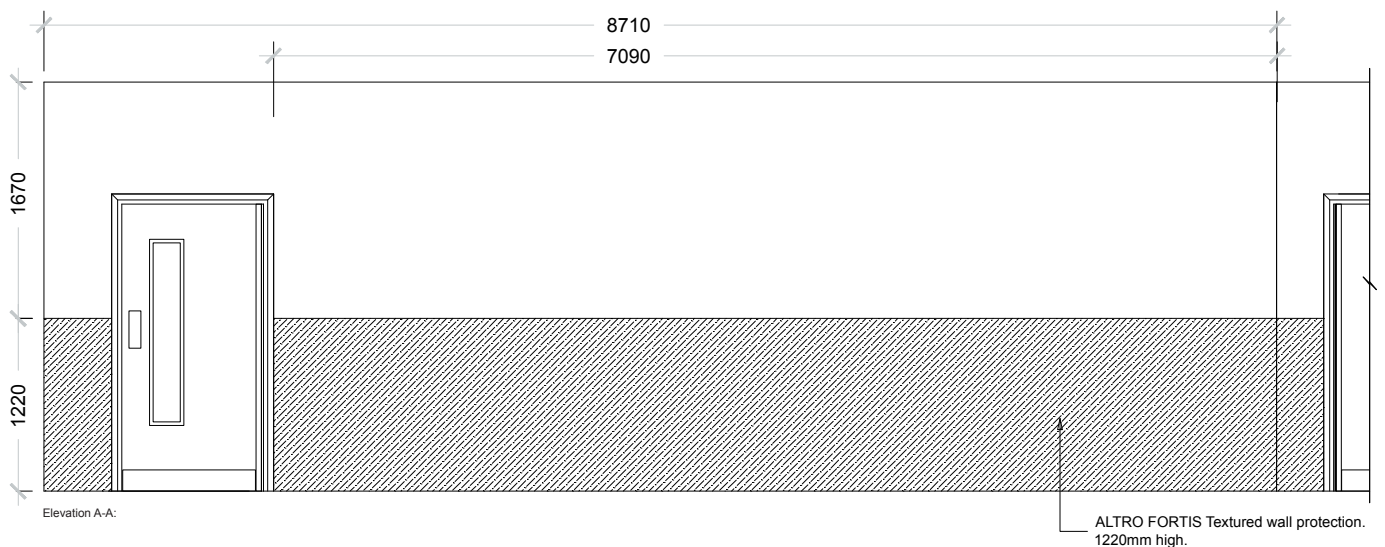


Early interior design visualisation, included for spatial context only. Artwork, furniture and finishes shown are illustrative and may change; this is not a final representation of the completed space or the commissioned artwork.



Ground Floor Plan of the Main Entrance Waiting Room.

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Ground Floor wall space adjacent to the Double Height Entrance Space.



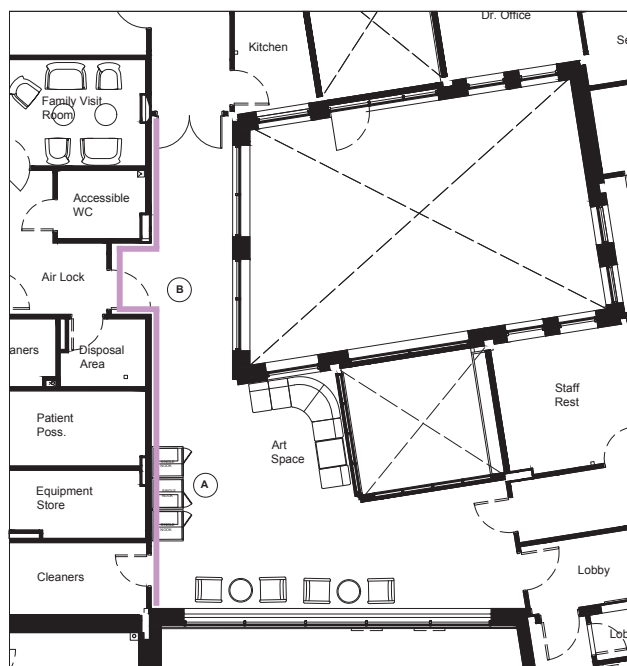
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Early interior design visualisation, included for spatial context only. Artwork, furniture and finishes shown are illustrative and may change; this is not a final representation of the completed space or the commissioned artwork.

