

NEWS



Saved from the skip: doctor's action sees hospital art get national recognition

Rebecca Coombes

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[Image: Richard Hubert Smith]

A sculptural panel rescued from destruction by a consultant anaesthetist at his hospital went on show in central London this week as an important example of postwar public art in Britain.

Tim Walker, from East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust, saved Trevor Tennant's neglected 1963 relief *New Horizons*

during a large reorganisation of hospital services last year. At the time the massive concrete and plaster panel, commissioned for Queen Elizabeth II Hospital in Welwyn Garden City, was largely hidden behind a vending machine. "I couldn't stand by and see it get destroyed, so I asked if I could have it to buy time to find it a good home," said Walker. "It's not a beautiful work of art, but it is quite striking and of its era."

Tennant was part of a left wing group of artists that produced public art in the belief that creativity should be at the heart of everyday life. The fate of the work after the exhibition, organised by Historic England, closes in April is still uncertain, and Walker hopes to find it a home rather than send it into storage.

Out There: Our Post-War Public Art is at Somerset House, London, from 3 February to 10 April, £6.50 (<https://historicengland.org.uk/news-and-features/exhibitions/out-there-post-war-public-art-exhibition>).

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