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Keynote: Ceramic practice in health research – making public art in a hospital

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ABSTRACT

In the age of digitalization, ceramic practice has taken new forms but the value of craftsmanship remains. This study explores how to make public art for a hospital in collaboration with health professionals. Participation in various types was explored. A diversity of hybrid materializations in ceramics, physical and digital drawings and sketches, had value for strengthening communication. The composition of the material surface of the art objects were made by a technique of colored porcelain, painted, cut and processed in plaster moulds. Graphic etching techniques instigated the drawings on the surface. The material surface was composed of shades of white bone china and zinc white in various metallic lines of cobalt blue, iron red and copper green. The result was permanent public art installations as well as exhibitions of a diversity of art object. This ceramic practice of making tiles, sculptural elements and public art was a conceptual approach that involved patients, health professionals and visitors into a new practice at the hospital. The project demonstrate how artistic creation contributes to humanities research and that art may not only be an object or an expression in itself, but rather can be part of a discussion of a sensitive issue and an expression of a collective experience.