

'Here Comes the Sun': A COVID-19 Commemorative Art Installation

My intention for the St. Mary's COVID-19 Commemorative Art Installation was to create a three-dimensional art piece that honoured and recognized the incredible role our healthcare workers have played in taking care of our community during the pandemic.

I focused on capturing the portraits of St. Mary's staff from a variety of job positions and departments to illustrate the faces that have been at the forefront of this pandemic. The goal of the art installation was to reflect our collective struggle and the sacrifice and courage of the staff of St. Mary's in guiding us through this difficult time. I also wanted to reflect the range of emotions, from gratitude to grief, we have all experienced.

The COVID-19 Commemorative Artwork is a 3 x 4 ft rectangular prism that houses 4 artworks on each of its sides so that no matter where you are standing in the main lobby, you will have an interesting view to engage with. The prism also rotates slowly so that even if you are stationary, you always get a slowly changing view of the overall installation.

There is also a light that projects out of the centre of the prism to illuminate the idea that infinite hope exists, even during our most challenging times.

There is also a strong community connection to the construction of this prism. I am also an Art teacher at Waterloo-Oxford and have been so grateful to have the expertise and craftsmanship of the tech department to be able to bring this prism to fruition. Being able to have the teachers from the tech department at Waterloo-Oxford construct the rectangular prism has been a wonderful gift.

The last part of the installation is the flooring component that surrounds the rectangular prism. It consists of four, canvas prints of reflective water imagery based on an original painting I did of seawater. This adds an element of interest to the floor and ties in with the water imagery present in the prism's artwork.

This commemorative art installation is a great opportunity to recognize our collective grief as a result of the pandemic, the challenges still to come, and our resilience in the face of adversity.

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