Artist Contact Info

All works available
Limited edition copies of Theatre 37 are available

For all sale enquiries / price list, please contact:
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Linktree QR Code

Inspace is a unique events and exhibitions space which is part of the Institute for Design Informatics within the University of Edinburgh. It is a collaborative hub, commissioning and producing creative activity that unlocks digital and creative technology and explores its role in society. Our public programme connects data, research and creative talent.

Info: https://inspace.ed.ac.uk @InspaceG @inspacegallery

The **Institute for Design Informatics** brings together expertise from data science, creative concept development and human-centered design methodologies to explore and understand how data and emerging technologies transforms the ways in which we work, live, play and care for each other. This combination of skills and interests allows us to design new products, capabilities and services that have meaning and value to people, and positioning Scotland as a world leader in designing with data.

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Phoebe Leach

Artist in Residence, Department of Clinical Neurosciences

Phoebe Leach (b. 2002) is an Edinburgh-based figurative painter and printmaker, with BA (Hons) Painting from Edinburgh College of Art (2024). Exhibiting across the UK, Phoebe has received the Paolozzi Travel Award and commendations from both the Scottish Portrait Awards and the Holt Art Festival. She has been shortlisted for the Astaire Art Prize and the Singulart Prize for the Best Artist under 30. Interested in art's ability to raise awareness, she has collaborated with multiple charities documenting their impact. Phoebe's work explores how people experience and understand the world, capturing life in often unseen spaces.

Residency Intro

The residency within the Department of Clinical Neurosciences at the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh began following a chance encounter with Mark Hughes, Consultant Neurosurgeon, at the opening of my degree show last year.

In October 2024 I observed my first surgery in Theatre 37. Over the following months, I attended theatre weekly, witnessing close to twenty complex operations ranging from spinal surgery to craniotomies. Some surgeries lasted a couple of hours whilst others took all day and involved collaboration from surgeons across multiple specialities.

I began the residency by drawing from life during surgery, sketching the multi-disciplinary team in action. All the work within this residency is based on real-time observations, sketches and memories of the events. Initially, I intended for the drawings to be used solely as references for my

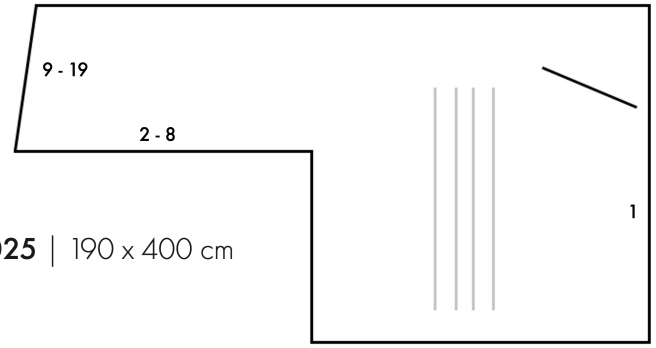
paintings, however as I continued to draw, the collection of sketches became their own entity. Out of the drawings, I developed a series of monotypes and paintings.

This organic process is echoed in a series of monotypes where the immediacy of the printing process fosters intuitive, expressive marks, remembering a time before. Within the paintings that followed, I explored the materiality of paint: the marks that show the artist's presence, the layers of paint that came before, and how time, memory, and recollection of a moment can change the embodiment of the painting.

It was important to me to capture the juxtaposition of movement and stillness that occur simultaneously within an operating theatre. Moments of pause and reflection exist in tandem with coordinated and precise actions. In line with my art practice, I am interested in the human experience, the integration of memory in the painting process, and the relationship between people and a specialised environment.

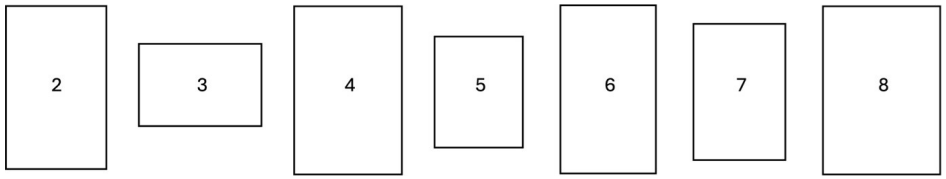
After observing only a handful of operations it became clear the message I wanted to portray: in an exceptionally sterile and clinical environment, what stood out to me was the humanity, compassion, and teamwork.

Captions/Map



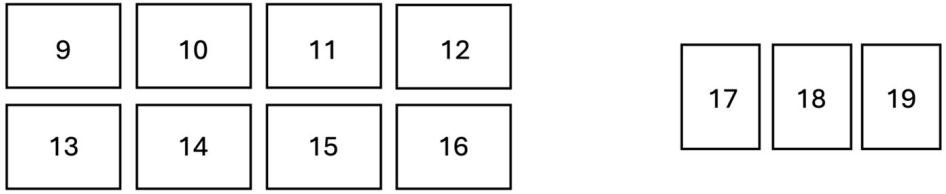
1. Theatre 37, 2025 | 190 x 400 cm
Oil on canvas

Monotypes: Left to Right



2. Final stages, 2025 | 52 x 32 cm
Monotype, Ink on Japanese paper
3. Scrub Nurse, 2025 | 31 x 45.5 cm
Monotype, Ink on Japanese paper
4. Synchrony, 2025 | 52 x 33.5 cm
Monotype, Ink on Japanese paper
5. Moments of Pause, 2025 | 35 x 30 cm
Monotype, Ink on Japanese paper
6. Anaesthetist, 2025 | 52 x 29.5 cm
Monotype, Ink on Japanese paper
7. Paired Hands, 2025 | 43 x 29 cm
Monotype, Ink on Japanese paper
8. Trio, 2025 | 52 x 37.5 cm
Monotype, Ink on Japanese paper

Drawings



Left to Right (Top Row Left of Pillar)

9. Scrub Nurse II 2024
Pencil on paper 29.7 x 41 cm
10. Surgical Team (Theatre 37) 2024
Pencil on paper 29.7 x 41 cm
11. Surgical Team I 2024
Pencil on paper 29.7 x 41 cm
12. Surgical Spotlight 2024
Pencil on paper 29.7 x 41 cm

Left to Right (Top Row Left of Pillar)

13. Trio of Surgeons I 2024
Pencil on paper 29.7 x 41 cm
14. Study of Hands 2024
Pencil on paper 29.7 x 41 cm
15. Multi-disciplinary Team 2025
Pencil on paper 29.7 x 41 cm
16. Theatre Drawing III 2024
Pencil on paper 29.7 x 41 cm

Left to Right (Top Row Left of Pillar)

17. Surgeon's Hands I 2024
Pencil on paper 41 x 29.7 cm
18. Pause 2024
Pencil on paper 41 x 29.7 cm
19. Trio of Surgeons II 2024
Pencil on paper 41 x 29.7 cm