

Healing Pathways

*A Walking Tour
of the
UConn
Health Center
Public
Art Collection*

*Made possible by a generous gift
from the Health Center Auxiliary*



WELCOME!

Everywhere you walk, whether outdoors or indoors at the University of Connecticut Health Center, you will see art...paintings, sculptures, mobiles. The architecture of the main building is itself a work of art with curving lines, inner courtyards, soaring ceilings, open vistas. It all comes together to create a place of peace, designed to promote wellness and healing.

This pocket guide is your introduction to a few of the most visible pieces. Some exhibits are changed periodically and some works are on permanent exhibit. Enjoy the art and let it fill your spirit as the artists intended.

Why Art and Healing?

Art is itself a healing process for body, mind, and spirit. With that intention, the Health Center's art was acquired through the vision of the UConn Health Center Auxiliary, mainly by generous contributions from the artists themselves. In fact, the University of Connecticut Health Center has become a vibrant gallery hosting some of the most exciting and prestigious names in the world of art ...Anni Albers, Wolfgang Behl, Sol LeWitt, Frank Stella, Victor Vasarely, just to name a few.

Plato taught that the body does not heal the body but the mind heals the body. Mind, body, spirit is the vital connection in the quest for well-being. The beautiful and inspiring works of art that surround you at the Health Center are themselves paths to healing.

Let's start at the very beginning ... the main building itself.

1. The University of Connecticut Health Center

Designed in 1965, by master architect Vincent Kling, the Health Center was built in the round ... to be inspiring, soft and approachable. Curving around a windowed central courtyard for all to view and find soothing



comfort in every season. Architect Kling wrote of it, "the site is on top of a hill – like a cathedral sitting on top of a hill in a village ... a 'cathedral of health' idea." Even the windows were shaped at an angle to prevent glare and to create comforting vistas while receiving the natural sunlight.

In this great round "cathedral" are married medicine, dentistry, teaching, research laboratories, and patient care in an architectural style that is both multi-dimensional and uplifting to the spirit.

2. The Family

This 16 foot high sculpture by Wolfgang Behl is the first artwork most visitors see. Standing like a sentry in front of the Health Center's circular driveway, the sculpture depicts a family



of inter-connected figures, much like the concept of the diverse blending of healing arts found here. This stunning work projects a tranquil sense of affection and loving support. Behl infuses his work with a mythological quality and in so doing raises the ordinary bonds between people, family, and community to new heights, delivering a message of humanity and caring.

3. River of Ponds Tapestry

Enter the Health Center, look to the left, and see the massive tapestry by famed artist, Frank Stella. This soaring masterpiece next to the up escalator raises spirits too. Color, line, shape, and geometric forms dance together in an interplay that is at once both soothing and inspirational. Stella, an American artist, is a leader in minimal art, known primarily as a painter and printmaker. A tapestry similar to this bigger-than-life masterpiece is featured in the Boston Museum of Fine Arts.



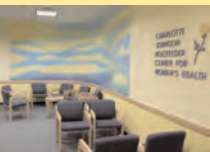
4. The DaVinci Touch

Did you know that the Health Center has its own tribute to DaVinci behind the Lobby Information Desk? It is difficult to see this horizontal acrylic abstract, *The DaVinci Touch* by James Grabowski and not feel the energy and excitement. The dynamic colors and expression seem to jump off the canvas as they greet Health Center visitors. The bold use of color, shape, and motion is inspiring to all who see it. Grabowski says, "A hospital is a wonderful place to contemplate art." His works are displayed in a "who's who" of corporate headquarters and hospitals. Grabowski is a Marlborough, Connecticut artist with an international reputation.



5. Forces of Life

This 20 foot wide curved mural by award-winning artist Linda Webber graces the waiting room of the Hollfelder Center for Women's Health, located off the main lobby. Webber shows the diversity of talents that comprise the Health Center as she is also the the Health



Center's own art curator. Her acrylic work captures the feeling of freedom, motion and openness through the expressive use of form, texture and color. Webber explains that she has attempted to capture the sense of "women in motion influencing the lives around them." Her work on a curved wall creates a continuum of movement and affords the viewer a sense of calm and serenity. The blues and yellows blend to enhance the space and offer a welcoming atmosphere.

6. Inland Scape #2

The fun thing about stopping to contemplate art is to see the messages and techniques of each talented artist. Next to the Hollfelder



Center, look closely at Suzanne Howes-Stevens' unique work and you will see an oil painting working in partnership with the natural world. This is a message of a natural environment that is in danger. A subtle background map points to an area where the environment is being challenged and its creatures threatened. The quiet intensity and stillness of this natural landscape asks us to stop and think.

7. Crater Series

Take the down escalator to the Keller Lobby and you will peer into the primordial nature of life on earth. You can see the powerful terra cotta bas reliefs by Bonnie Johnson, rendered in earth tones. They were inspired by the timeless forms and images visible to the eye when water erodes rocks on the shoreline and reveals the secrets of creation. You will be a witness to the undulation of ocean waves and ripples of kelp seaweed. Hundreds of composite pinched units (pinch pot construction method) form the multi-dimensional mural aptly positioned downstairs just as the earth's amazing fossil record becomes evident as we dig deeper to revisit our origins.



