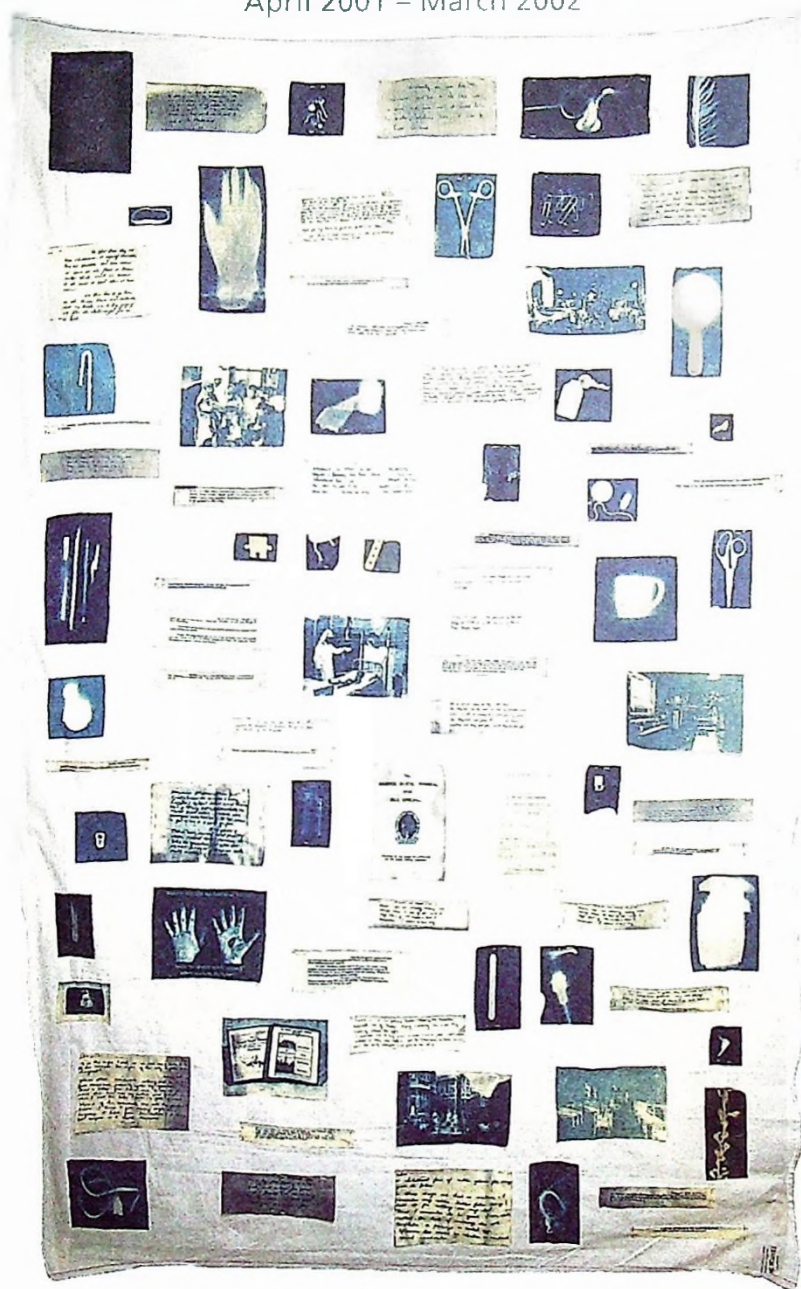


# transfer

April 2001 – March 2002



A partnership project supported by  
The Bristol Royal Hospital for Children and Arnolfini

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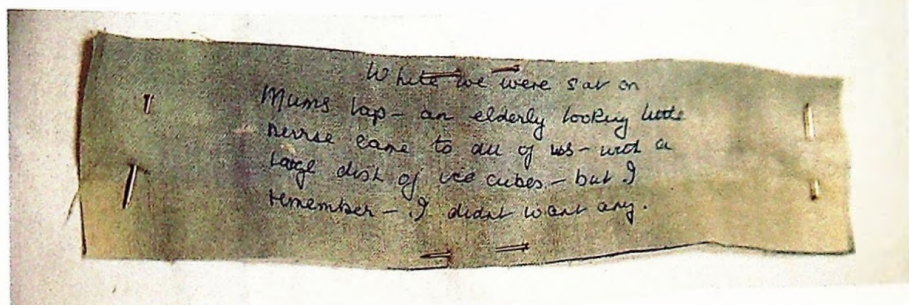
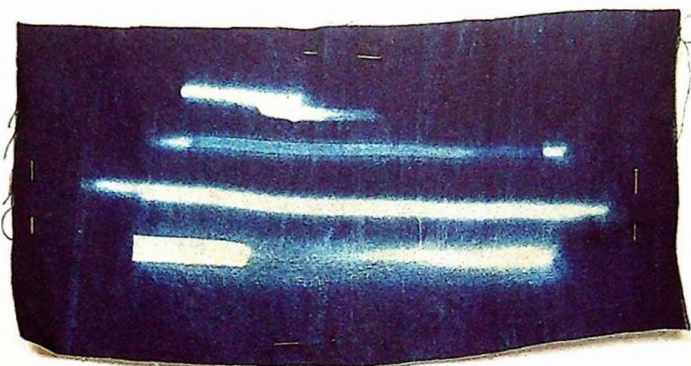
Maria Amidu's residency has been funded by UBHT, The Wallace  
and Gromit Grand Appeal and Arnolfini Collection Trust.

