

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910955373503321
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Titolo	'Purpose-built' art in hospitals : art with intent / / Judy Rollins (Georgetown University, USA)
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Bingley, England : , : Emerald Publishing Limited, , [2021] ©2021
ISBN	9781839096808 1839096802 9781839096822 1839096829
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (257 pages)
Disciplina	725.510942
Soggetti	Art in hospitals Hospital buildings - Decoration Art - Commissioning Medical - Hospital Administration & Care Art treatments & subjects
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Includes index.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references.
Nota di contenuto	Chapter 1. The Hospital Experience -- Chapter 2. Art for Soothing and Comforting -- Chapter 3. Art for Transcendence -- Chapter 4. Art for Empathy -- Chapter 5. Art for Inspiration and Hope -- Chapter 6. Art for Spirituality -- Chapter 7. Art for Joy -- Chapter 8. Art for Interaction -- Chapter 9. Art for Identity -- Chapter 10. Art for Messaging -- Chapter 11. Art for Wayfinding -- Chapter 12. Art to Build Community -- Chapter 13. Art to Build Relationships -- Chapter 14. Art for Dialogue -- Chapter 15. Art for Remembrance -- Chapter 16. Art for Museum Encounters -- Chapter 17. Transforming the Hospital Experience Through Art -- Chapter 18. Conclusions and Looking Forward.
Sommario/riassunto	Over the past three decades, guidance on the selection of art in hospitals has suggested realistic art that depicts soothing and comforting images such as tranquil waters, green vegetation, flowers,

and open spaces. Based on these findings, curators have been cautioned to avoid art with uncertain meaning that risks upsetting viewers in stressful states. However, some hospitals exhibit ambiguous or abstract art and cite anecdotal evidence of its appropriateness for healthcare settings. More recent research is going beyond anecdotal evidence, and indicates that the ambiguity of meaning in abstract compositions can have positive effects. 'Purpose-built' Art in Hospitals is built on an international study of artwork in hospitals around the globe. Exploring 'purpose-built' (specially commissioned) artwork in hospitals through the dual lens of an artist and healthcare professional, Rollins identifies 15 specific 'purposes' of visual artwork in hospitals and presents a compelling case for their use that is grounded in research. The book builds the reader's understanding of the many functions of artwork in hospitals, with the goal of encouraging greater variety in art offerings to better serve the many diverse needs of patients, families, visitors and staff within the hospital environment.
