

Art with



Le Bonheur
Methodist Healthcare Family Children's Hospital

At Le Bonheur Children's Hospital, we believe art serves as a transformative element in the hospital experience, even in difficult times. Our hospital is dedicated to bettering the lives of children throughout the region and beyond. We are committed to providing exceptional patient care and enriching the lives of children, and the thousands of pieces of original artwork located inside the hospital serve as visible representations of that philosophy.



Each work of art was carefully commissioned or chosen to serve our patients, families and team of caregivers. For families who come to Le Bonheur seeking care, the hospital is a welcoming place that provides children the opportunity to see and experience all types of art – from large mosaic, wood or metal sculptures, to paintings and photography. Pieces in the collection create an atmosphere that entertains, distracts, informs, delights, soothes and amuses viewers. The art is designed to assure children that Le Bonheur is a place built just for them.

After years of cultivation, Le Bonheur's collection has been hailed as the finest collection of public art in the city. We hope that patients and families feel free to explore the art while they are here and that visitors come to experience our collection.

A handwritten signature in white ink, which appears to read "Linda Hill". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first and last names being more prominent.

Linda Hill
Director of Art Development

Artists: Jeanne Seagle and Lea Holland
Title: “I Can Fly”

Location: Main Lobby

Underwritten by Larry and Dianne Papasan

Made of thousands of tiny, colorful tiles, “I Can Fly” stands nearly 17 feet tall, reaching to the second floor. The four sides of the base represent the four seasons and are bordered by the words hope, faith, children and love.

“The seasons symbolize the passage of time, the patience and faith involved in the healing process,” said Seagle.

On top of the obelisk, a child rides a giant rotating blue bird. The colorful child represents the “every child,” as Le Bonheur welcomes all patients seeking care.

Seagle and hospital President Meri Armour share similar interpretations of the piece. Seagle said that she wanted “children and families to be able to escape to a happier place.” Likewise, Armour says the statue “represents what we want for children. We want the seasons of their lives to be full and rich. We want them to dream big and believe they can be whatever they want to be.”





Artist: Jeni Stallings

Title: “Flyer V”

Location: Lobby Level, Elevator Lobby

Underwritten by Dr. and Mrs. Noah B. Kimball

The dream-like quality of “Flyer V” was achieved through encaustic painting – a type of paint made from pigment mixed with melted beeswax and resin that undergoes heat applications. The young girl on a bicycle is a frequent subject in artist Jeni Stallings’ work.

Her depiction of the girl in “Flyer V” is softer than in other paintings, and she is surrounded by a cheerful glow of warm color. The circle, lifting the girl heavenward, represents hope.

“The whole focus of this piece is about leaving the place where you are and looking toward the future,” said Stallings. “You need to encourage your imagination and thought processes to have some hope, some things to look forward to and think about.”





Artist: Virginia Fleck
Title: “Twirl Blossom”