United Bristol Healthcare NHS Trust

# transfer

Transfer was the first Artist-in-Residence project at the Bristol Royal Children's Hospital and a central part of the organisation's Arts Programme. It was an exciting collaboration between the Hospital and Arnolfini resulting in a four-month residency by Maria Amidu, including a work-in-progress sound installation in Arnolfini Bookshop in September 2002. The residency offered a rich and stimulating opportunity for an artist to respond within, as well as the chance for staff, patients and families to engage with contemporary art and ideas.

The residency highlighted the importance of art and artists within this environment. What is the role of an artist in the Children's Hospital? What can they bring that is unique? How can one artist respond to such a complex organisation? The process of setting up and supporting this residency involved Maria Amidu, Hospital staff and outside collaborators thinking about all these questions.





## **Maria Amidu**

Bristol Royal Children's Hospital

Artist-in-Residence in collaboration with the Arnolfini

April 2001 – March 2002

As artist-in-residence I focussed on the process of moving from one place to another and all the emotions that such an experience can evoke. Having started at the new hospital one week after the move from St. Michael's Hill, I witnessed some of the expectation and excitement as well as the sorrow at leaving familiar territory.

*Transfer* was a series of workshops in which I encouraged some of the children, parents and staff connected to the hospital (old and new) to document their memories and feelings in pictures and sound. Over time these personal testimonies were transformed in two ways: into images on T-shirts and as a short sound piece also entitled *Transfer* made, in collaboration with sound producer, Celine Lecompte.

My experience was one of meandering dialogues and quiet journeys of discovery within and around both buildings, and in making the sound piece I wanted to preserve and share something of what was revealed to me.



Alongside the making of *Transfer*, I produced a new work entitled *Tribute*. This piece, a folded bedspread made from a series of cyanotypes (photographic imprints), is an archive and memorial to the old hospital. I was influenced by the of the Record of Memory letters (requested by the previous chaplain Christine Froude); the mending role undertaken by the Women's Guild in the 1900s; and objects I found in the old building (the 'leftovers' and incidents.) In making *Tribute*, I hoped to imbue the fabric with a lifetime of experiences still resonating in the Bristol Royal Hospital for Sick Children on St. Michael's Hill.

*Tribute* is dedicated to Naomi Thacker whom I had the privilege to meet during my time in the hospital and who, in the short time I knew her, was such an inspiration.

Maria Amidu, February 2002



Maria Amidu was born in London in 1967. She graduated with a BA (Hons) in 3D Design from Surrey Institute of Art & Design in 1989 and completed her MA in Glass & Ceramics at the Royal College of Art in 1992. On graduating she continued as a maker producing and exhibiting work, both nationally and internationally. In 1995 she established her own glass making studio in East London. In 1998 her visual practice took on a new dimension when she embarked on a writing project, moving her away from a purely decorative approach towards the development of installations and site-specific community-based projects.

Narrative, memory and archiving are central to her work and since 1998 she has been involved in a number of residency, workshop, exhibition and digital projects based on these themes: "... a moment caught in three dimension(s)." Goldsmiths Centre for Cultural Studies, London (1999); *Finders, Keepers* ..., Horniman Museum & Gardens, London (2000); and *Joining the Dots* ([www.joiningthedots.co.uk](http://www.joiningthedots.co.uk)), Acland Burghley School, London (2001). Also in 2001, she was artist-in-residence at Columbia Primary School, London making work with the children as part of the development of a CD ROM for the Digital Arts Resource for Education, DARE, a collaborative project between Middlesex University and the Institute of International Visual Arts (inIVA). She was the first artist-in-residence at the new hospital.

*To celebrate the anniversary of the move to the new hospital, Transfer will be exhibited in the Prayer Room of the Bristol Royal Hospital for Children on April 21 every year. If you would like to view the work at other times please contact either Emma Williams, Arts Co-ordinator Tel: 0117 342 8807 or Eleanor Powell, Chaplain Tel: 0117 342 8639 to arrange a convenient time.*

I would like to thank all the children, staff and parents at the hospital for making me feel so welcome, with special thanks to the following for their help and enthusiasm:

Sally and Paul Thacker

**THE CHILDREN:**

Jessica Botterill  
Nargis Ali  
Hannah Douglas  
Matthew and Jenny Lodge  
Sunita Crack

**THE PLAY SPECIALISTS:**

Elaine Eastman  
Jill Hazell  
Lynne Barlow  
Yvonne Read  
Tineke McDonald  
Vicky Iles  
Kirsty Knapp  
Michelle Crockett  
Sarah Tranter  
Rachel Weller  
Marie Soroczyn  
Rachael Stinchcombe

**THE STAFF:**

Lesley Greene  
Helen Vegoda  
Emma Williams  
Christine Froude  
Mike Pullan  
Tim Parsons and Dan Moore from  
Medical Illustration  
Pauline Rowles, Doug Grewcock and  
Louise Matthews from the  
Estates Office  
Jane Thomas and Helen Vincent from  
the Family Information Room  
Everyone on Reception  
Everyone in the Medical Records  
Office  
Trish Hewitt  
Amos Burk  
Michael Ashworth  
Graham Milkins  
Clive Holdsworth  
Julie Vass  
Jeanine Erskine  
Arts Advisory Board  
Rev Peter Ellmore  
Eleanor Powell

I would also like to thank Michael Prior at Arnolfini, Celine Lecompte, sound producer, Martyn Grimmer at Spike Island and Bertel Martin at Kuumba for their support and expertise.

Photographs by Michael G Williams,  
Tim Parsons and Mark Simmons