

Media Information

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Debut solo exhibition by local artist, John Burton, opens at hospital gallery

A debut solo exhibition of pen, ink and pencil sketches from the 1950s are on display at a hospital in West Bromwich.

The Friends of Edward Street Hospital, in partnership with Black Country Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, have brought together the exhibition *Sketches: The Early Days*, from the 1950s by local artist John Burton.

The exhibition is open to the general public on Friday afternoons 2pm to 5pm at The People's Gallery at Hallam Street Hospital. The show will run from Friday 2nd February to Friday 26th April.

John Burton has consistently drawn and sketched throughout his life. Whilst he was under the care of the Trust's older adults mental health services, his brother came across a box of sketch books dating back over 50 years, to when John was a student at Stourbridge Art School. It was this find that inspired John's family to move forward and put on his first solo show at the age of 75.

Jim Burton, John's brother, said: "I'm glad that at long last someone's recognised his talent. It means a great deal that art experts such as Wolverhampton Art Gallery curators are impressed by his work. It's the first time the sketches have seen the light of day for 50 years.

"I found them by accident in a cardboard box when I was helping John move recently. They are sketches from his early days as an artist when he was a young man. They are his ideas for future work, rather than finished pieces. John's had to deal with great difficulties because of his illness, so this show means a great deal – I'm very proud of him."

Ruth Harvey-Regan, Arts for Health Coordinator said: "This exhibition is a true reflection of the People's Gallery. It's a space to show high quality artwork by people who may be discriminated against, in this case due to age. It can be more difficult as an artist to have your work shown the older you get."

"John's work is truly fantastic and I am so pleased that other people will be able to experience his remarkable sketches that were produced such a long time ago."

*****ENDS*****

NOTES FOR EDITORS:

Black Country Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (BCPFT) is the major provider of:

- mental health to people of all ages in Sandwell and Wolverhampton.
- specialist health learning disability services in Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton.
- substance misuse services in Wolverhampton.
- community healthcare services for children, young people and families in Dudley.

For further information contact:

Sally Lavender
Communications Officer
Black Country Partnership NHS Foundation Trust
www.bcpft.nhs.uk
0121 612 8032

Issued by the Communications Team at the Black Country Partnership.

Tel 0121 612 8032 or email communications.team@bcfpt.nhs.uk

The Friends of Edward Street Hospital, in partnership with the Trust, invites you to the private view of *Sketches: The Early Days*, a debut solo exhibition of pen and ink and pencil sketches from the 1950s by artist John Burton.

John Burton has consistently drawn and sketched throughout his life. Whilst under the care of the Trust's older adults mental health services, his brother came across a box of sketch books dating back over 50 years, to when John was a student of Stourbridge Art School. It was this find that inspired John's family to move forward and put on his first solo show at the age of 75.

The showing is at The People's Gallery at Hallam Street Hospital from 2pm to 4pm on Friday 25th January. Drinks and canapés will be provided. Staff are invited to drop by at any time but must have permission from their manager. For information please contact Ruth Harvey-Regan on 0121 612 8010.