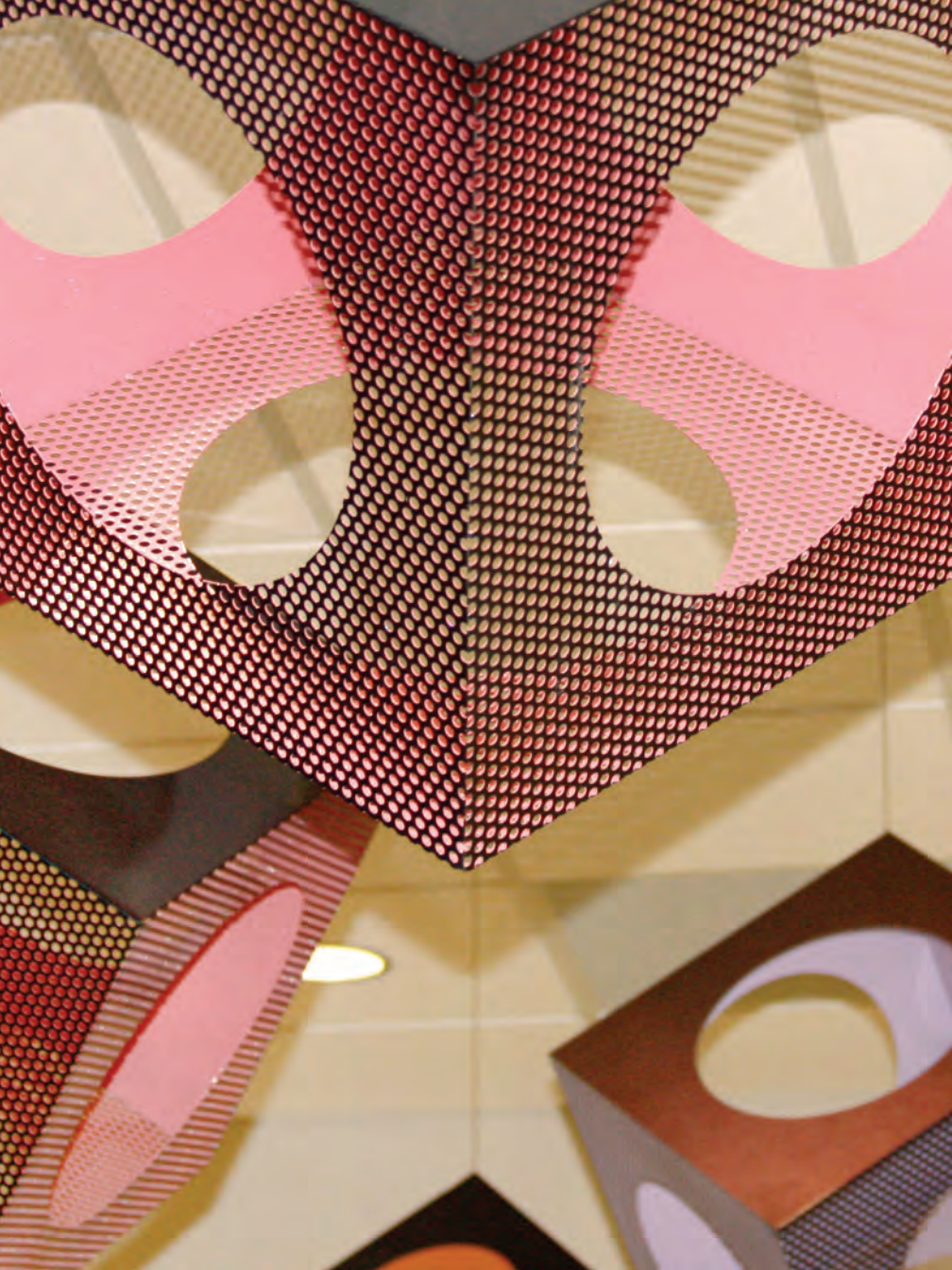
Location: Lobby Level, Dunlap Entrance

Because of Le Bonheur’s focus on sustainability, it seemed fitting to include artwork by Virginia Fleck – an artist who has been recognized worldwide for her creative reuse of plastic bags.

Fleck, who collects bags from all over the world, has thousands of bags in her studio at any given time. For Le Bonheur, she created “Twirl Blossom” – a 12-foot wide collage of plastic bags in the shape of a flower growing on a twisting, vine-like stem.

“Twirl Blossom” is composed almost entirely of colorful plastic bags collected from children’s birthday parties. Knowing her audience would be primarily children, Fleck emphasizes growth and discovery. She creates many humorous visual moments with familiar childhood characters to provide both a joyful sense of discovery and a positive distraction.





Artists: Jim Hirschfield and Sonya Ishii
Title: “Pirouette”

Location: Lobby Level, Event Space

Husband-and-wife team Jim Hirschfield and Sonya Ishii start every art project by thinking of a metaphor – something to give each piece a hidden, deeper meaning. For their installation at Le Bonheur, they thought to create a metaphor for change.

“While children are in a hospital, they go through many changes, whether physical or psychological,” said Hirschfield.

“Pirouette” spans across the ceiling of the hospital’s event space and is comprised of 30 geometric, hollow cubes made of steel. Each cube is suspended from a wire at a tilted angle. Through patterns of circular holes on each side, the viewer can see through the cubes.

