

Blood & Bones: Living with Cancer

An exhibition of work by Tom Corby

PRIVATE VIEW: 6pm – 7.30pm Thursday 28th February 2019 at The Street Gallery, University College Hospital, 235 Euston Road, London NW1 2BU

The exhibition runs from 29th February - 24th April 2019, open 24 hours a day.

Blood & Bones: Living with Cancer is an exhibition of work by internationally exhibited and award-winning artist Tom Corby whose poignant images combine quantitative medical/clinical data describing the artist's Multiple Myeloma* with the qualitative data generated by his personal experience of living with cancer.

Corby has developed a range of simple data driven approaches to track, share and make sense of his haematological cancer. These include data indexes capturing both clinical and personal experiences of the physical, emotional, and affective impact of living with cancer as a patient, artist, and human being.

Engaging with issues at the heart of UCLH's mission, and the concerns of its patients, *Blood & Bones: Living with Cancer* presents different ways to represent the subjective experience of someone suffering from illness, providing various entry points for audiences/viewers to engage the exhibition theme. For example, some photographs are of the types of head-ware patients wear while undergoing chemotherapy. Others use the visual language of data visualization and medical graphing, but are here deployed by the patient and used to articulate personal rather than medical data. In this, the works in the exhibition are connected to the popular use of personal narratives such as blogging to discuss illness in ways that are often moving, funny, informative, and therapeutic.

In sharing his personal data, Corby has sought to demystify the experience of serious illness by drawing attention to the multiple experiences that are shared between patients, their families and clinicians, in order to contribute to understanding to what he calls 'the ecologies of treatment [in which] patients, diseases and medics are entangled'.

Blood & Bones: Living with Cancer is curated by Dr Marquard Smith (UCL Institute of Education) and Dr Rishi Das-Gupta (formerly Director of Innovation, UCLH now at Royal Brompton). It is accompanied by a series of public engagement activities (curated by Agnese Reginaldo) and a catalogue (designed by Mark Little) published by The Archives Gallery. The project is in collaboration with UCLH Arts and Heritage UCLH NHS Foundation Trust's arts programme. UCLH arts and heritage is committed to providing a welcoming, uplifting environment for all patients, visitors and staff through the use of a varied and stimulating arts and heritage programme. Its work aims to improve the patient experience, boost staff morale, increase engagement with the arts and celebrate the Trust's unique heritage and community. The exhibition, associated events and catalogue are funded by Macmillan Cancer Support.

***Multiple myeloma, also known as myeloma, is a type of bone marrow cancer. Bone marrow is the spongy tissue at the centre of some bones that produces the body's blood cells.** It's called multiple myeloma as the cancer often affects several areas of the body, such as the spine, skull, pelvis and ribs.



Public Engagement Programme Calendar

Thursday 7th March 5.30-6.15pm

Artist's Tour
The Street Gallery, 235 Euston Road, London NW1 2BU

Thursday 14th March 2.00- 5.00pm

Symposium at UCL Institute of Education: The Human, Data, and Exhibitionary Cultures'

Art, Design & Museology Studios (8th Floor) 20 Bedford Way, Bloomsbury, London WC1H 0AL

Contributors include: **Gilly Angell** (member of the Patient Experience Group and the UCLH Arts Committee.); Dr **Agnes Arnold-Foster** (Medical and Cultural Historian, Roehampton University); Professor **Tom Corby** (artist, Associate Dean of Research, Central Saint Martins College of Art & Design, UAL); **Fiona Johnstone** (People Like You, University of Warwick); Dr Guy Noble (UCLH Arts Curator); Dr **Marquard Smith** (curator, UCL Institute of Education); and **Sarah Josefsberg** and **Zoe Large** (Macmillan Patient Experience and User Involvement, UCLH)

The event will include a special preview screening of **Lana Lin's** *The Cancer Journals Revisited*. (98 minutes, 2018)¹

Drinks reception and book launch

The event will be followed by a drinks reception to launch the catalogue accompanying the exhibition *Blood & Bones: Living with Cancer*.

Thursday 21st March – 5.30-6.15pm

Curator's Tour
The Street Gallery, 235 Euston Road, London NW1 2BU

Thursday 11th April 5.30-6.15pm

Artist's Tour
The Street Gallery, 235 Euston Road, London NW1 2BU

Thursday 18th April 5.30-6.15pm

Curator's Tour
The Street Gallery, 235 Euston Road, London NW1 2BU

Youth Brunch and Closed Workshop at Cancer Centre

Facilitated by **Sarah Josefsberg** and **Zoe Large**

Tuesday 23rd April 2.00-4.00pm

Zine Workshop open to all
Wellcome Collection
Co-facilitated by **Sarah Josefsberg**, **Zoe Large** and **Agnese Reginaldo**
Followed by *Blood & Bones: Living with Cancer* exhibition tour



¹ *The Cancer Journals Revisited* is an experimental non-fiction film inspired by Black lesbian feminist poet Audre Lorde's memoir/manifesto, *The Cancer Journals*. The project is prompted by the question of what it means to re-vision Lorde's classic 1980 text today.