8. Isadore Berson ...photographs or paintings?

Looking to the corridors left and right of the Keller Auditorium, you will find a gallery of natural images by master photographer Isadore Berson. His artistic eye and ingenious techniques have captured something unique in photography ... he truly elevated the photographic experience to that of fine art. Even the closest scrutiny of his graceful subjects—birds, seashells, and the natural world—leaves the viewer incredulous that these are not brush strokes but photographic images. It is little wonder that Berson won so many prestigious medals for photographic excellence and top honors for his artistic impressions around the



world. There are more than 400 of Berson's cibachrome photographs throughout the Health Center campus.

9. Babar The Elephant

Nestled in the Health Center's main lobby gift shop, where elephants are not expected, is an original Babar the Elephant drawing by Laurent deBrunhoff entitled, *Art Friends for Health*.



Babar is a family tradition.

Laurent's father Jean was the original creator of Babar the Elephant and passed the legacy onto his son who, after graduating from art school in

Paris, began creating wonderful new Babar books. He was a resident of Middletown, Connecticut before working from his New York studio. This acclaimed American classic is now over 75 years young, and the Health Center is honored to have its own precious original.

10. The Commemorative Quilt

In 1985, noted fabric designer Ruth de Groff of Farmington was asked by the Art Committee to design a quilt honoring the dynamic circular architecture of the Health Center. More than



40 women worked together for a year using the techniques of appliqué, quilting, and embroidery. The result is a quilting masterpiece showing 21

embroidered scenes of services and care provided by the UConn Health Center. Take time to study the quilt, located in the alcove before the Food Court, and see the imagination and devotion that was stitched into the fabric of our community.

11. Never Too Big

Life does not always run smoothly, but at the same time is filled with many great joys. Jane Dedecker's life-size bronze sculpture located next to the quilt, is deliberately and artfully rendered to express this duality. Its surfaces are filled with rough, unfinished looking edges but the total effect is one of heart-warming joy and family fulfillment. The loose fragmented surface treatment creates energy and dynamism. *Never Too Big* beautifully portrays the love between parent and child. It is the daily delight of everyday interaction that makes this sculpture so relevant and heart-warming.



12. Landscape

Listed in the *Who's Who of American Women*, artist Barbara Levin is passionate about her interpretations of the natural world. To view the energy, creativity, playfulness, and freedom of her work, you have only to enter the administrative corridor, and make eye-contact with her painting, *Landscape*. Levin used a juxtaposition of blues and browns to boldly merge realism and abstract shapes that magnify the emotions and vitality of the natural world as a life giving force. She says that "making a picture is my adventure." It is an adventure you can share, and you will see why she received awards from the National Academy of Design as well as the Connecticut Academy of Fine Arts.



13. Monoprint Fantasy

Felix Bronner, a long respected member of the Health Center faculty since 1969, joins art and science in his collage, *Monoprint Fantasy*.



Located along the administrative corridor, his thought-provoking artwork deals with this dual relationship and the joy of discovering the unexpected.

Bronner brings together the elements of form, light, and color to communicate his message of optimism, which lifts the spirit. Dr. Bronner's work has been called stunning and gentle and he wishes his art to strengthen the resolve to be human and kind.

14. Line Drawing

If the name Sol LeWitt sounds familiar, it is because he is considered the father of American Conceptual Art, which is based upon the premise that art is an idea. This Hartford native is known worldwide and is prominently exhibited at New York City's Metropolitan

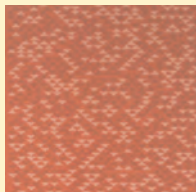


Museum of Art, Whitney Museum and Museum of Modern Art. He has created brilliant installations locally at the New Britain Museum for American Art and the Wadsworth Atheneum in Hartford. LeWitt's

genius and innovation in conceptual art is featured in scores of art books and his work draws crowds from America to Australia and everywhere in between. You can see his signed print, *Line Drawing* in the administrative corridor where his intriguing use of color, line, and shape is distinctively "LeWitt."

15. Camino Real

Albers is one of the most famous names in contemporary art and the Health Center is fortunate to have our own Anni Albers print. This study in red gently utilizes the device of repeat triangles overlapping and forming optical dimensions of large and small shapes with gradient tones creating visual excitement. Instead of being harsh, the effect is almost that of a soft pliable quilt or fabric creating a visual sensation that is warm and comforting, transcending the geometric structure that comprises it. You will find *Camino Real* at the end of the administrative corridor where its imaginative and precise use of tonality and pattern is sure to delight and fascinate.



16. Surprise Mobile

Everywhere you turn at the Health Center, you will see art in unexpected places. Return to the hospital lobby, look up high and see an original mobile by artist Hans Stargardt which he calls *HPX plus Continuum*. This abstract work of carefully crafted shapes is tucked away on high and yet its dramatic form and balance exert a surprising influence on the great open air that surrounds it. It may take you a moment or two to locate the mobile soaring above but the unique space it occupies adds an element of surprise and delight. You can get a second vantage point from the mezzanine.



