A suite of artworks have been commissioned for the Foyer Oxford project in a unique partnership between Foundation Housing Ltd, Anglicare WA, Central Institute of Technology and the Western Australian Government’s Department of Housing. A glass façade and illuminated seat created by Pamela Gaunt are in the Outer Courtyard on Oxford St. Denise Pepper has designed a series of sculptures for the Inner Courtyard, and three ceramic installations by Holly Courtney, Karen Millar and Lana Burrows are in the lobby.

The creation of these site-specific artworks has involved close collaboration between the artists, the Foyer partners, the architectural and design team and West Australian fabricators.

Constellation One, the illuminated glass façade, takes up the entire north wall of the Foyer Oxford building. Pamela Gaunt has embedded in her design, the aspirational drawings of residents of the apartments, giving the artwork added depth and meaning. Through repetition and digital enhancement these have been artfully woven together by the artist, to create a lacy pattern of human patterns of association. These abstracted figurative artworks have been carefully clustered to symbolise the formation and re-formation of relationships, moments of solitude and reflection and the exploration of new associations, all part of the game of life. They are also suggestive of how people inhabit and colonise space, according to their changing experience, insights and aspirations.

These friendly, artfully simple sculptures are constructed from satin-ice acrylic and metal. They appear in a palette of strawberry red, hot pink, lime green and orange, designed to have unity with the architecture and the other external artworks, including the glass façade. Like the façade, these artworks are illuminated and are lit from within. They provide a soft, lantern-like glow and intimacy in the Inner (Residents) Courtyard and can be glimpsed on a journey of growth and renewal, an individual bud identifiable as on an aspirational path. A single red piece amongst the tonal greys, charcoal and whites acknowledges the resilience required of an individual to strive for more. This artwork too explores and implies a sense of a community, of moving towards a purposeful future. Pieces are hand-formed, unglazed porcelain, coloured in graduating tones.

Three ceramic installations ‘inhabit’ a series of modernist, retro-styled niche boxes in the front foyer. Artists, Holly Courtney, Karen Millar and Lana Burrows explore questions of transformation, aspiration and renewal.

The first, is Lana Burrows’ The Puzzle, created initially as a single, beautiful ceramic piece, with a story painted on it then chopped into different sized, unglazed fragments, ‘almost, but not quite impossible, to reconstruct’, in its original form. The Puzzle is intended as a metaphor for life and its unfolding events and challenges. The viewer is invited to not only see each tile created as unique and precious, but as representative of a step taken in solving the ‘puzzle’ of life. When reconstructed, the puzzle takes on a new form and a fine quality of its own.

Holly Courtney has created a series of abstract ceramic pieces, representative of human figures and as a metaphor for ‘Community’. The surface textures of these, parallel patterns in nature and are intended to convey traces of human experience. This artwork explores the notion that ‘on the surface’ we are all quite different. However, bringing our life experiences to the fore, allows us to discover that we have more in common than is often thought. Pieces are wheel-thrown, unglazed porcelain, surface treatment achieved with aqua abrasion.

Transition by Karen Millar is comprised of a myriad of small sculptural elements, beginning as simple open leaf-like shapes. This artwork captures the process of transformation by creating a change in tone and form. Leaves shift subtly in colour and shape, to loosely resemble unfolding flower buds. This installation reflects on a journey of growth and renewal, an individual bud identifiable as on an aspirational path. A single red piece amongst the tonal greys, charcoal and whites acknowledges the resilience required of an individual to strive for more. This artwork too explores and implies a sense of a community, of moving towards a purposeful future. Pieces are hand-formed, unglazed porcelain, coloured in graduating tones.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Artists: Pamela Gaunt, Denise Pepper, Lana Burrows, Holly Courtney, Karen Millar

Titles: Constellation One and Two, It’s Your Move, The Puzzle, Community,

Transition

Architect: GHD

Photography: Imagink, a ceramic based ink, allows us to discover that we have more in common than is often thought. Pieces are wheel-thrown, unglazed porcelain, surface treatment achieved with aqua abrasion.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Artists: Pamela Gaunt, Denise Pepper, Lana Burrows, Holly Courtney, Karen Millar

Constellation One and Two

It’s Your Move, The Puzzle, Community,

Transition

Architect: GHD

Photography: Robert Frith, Denise Pepper, Carl Anthonisz, Jody D'Arcy, Leanne McLennan, Karen Millar

Art Coordinator: Jenny Beahan

Client: Foundation Housing

Project Managers: Scott Brotherwood, Michelle Van Dyke

Foyer Manager: Jethro Sercombe

Department of Housing: Russell Dumas

Leanne McLennan, Karen Millar

Transition

Constellation One and Two, The Puzzle,