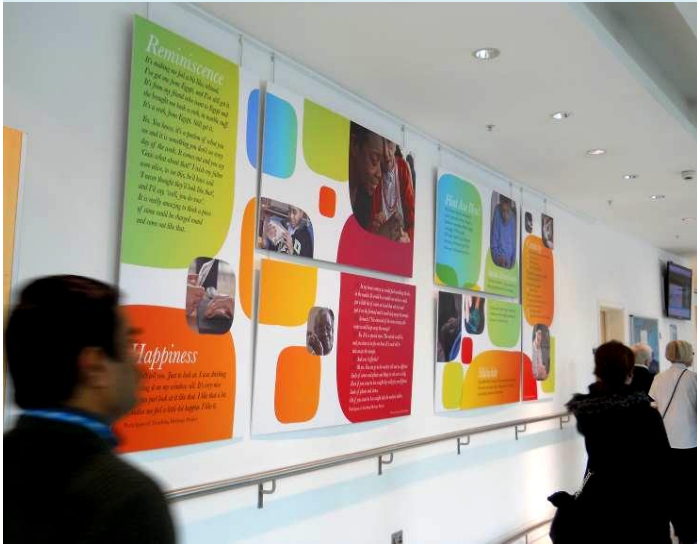
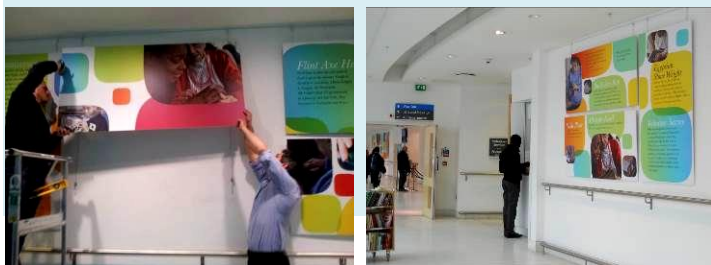




Above: Storyboard showing original concept for the Street Gallery exhibition panels at UCH



Through participatory workshops, interviews, surveys and handling sessions, participants, carers and hospital staff were invited to discuss how heritage collections could successfully be used to extend the role of museums within healthcare organisations. Discussion helped to determine and understand the ways in which participation in museum-related activities could promote health and wellbeing in healthcare.



Comments made by participants:

"I didn't go to school. I've never seen stuff like this before. Now I've seen these, I realise I do know things about the world."

"Very interesting, I never thought you'd be able to hold something like this. Like an antique."

"You know, it's a portion of what you see and it is something you don't see every day of the week."

"It is really amazing to think a piece of stone could be changed round and come out like that."

"Part of a cave, that's from millions of years of water coming down through the caves. Human beings might not have been on earth when this was made."

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Visit our website:

<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/museums/research/touch>

Blog:

<http://blogs.ucl.ac.uk/touching-heritage/>

Or watch our film:

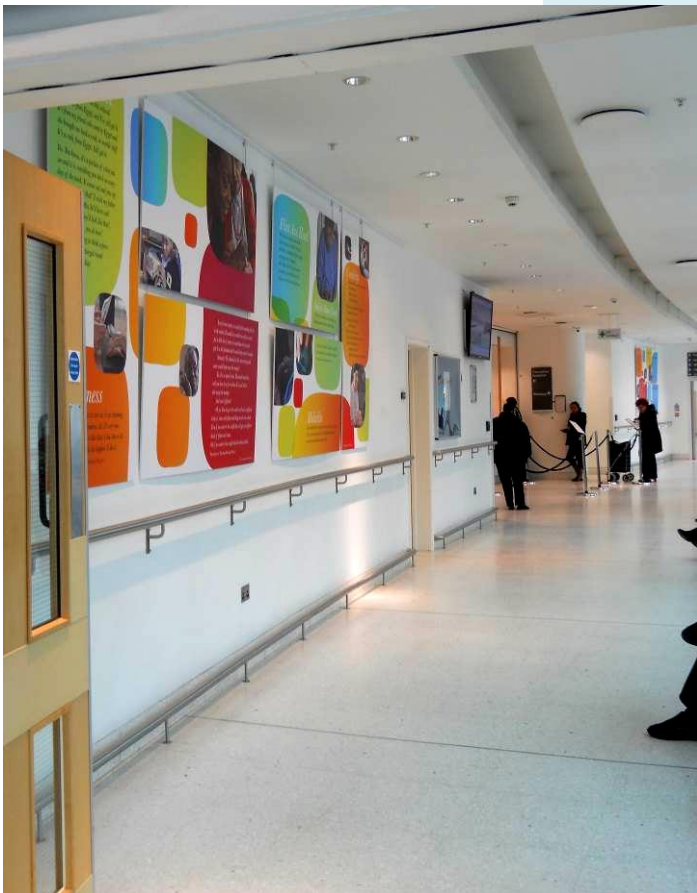
<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/museums/research/touch/touchingobjects>

The Touching Heritage project is funded by a Heritage Lottery Fund, Your Heritage award.





Touching Heritage takes museum objects from UCL collections out to people who by virtue of their health or age would otherwise be excluded from participating in cultural activities. Settings include a range of University Hospital College wards, day centres and residential care homes. The project extends access to a huge variety of UCL's museum objects, selected because of their connections to health and wellbeing.



Discussing and handling museum objects encourages an atmosphere of discovery and shared learning. Participation focuses on their cultural, tactile and natural diversity presented in facilitator-led one-to-one and small group sessions. Participants are encouraged to explore objects in relation to their own health and wellbeing as well as make connections, drawing upon memories and prior knowledge.

