

06-12-05

## **NEW GLASS ARTWORK DELIGHTS UNIVERSITY COLLEGE HOSPITAL**

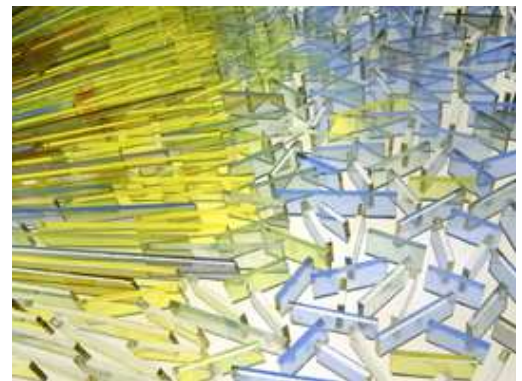
A new work by upcoming glass artist **Alex R** has just been installed at University College Hospital, London. The backlit glass panel, entitled *Sundance*, was commissioned for the Radiotherapy Department, and was funded by charitable sources, at the new hospital in Euston Road. The piece will be officially unveiled on the 15<sup>th</sup> of December by Peter Burroughs, Director of Capital Investment at the Hospital, with a drinks reception to follow.

Alex R was chosen for the commission after winning a national glass competition run by the Worshipful Company of Glaziers. The artist was asked to design a piece that was uplifting and inspirational as well as being sensitive to its surroundings. She approached the brief with the intention of creating 'a wall of optical delight' and the resulting panel is indeed fascinating for its curious optical effects. Seen from a frontal viewpoint, the image looks like a sunburst in clear glass. However as the viewer moves, the glass appears to flourish into luminous colour, like a huge flower coming into bloom.

"I love the idea of bringing a sunburst down into the basement of the hospital, which is where the Radiotherapy Department is," says Alex. "The panel is made up of hard angles and sharp edges, but there's something very organic about it. It's like the sun: a source of energy which transforms light into colour. I hope that patients will see it as a healing light."

The 1.7 metre long panel was made over three months in the artist's studio in South London. Six square metres of glass was screenprinted with enamels in jewel-like colours, and precision-cut into strips. One thousand strips were coated in a lustre made from real gold, and were put through two firings in the kiln. Then Alex painstakingly edge-bonded each one of these strips onto a backplate using UV bonding technology. Alex recalls this period: "I was lucky to have a series of fellow glass artists assist me in the bonding process... which means that each area of the panel holds fond memories for me: a different day working with a different friend, tired eyes and sore legs, but lots of laughter and a great feeling of support from them."

The artist hopes that *Sundance* will equally captivate the viewer on a first visit to the hospital, as well as patients returning for their twentieth or thirtieth treatment in the Radiotherapy Department.



## Artwork

**Title:** *Sundance*  
**Artist:** Alex R  
**Year:** 2005  
**Size:** 1700mm x 1000mm  
**Materials:** Screenprinted, edge-bonded glass  
**Location:** Radiotherapy Department, UCH

## Drinks Reception

**Date:** 15<sup>th</sup> December 2005  
**Time:** 5.30–7.30pm  
**Venue:** Radiotherapy Department,  
**Address:** University College Hospital,  
235 Euston Road, NW1 2BU  
**RSVP:** by December 12<sup>th</sup> 2005

TO RSVP OR MORE INFORMATION/HI-RES IMAGES, CONTACT: [alex@alex-r.com](mailto:alex@alex-r.com)