17. Floating World Japanese Landscape Prints

In the mezzanine over the main lobby, find yourself entering a floating world or “ukiyo-e” and behold a collection of Japanese landscape



prints by the Tokyo master, Adno Tokutarto (1797-1858). Born in Edo, Japan, his painting master named him simply, “Hiroshige,”

after the school where he first displayed his immense talents. Hiroshige used some of the oldest techniques to make his woodblock prints and his are some of the most complex ever produced. His reverence for nature comes across with poetic beauty capturing the spirit and soul of the natural world and man’s place in it. Contemplation of these exceptional prints is itself a form of meditation to those who behold the delicate power they conjure.

18. Four Seasons in New England

Artist Tracy Kane created a special mural for the Neag Comprehensive Cancer Center waiting area. She won a competition for this opportunity, and anyone who views this soul stirring work is a winner, too. Kane has also



won Emmy awards for mural backdrops and TV productions. Ask people what they like about New England and they will say “the four seasons.” Ask anyone

visiting the Neag Cancer Center, located in the north corridor at the main entrance, and they will say the same as they view this restful mural filled with heritage and love of life.

19. Blue Vase with Flowers

This beautiful watercolor from the estate of local artist Betty Kern graces the lobby of the Colon Cancer Prevention Center in the south corridor off the main entrance. It fills the space with a warmth and joy that was so much the style of this devoted and talented Farmington resident who was an active member of the West Hartford Art League. In the latter part of Kern's life, she became fascinated with floral still-life subjects and achieved a true mastery of the subject matter. She imparts a particularly heartfelt connection within her work that lives on in the eyes of all those who enjoy her use of warm, vibrant color and free flowing composition that feels like a summer day.



20. Tree of Life

Look to the right as you leave the main building and rising on the outside wall of the Academic Research Building is a tall vertical space that creates a dramatic welcome. *Tree of Life* is a cement bas-relief sculpture by Wopo Holup. This is an updated interpretation of the age-old Caduceus entwined in an evergreen tree. An ancient symbol of the healing arts, it gives new dimension and scale as it provides visual definition of the mission within. It was commissioned and funded by the State of Connecticut for the Health Center through the Connecticut Commission on the Arts and Department of Public Works/2000. *Tree of Life* is a portal to a new age of research and healing.



21. Equus

Positioned on a rectangular base and projecting quiet dignity beside the pond on the lower campus, *Equus* stands proudly and calmly providing a sense of sanctuary. This abstract sculpture in steel and concrete was fabricated with the help of computer-aided design and the vision of California artist,



physician, and educator, Jim Stabenau, a retired Health Center faculty member.

Equus is one of many masterpieces by Dr. Stabenau. He has won juried art shows in cities across America for his creations in wood, stone, metal, and bronze, and in 1960 was listed in *Washington D.C. Artists of Today*. Stabeneau's commitment to healing and aesthetics gives true power to this imposing presence by the pond.

22. Foldage

This dramatic, contemporary sculpture by Bill Wood was selected among many offerings to occupy this prime location nestled alongside the pond. Fascinated by the reflective potential



of mirrors, West Haven native, Bill Wood, created a brilliant and dramatic sculpture. His work features polished and buffed aluminum panels that contrast to angled matte black surfaces creating contrast and duality. Much like the visual interest created when you fold or crumple paper, *Foldage* provides a multi-dimensional study in angles that join closely with the natural world. The contrasting mirrors create an illusion of invisibility folded

into time and space. Watch it create a kaleidoscope of variations as diverse as our changing weather and seasons.

The Celeste LeWitt Art Gallery

The Health Center features the work of inspired regional artists on a regular basis. It is worth a visit to the Celeste LeWitt Gallery in the Food Court past the inspiring abstract geometric glass panels by Denise Stillwaggon Leone. This special space is a showcase for talented artists who lend their inspiration to 440 square feet of wall surface dedicated to rotating exhibits. There is always something new to discover and enjoy. This gallery is a tribute to Celeste LeWitt and so many in the Health Center Auxiliary who worked tirelessly to secure all the art that creates Healing Pathways and the Permanent Collection.

At the UConn Health Center, art is all around you.

Only a few of the Health Center's outstanding pieces are highlighted here but everywhere you walk treat yourself to a world of inspiration and peace and observe the artistic expressions found on every pathway. You will see many small sculptures displayed in transparent viewing boxes placed strategically throughout the Health Center's main corridors. Exhibited in the Lyman Maynard Stowe Library is a 3-D sculpture by world-renowned, contemporary artist Victor Vasarely. As the Health Center grows to surrounding buildings, the art and need for art grows as well.



You will find something delightful in every step along the pathway!

To make a gift or to learn about the many ways you can help the University of Connecticut Health Center pursue "healing pathways," please call 679-1122.

Special thanks to all who helped make this walking tour possible including the University of Connecticut Health Center Auxiliary, University of Connecticut Health Center Art Advisory Board, Art Curator Linda Webber and, of course, the artists themselves.

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