To symbolize change, the North Carolina artists painted the cubes with what they call “flip-flop” paint, which changes colors as the viewer moves, giving him or her a different perspective each time.





Artist: Anne Froning Wike
Title: “...ever growing into the light”

Location: Lobby Level, Physician Dining Room

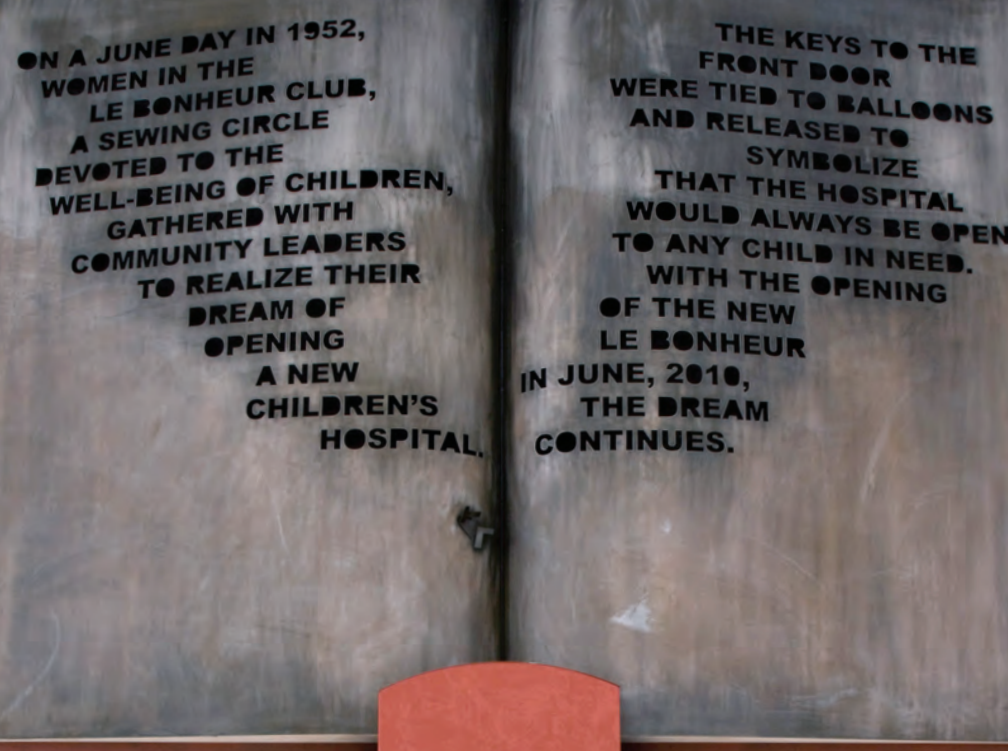
Anne Froning Wike’s 20-foot long clay sculpture “...ever growing into the light” is glazed in earth green and bright flower tones. True to the Memphis landscape, it resembles a hybrid of a winding river and a blossoming tree branch.

“I used muddy tones to make it look as though it was pulled from the river,” said Froning Wike. “At the end are a large, bright blossom and a stray vine that continues to reach upward symbolizing growth toward the light.”

Froning Wike took a group of children with special needs to the Memphis Botanic Gardens, where they explored the grounds picking up objects from nature. They then used rolling pins to make impressions in the clay with the objects, which were incorporated into the design.

“The kids loved the idea that they were making something for Le Bonheur,” said Froning Wike.





Artist: Dolph Smith

Title: “The Le Bonheur Story: A History Written in Steel”

Location: Lobby Level

Dedicated in honor of Le Bonheur Club

In Dolph Smith’s sculpture created to honor the legacy of Le Bonheur Club, the founding women who raised funds for the first building in 1952, the hospital’s history is etched onto the pages of a grandiose steel book. The letters look as though they are sliding off the pages and into a rendering of Le Bonheur Children’s Hospital. Smith collaborated with the National Ornamental Metal Museum in Memphis to fabricate the work. The open pages read:

On a June day in 1952, women in the Le Bonheur Club, a sewing circle devoted to the well-being of children, gathered with community leaders to realize their dream of opening a new children’s hospital.

