

EFTERPI SOROPOS

COMMUNITY CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT
\$6,000

TO OBSERVE AND UNDERSTAND HOW ART PROGRAMS HAVE DEVELOPED
AND BECOME INTEGRATED INTO THE HOSPITAL SYSTEM, PARTICULARLY
PALLIATIVE CARE, UK, JANUARY 2008

With an established career in theatre lighting design, Efterpi completed her Masters in Community Cultural Development at the Victorian College of the Arts in June 2007. This led her to conduct the development of integrated art ideas as part of a new community-based hospice Anam Cara, in Geelong, and to conduct interviews with patients, families and carers at McCulloch House Palliative Care Unit to discover how they felt about the environment of the unit and hospitals in general.

Since the illness of her mother twelve years ago Efterpi has held an interest in how art programs in hospital systems impact on the wellbeing of patients.

In Australia very few art programs have been developed and maintained in a hospital environment. However, in the United Kingdom art has been an established part of the National Health Scheme since the 1980s. Through support from The Ian Potter Cultural Trust to travel to the UK, Efterpi was able to examine how these programs have developed; how the artists are commissioned and their

work integrated into the hospital environment; how beneficial the programs and artwork have been to the public, users and staff of the hospitals; and ethical approaches to creating art in this environment.

Efterpi is now developing arts projects in hospitals, mental health and aged care facilities through Southern Health in Victoria.

'I believe the time is right in Australia for art to be integrated into our hospital system ... Making artwork with the view of alleviating suffering and offering distraction to the ill is no longer just an idea that I have been developing in isolation. I have seen enough evidence in established programs to further support practice in a way that allows you to come from a different place, that art does not have to be motivated purely out of self-expression and for self-gratification; it can have an impact of healing.'



Left Matt Corr, *Cloud*, special effects projection 2004. Photograph Brian Chapman, St Marys Hospital, Manchester, UK
Right James Aldridge, *Twilight*, acrylic on canvas/hardboard, vinyl and perspex, 2006, second floor waiting room, the London Breast Care Centre, West Wing, St Barts, London, UK. Photograph Phil Sayer