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## Media Release

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### Winter Art Exhibition at the RUH

There is a great selection of new art on display in the hospital corridors, providing some winter cheer to patients, visitors and staff.

There are seascapes, Somerset scenes and portraits by the **Old Bakery Artists**. These artists come from across the rural area immediately to the south of Bath, from Wells in the west to Wellow in the east. The exhibition is exuberant and varied, ranging from abstract oils on canvas to atmospheric photographs.

In the atrium there is a wonderful portrait of **Philip Ledbury** by OBA **David Fisher**, called Dead Man Posing. This portrait won the Holburne Portrait Prize 2008; the judges were impressed by its ambition, warmth and humanity. The artist David Fisher says: "Philip has only recently come into my life through art. A man diagnosed three years go with Leukaemia, his passion for life is inspiring. His desire to live life to the full - quality not quantity - is a favourite saying of his, combined with a wicked sense of humour was my inspiration to paint his portrait. A fitting record of the man."

Other exhibits include four life sized panels, comprising figures representing one of the four elements, earth, water, air and fire. These are by artist, printmaker and teacher **Felicity Roma Bowers**. Felicity has exhibited both locally and nationally and has work published in books and album covers.

Then there is the William Blake Birthday book. Artists **Felicity Bowers** and **Helen Elwes** and performance poet **Stephen Micallef** invited over 50 artists and poets to contribute an original handmade page to an artists' book, to celebrate the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of William Blake's birth.

There are some wonderful animal portraits and wildlife paintings by west county artist **Susan Bendell-Bayly** and a photograph collection by **Lizzie Davies** called Candalas, these are contemplative works of art in the form of a circle, incorporating candlelight, symbolic symbols and sacred geometry.

The winter art exhibition also includes a beautiful Willow Deer sculpture by **Julie Starks**. During the summer Julie was involved in consultation with the children's ward to generate ideas for developing the courtyard garden. Many of the staff, patients and visitors involved suggested the inclusion of a willow sculpture. Julie said: "I wanted to create a restful, yet alert form that the children could recognise."

**Ends**

Caption:

## **Dead Man Posing by David Fisher**

***Left to right:* Philip Ledbury, David Fisher, Chair of BANES Councillor David Bellotti and Hetty Dupays**