The keys to the front door were tied to balloons and released to symbolize that the hospital would always be open to any child in need. With the opening of the new Le Bonheur in June 2010, the dream continues.





Artist: Dolph Smith

Title: “Lift”

Location: Lobby Level

In Dolph Smith’s historically driven piece titled “Lift,” each scene carries the weight of a thousand words. A series of miniature patient room renderings tell the Le Bonheur story and also serve to illustrate the stages of the healing process. The rooms are composed of handmade, found and collected materials including wood, paint, watercolor and altered works.

Viewers are invited to look closely at the installation to find hidden treasures. Of the 13 renderings, several salute the early years of volunteerism at the hospital. One of the scenes contains miniature bed sheets and a pillow sewn by an original founder of Le Bonheur Club. Another includes two miniature drawings created by Smith’s grandchildren.

“This (piece) takes a while to play itself out,” said Smith. “Just as you don’t grasp a book just by looking at it, healing doesn’t happen in an instance. It happens over time.”





Artist: Greely Myatt
Title: “Balloons for Le Bonheur”

Location: Lobby Level, Clinic Waiting Room

Underwritten by Cliff and Louise Hunt in honor of Spencer, Pete, Kelli, Alex, Will and Ann Elise Hunt

Artist Greely Myatt incorporated his love of recycled materials into a 36-foot installation in Le Bonheur’s Heart and Neuroscience Clinic waiting room, sculpting cartoon-like speaking bubbles to cover the main wall.

Myatt worked with the original graphics on the old wood, including a toy truck that had been painted on a child’s dresser and a bright red heart. Myatt’s balloons also reference the first grand opening ceremony of Le Bonheur Children’s in 1952, when balloons with keys were released to symbolize that no child would be turned away from care, regardless of the family’s ability to pay.

“For Le Bonheur, what I’m trying to do is take people’s minds off of what they are there for and to give them something to think about,” he said. “The meaning of this work is left up to the viewers to project their own thoughts, and hopefully it becomes their voice.”





Artist: Yvonne Bobo

Title: “Where the Wind Plays”

Location: Lobby Level, Clinic Waiting Room

Underwritten by Kathy and J.W. Gibson in honor of their daughters, Alicia Renee ´ and Savannah Jaye

Drawing inspiration for her display from nature and previous public art pieces commissioned for children, Memphis metalsmith Yvonne Bobo captures imagination with her kinetic garden “Where the Wind Plays.”

Because the design of metal flowers and spinning insects is at the mercy of the wind, no two visitors will view the same piece of art; as the wind blows, pieces of the metal garden twist and turn.

“Different pieces are moving on different days, and it’s always changing,” said Bobo. “That’s the magical side of it—that each experience is just for you.”

Bobo’s piece, while at the mercy of the wind, also contains 315 reflectors to catch the sunlight as it streams through the hospital’s waiting room windows. While you are waiting you can see designs of flowers, frogs, butterflies, caterpillars and ladybugs twinkle and twirl.

For many of the patients and families at Le Bonheur, the distraction is welcome. Bobo’s whimsical garden is a playground not just for the wind, but for the imagination.





Artist: Leslie Barron
Title: “Hall of Unity”

Location: Lobby Level, Chapel Corridor

Underwritten by Mary and Charles Wurtzbarger

Local contemporary folk painter Leslie Barron created seven paintings for the Le Bonheur collection, including a series of five houses of worship. “Hall of Unity” is Barron’s interpretation of a church, synagogue, mosque and Hindu and Bah’ai temples.

Barron said, “This was completely outside of my comfort zone. It was a huge job, but so much fun to figure out how I was going to represent each house of worship in my own style.” Her aim was for something “child centered without being childish.”

Because Barron was only familiar with the structure of churches, a great deal of research went into these paintings. She learned while there are only five Bah’ai temples in the world, and only one in the United States, they are unified by lush gardens and beautiful fountains. After looking at hundreds of mosques, Barron’s is an interpretation of one of the oldest mosques in the world.