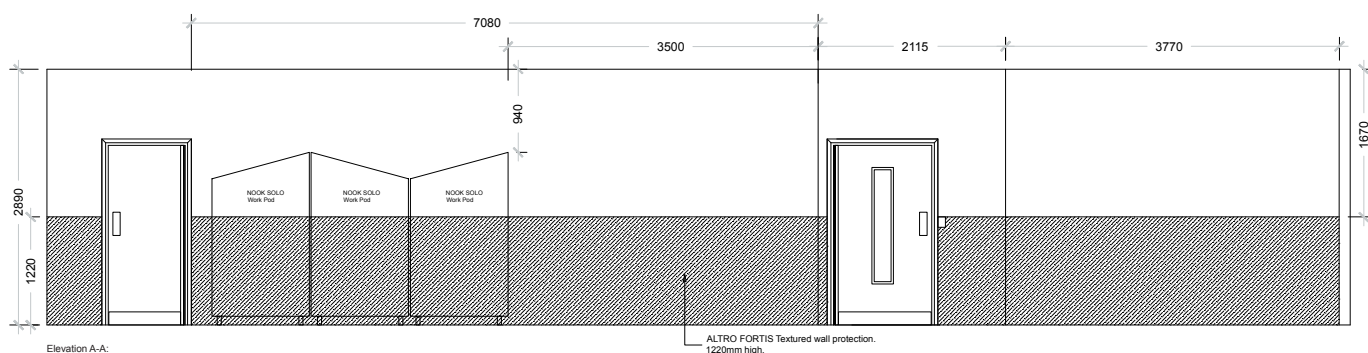


First Floor Plan of the First Floor Waiting Area.

Architectural drawings are indicative and retain some internal project reference labels. The principal location described in this brief should remain the focus of the commission.



PLEASE NOTE: Wall potentially could have Way finding and Signage.
Final Signage Package to be supplied by others. Final sizes and locations TBC.



First Floor wall space adjacent to the Double Height Entrance Space.



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What We Are Looking For

We welcome proposals from artists and creative practitioners working across a wide range of disciplines and materials.

We are particularly interested in approaches that:

- demonstrate a strong artistic response to arrival, place and the particular character of the hospital;
- have the potential to create a distinctive and memorable permanent artwork; consider the emotional, sensory and cognitive experiences of the people encountering the work;
- demonstrate a meaningful approach to participation and co-creation; allow ideas to develop through engagement rather than presenting a completely fixed outcome at application stage;
- respond thoughtfully to Tolworth, Kingston and/or the communities the hospital serves;
- consider how the commission might establish relationships with adjacent circulation or connecting spaces;
- demonstrate an understanding of durability, maintenance, sustainability and the practical requirements of a healthcare environment;
- can be realistically developed, fabricated and installed within the available budget and programme.

We are open to different media and approaches and do not want to prescribe what the final artwork should look like.



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Co-creation and Engagement

Co-creation is a central part of Art for Tolworth and should form a meaningful part of this commission.

The appointed artist will work with The Community Brain to develop an engagement process involving relevant patients, people with lived experience, staff, carers and communities.

We are interested in approaches where participation genuinely influences the development of the artwork. This could involve conversations, workshops, collective making, research, skills sharing, material exploration or other methods appropriate to the artist's practice.

We are not asking applicants to undertake engagement before applying, nor do we expect a fully resolved artwork at this stage.

Applications should communicate a compelling artistic proposition and demonstrate how the artist would approach a collaborative design-development process following appointment.

Further information about the programme's approach to co-creation and participation is available on the [Art for Tolworth webpage](#).



Co-creation and Engagement by The Community Brain



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Working Within the Hospital

The artwork will form part of a mental health hospital and must ultimately meet the clinical, technical, accessibility, safety and maintenance requirements of the environment.

The appointed artist will work with The Community Brain, the Trust, the design team and relevant technical specialists to ensure that the artwork is appropriate for its location.

This will include consideration of materials, fixings, structural requirements, infection prevention and control, accessibility, sensory impact, durability, cleaning, maintenance, installation and relevant health and safety requirements.

We recognise that these issues cannot all be fully resolved at application stage. Detailed technical development and approvals will form part of the commissioned design process.

Further programme-wide guidance about working within a healthcare environment is available on the [Art for Tolworth webpage](#).



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Commission Budget

The total artist-facing budget for this commission is:

£18,000 inclusive of VAT

Where VAT is applicable, it must be included within this total. No additional VAT will be payable by the commissioner. The artist is responsible for their own VAT registration, tax and other statutory obligations.

The budget should cover the development and delivery of the commission, including, as appropriate:

- artist or creative fees;
- engagement and co-creation activity;
- design development;
- materials and fabrication;
- specialist or subcontractor costs;
- travel and expenses;
- installation;
- documentation and handover information;
- an appropriate project contingency.

