



# Exhibitions

## Behind the Mask

16 August – 20 October 2020



In late March 2020 the first patient was admitted to Intensive Care with severe breathing difficulties due to Covid 19. This was a completely new disease. Prior to this there had been several weeks of frantic training and organisation to prepare for an expected surge of patients similar to what had occurred elsewhere in the world.

Covid 19 was, and is, a frightening disease to deal with. You cannot see it and to begin with it was not entirely clear how it spread, who was most at risk or even how best to treat it.

We knew from all the media coverage that many health care workers had died in the process of caring for these patients and that any of our staff might become a part of that awful statistic.

A big team of maybe 150 people delivered this care. Nurses, cleaners, doctors, ward assistants, physios, pharmacists, porters, managers and more. The team was drawn from all parts of the world. For many, long periods were spent working in full PPE. It was hot, sweaty and difficult to communicate.

However behind every mask was a normal person doing the job they had been trained to do.

It was a fantastic team and there were so many highs and lows.

These are the photos and memories of those people who were there.

This exhibition, supported with funding from Love Musgrove, has been created by designer, Lucy Hobbs, working with Art for Life and the team on the Intensive Care Unit. Lucy has used material and photographs gathered and taken by the staff working in Critical Care.

[www.somersetft.nhs.uk/art-for-life](http://www.somersetft.nhs.uk/art-for-life)