Because Hindu temples are so elaborate, Barron picked a few key elements and created a scaled-down version. Barron found the synagogue the hardest to develop because the outside structures represent the time period in which they are built.





Conceptual Design: Linda Hill
Design: Catherine Blackwell Pena
Fabrication: John Steiner and Ray Thompson, Jr.
Title: “Wishing Wall”

Location: Lobby Level

Dedicated in honor of Linda Hill

“Make a wish, say a prayer, share a blessing, voice a hope.” The “Wishing Wall” is intended as an active message board for individuals who wish to share their thoughts. At least three times every day, Le Bonheur’s pastoral care team regularly removes the wishes and prayer requests from the “Wishing Wall” to include in prayer.

“The requests made on this wall are for everything you can imagine,” said Chaplain Jack Conrad. “Most are for healing of the child but often it is for strength of the family members or the support staff. Many return and offer a prayer of thanksgiving for a good outcome... They unite us in a common bond of trust beyond ourselves,” he adds. “Someone is always praying for those who leave their requests on the wall.”

The “Wishing Wall” was dedicated in honor of Linda Hill, whose vision, dedication and talent established the extraordinary collection of art at Le Bonheur Children’s Hospital.





Artist: Lisa Jennings
Title: “Dawn” and “The Offering”
Location: Lobby Level, Community Room

A soft-hued landscape painting by Lisa Jennings titled "Dawn" was chosen for the board room in the new Le Bonheur Children's Hospital. Alongside it is "The Offering," a sculpted form with outstretched arms, expressing joy in a gesture of presentation.

Gathering inspiration from nature, Jennings hunts in the woodland streams of Tennessee and Arkansas for roots, rocks and shells to use in her paintings and sculptures. Her organic art-making process involves sculpting found materials and covering them with layers of handmade paper and paints.

"Art creates such a joy in the body; it can take the mind away from pain," said Jennings. "That in itself creates healing."





Artist: Bob Myers and Graham's Lighting Title: "Out of the Hearts of Babes"

Location: Main Lobby, Security Desk

Underwritten by Glenna Flautt

"Out of the Hearts of Babes" is a distinctly Le Bonheur lighting fixture – a three-tiered, multi-paneled display showcasing 36 pieces of children's artwork.

"What's uniquely Le Bonheur is the children," said Myers. "It occurred to me to use children's art to make a chandelier. I wanted it to be one-of-a-kind."

Out of more than 250 children's art works displayed at Le Bonheur, Myers selected 36 pieces, which were scanned and fitted to 10-by-13-inch panels of glass.

Graham's Lighting, the store where Myers works, typically crafts fixtures with easy-to-manipulate materials. This chandelier, however, is created out of the glass-encased art protected by a sturdy frame of stainless steel. Myers and his team explored new techniques with steel to create this piece.





Artist: Brantley Ellzey

Title: “Le Bonheur Landscapes: An Archive”

Location: Lobby Level, Welcome Desk

Underwritten by Bruce Edenton III, in celebration of Lisa

“Le Bonheur Landscape: An Archive” is composed of more than 5,000 pages of rolled paper manipulated to depict the Mississippi Delta landscape. In it is a river made from multiple pages of *Le Bonheur* magazine, trees from Le Bonheur calendars and a sky made up of hospital visitor guide maps. Final construction blueprints of the new hospital building make up a heart superimposed over the scene.

“By using these materials, the work acts not only as an engaging art piece but also as a time capsule of the period in which the new building was created,” Ellzey said.





Artist: Lorri Honeycutt

Titles: 15 works, including “Summer Garden Party,” “Family Fun,” “Morning Dew Duties,” “The Lily,” “The Grape Escape”

Location: Lobby Level, Cafeteria

The cafeteria in Le Bonheur Children’s Hospital features five pieces from the “Big World Photo” collection by Texas artist Lorri Honeycutt, who captures ironic images of miniature figurines posed in clever positions.