Applicants should complete the [Art for Tolworth Artist Budget Template](#), providing an initial breakdown of how they propose to deliver the commission within the available £18,000 budget.

Please use the Notes column to explain anticipated costs and indicate whether figures are based on supplier quotations, previous experience or estimates.

We understand that costs may evolve through co-creation, technical development and coordination. The appointed artist's budget can therefore be refined as the commission develops, while remaining within the total commission value.



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Indicative Programme

Opportunity opens: Monday 21 September 2026

Online artist Q&A: Thursday 8 October 2026, 2pm UK time

Application deadline: Sunday 1 November 2026, 11:59pm UK time

Shortlisting and artist conversations: November 2026

Appointment and contracting: by Friday 27 November 2026

Artist induction and commencement: early December 2026

Co-creation and design development: December 2026 to March 2027

Fabrication and technical coordination: April to June 2027

Anticipated installation: July to August 2027

The programme may evolve in coordination with the wider hospital construction programme. Any changes affecting applicants or the appointed artist will be communicated as early as possible.



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How to Apply

We want the application process to provide enough information for us to understand your practice, approach and proposition without requiring significant unpaid design development before appointment.

Please complete the [Brief 01 Primary Arrival Application Form](#) and provide:

1. Artist or Practice Information

A short introduction to you or your practice, together with a link to your website, portfolio or other relevant online material.

2. CV

A CV of no more than two A4 pages outlining relevant experience.

3. Your Proposal

A written submission of no more than four A4 pages, with up to two additional pages of images, drawings or relevant previous work.

Your proposal should tell us:

- your initial approach or proposition for the Primary Arrival commission; why you are interested in working within the new Tolworth Hospital and/or a mental health setting;
- why your practice and experience are appropriate for this opportunity; how you would approach engagement and co-creation;
- any connection you have with Tolworth, Kingston or the wider area, where relevant;
- how you might approach the relationship between the principal artwork and adjacent circulation or connecting spaces;
- anything else you think is important for us to understand about your approach.

We are not looking for a fully resolved design at this stage. Drawings, sketches, references or other visual material are welcome where they help communicate your thinking, but applicants will not be assessed on producing a finished artwork proposal before appointment.

Alternatively, applicants may submit an audio or video response of up to six minutes in place of the written proposal.



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4. Completed Art for Tolworth Artist Budget Template

Please use the template to provide an initial budget breakdown for your proposal, to a total value of no more than £18,000 inclusive of VAT.

Use the Notes column to explain anticipated costs and indicate whether figures are based on supplier quotations, previous experience or estimates.

[Download the Art for Tolworth – Artist Budget Template](#)

[Submit your application: Brief 01 – Primary Arrival Application Form \(Google Form\)](#)

Selection

Applications will initially be reviewed by The Community Brain before a shortlist is developed for further consideration with the Art for Tolworth Steering Group.

We will be looking for:

- the quality and relevance of the applicant's artistic practice;
- the strength and potential of the proposed approach;
- an understanding of the particular context of the hospital;
- a meaningful approach to co-creation and participation;
- sensitivity to accessibility, wellbeing and the needs of people using mental health services;
- the ability to develop and deliver permanent work within the available budget and programme;
- relevant experience or transferable evidence of successful delivery;
- the potential to contribute positively to the wider Art for Tolworth programme.

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to a conversation with The Community Brain and members of the Steering Group. The date and format will be confirmed directly with shortlisted applicants.

If further proposal or design development is requested as part of the selection process, its scope and any associated fee will be confirmed in advance.



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Access and Reasonable Adjustments

We want the application process and commission to be accessible and welcoming to artists with different access needs.

If you require a reasonable adjustment to apply for or participate in this opportunity, please let us know. This might include adjustments to the application format, additional time, communication support, access requirements or support to attend meetings or conversations.

Reasonable adjustments required by the appointed artist during the commission may also be requested in addition to the commission budget. These will be considered on a case-by-case basis, taking into account the artist's individual access needs and the requirements of the commission.

Please contact artfortolworth@thecommunitybrain.org to discuss any access requirements or reasonable adjustments. Requests will be treated sensitively and will not affect how your application is assessed.



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Supporting Information

Applicants should also refer to:

- [the Art for Tolworth webpage](#);
- the plans, drawings and visualisations included within this brief;
- any additional site or technical information issued during the commissioning process.

Questions

We welcome questions from artists during the application period.

Contact: artfortolworth@thecommunitybrain.org

Online artist Q&A: Thursday 8 October 2026, 2:00pm UK time

Meeting link: <https://meet.google.com/brj-uyqs-idy>



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