“I have always thought a sense of humor is a gift,” Honeycutt wrote. “My goal is to make you think and then smile.”

Honeycutt hopes that her artwork will encourage others to take a closer look at the world around them. Living a full life requires that we keep our eyes open to new ideas with an appreciation of the world around us, she says. “There are small treasures of happiness everywhere.”





Artist: Carroll Todd

Titles: “Terrace,” “Bird Space,” “Terrace Tree”

Location: Dunlap Street Terrace

Memphis sculptor Carroll Todd drew inspiration for his pieces from his twin daughters’ love of pop-up books. “I wanted to create a work of art that would transport sick children and their families into a pop-up book landscape,” said Todd.

Todd used steel to sculpt a tall tree with twisting, whimsical vines and colorful leaves. Nesting inside the tree is a large mother bird that sits on brightly painted eggs. When the wind blows, the leaves move, revealing fruit. Like a pop-up book, “Bird Space” has multiple layers of discovery. For him, Le Bonheur’s services hit close to home when a family friend’s 15-year-old son received a scary diagnosis.

“Le Bonheur was there for him, his family and all of us — his friends,” said Todd. “The hospital’s physicians and staff went the extra mile each day for him. From now on, my sculpture will welcome those families who come seeking help at Le Bonheur.”





Artist: Herb Williams

Titles: “Night Diptych” and “Day Diptych”

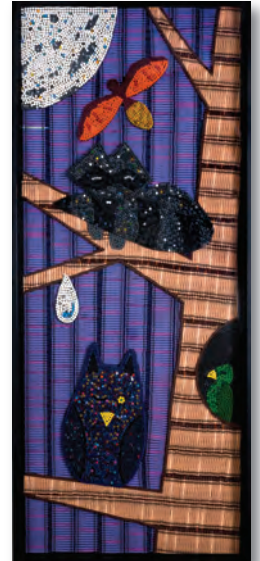
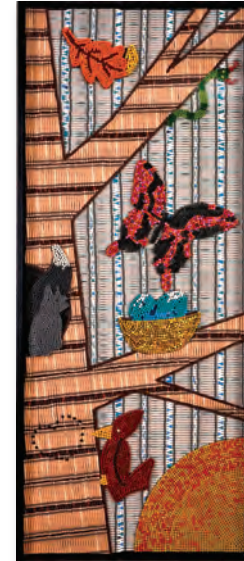
Location: Second Floor, Waiting Room

Underwritten by Lee and Joe Duncan, in celebration of the life of Matt Duncan and in honor of Norine, Andy, Logan and Mason Duncan

Assembled from nearly 100,000 Crayola crayons and pieces, Herb Williams’ wood panels hold more than first meets the eye. Two depictions of a tree surrounded by animals mirror one another in day and night scenes.

“I wanted to create a nurturing, peaceful sense about both night and day and include the tree,” said Williams, mentioning the tree as a symbol for shelter. Born in Montgomery, Ala., Williams said he has always found inspiration and a sense of escape in the wilderness of his Southern surroundings.

Because crayons are a medium readily associated with childhood, Williams’ piece is innately playful and purposefully peaceful. The plant and animal life allude to the healing nature of the hospital itself.





Artist: Mary Cour Burrows

Title: “Heart Ties”

Location: Second Floor, Waiting Room

Underwritten by Robin and Billy Orgel in honor of their children, Benjamin, Megan and Hannah

Using charcoal and bright crayons, artist Mary Cour Burrows transcribed handwritten letters of children from around the world onto life-size children made of wood. A ribbon of edged copper weaves through the heart of each child, connecting the pieces together. Pieces of actual letters can be seen inside the hearts.

She asked children to answer three questions in their letters:

What do you hope for your families?

What do you hope for your school?

What do you hope for yourself?

Receiving responses from more than 200 children, Burrows discovered that happiness, good health and safety were common themes. Not only do the letters represent different hopes and dreams, but they also represent children from different nationalities. Burrows received letters written in 12 different languages.

“Though the letters were written in different languages, by people from different walks of life, the messages were the same,” said Burrows. “As humans, we all wish for hope. It boils down to hope.”





Artist: Melissa Conroy
Title: “wOoberry Dolls”

Location: Surgery Department

Underwritten by the John Buckman Charitable Trust

Lining the walls of the second floor is a photographic series of dolls created by artist and author Melissa Conroy. Her signature “wOoberry dolls” are known for their playful design, circular hands and square heads, with intricate embroidering on the bodices.

“I wanted to make something that was fun, something that kids would enjoy looking at,” said Conroy. “I wanted to make characters that kids could relate to on their own level, and these dolls were designed by the way kids draw.”

Nine of Conroy’s favorite doll friends visited Le Bonheur Children’s Hospital to help patients create stories or artwork that could complement the dolls. Their creations were documented by photographer Michelle East, who then developed a series of photos featured in the new Le Bonheur hospital.





Artist: Kiersten Williams

Title: “My Happy Place”

Location: Emergency Department, Main Corridor

When designing a mural for the hospital, artist Kiersten Williams asked kids in her art workshop one simple question: What makes you happy?

The responses she got from the children, who range in age from 6 to 12, were a random mix of childhood objects, including candy, teddy bears, cats and books.

Using their ideas, Williams drew a giant mural of the kids’ suggestions and then traced the design onto 20 wood panels, measuring 40 inches by 40 inches. Williams then asked the kids to fill in the objects with bright acrylic paint, much like a paint-by-numbers project.

“I really wanted to involve kids in the project,” said Williams. She calls the collection of panels, which hang in groups of twos and threes, “My Happy Place.”





Artist: Annabelle Meacham
Title: “The Pond”

Location: Emergency Department, Waiting Room

Annabelle Meacham’s “The Pond” is comprised of 19 disks illustrating scenes from nature, including frogs, flies, fish and other elements that could be found around a pond.

Ranging in sizes up to 30 inches in diameter, Meacham created each disk by scanning drawings and imposing them over quilting patterns, an ode to Southern quilt makers and a representation of comfort and healing.

“The act of quilting exhibits love, and it’s something used to comfort a child,” said Meacham. “I, like countless others, know Le Bonheur and have been there with a child. I understood the need for comforting images, but also the need for them to be interesting and incite story-telling.”



LE BONHEUR STUDENT ART CONTEST



In fall 2009, Le Bonheur Children's Hospital sponsored an art contest open to all students in grades K-12. The project received more than 3,500 pieces of art from across the region. Of these submissions, more than 200 works were selected to hang on the walls of the hospital.

We sincerely thank all of the students and art teachers who participated in this contest. View a complete collection of the children's work at www.lebonheur.org/art.

To learn more about the pieces featured in this booklet, view other works in the Le Bonheur collection or watch interviews with the artists and art director, visit **www.lebonheur.org/art**.



Many pieces in Le Bonheur's collection are available for sponsorship. The art is divided into four categories – **Masterworks, Major Works, Magical Works** and **Children's Art**.

To inquire about underwriting any of the art in the Le Bonheur Children's Hospital collection, please contact the hospital's **Foundation** at **901-287-6308**.



Artist: Mary Jo Karimnia

Title: “Enchilada, Caboodle, Shebang”

Location: Lobby Level, Clinical Waiting Room

Underwritten by Bob and Deborah Craddock in honor of Pierce, Alice and Reed

“Enchilada, Caboodle, Shebang” is a large-scale mosaic created with materials found by and donated to artist Mary Jo Karimnia. The piece – which includes matchbox cars, golden keys, princess dolls and foosball men – has an “I Spy” element of interactivity, allowing patients and families to use their imaginations while passing the time. A list of objects to uncover is written on the wall, and the bright colors signify different sections of the piece.

“There are lots of ways that you can play with it,” said Karimnia. “Artwork like this is ideal for situations where people have to wait.”

Kids are welcome to feel the texturally stimulating surface, composed of sterile, non-porous, soft-edged objects and secured with an epoxy grout.

“The idea of this is about fun and entertainment while easing a child’s wait,” said Karimnia. “All of these objects are exciting, and they create stories, too.”

