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The British Journal of Psychiatry



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Cover picture

'The Gugging Artists in front of the House of Artists'. A drawing created by Alan Scott in collaboration with Dr Drew Walker, as part of the *Falling UP* project.



The world-renowned House of Artists at Gugging in Austria, is a small-scale psychiatric facility. For four decades its twelve residents have lived together as a familial group of self-taught artists, within a transformative, creative community of social and cultural integration. The artist, Dr Drew Walker developed the *Falling UP* project as part of his own path to recovery and advocacy art-practice. It was based on his experience of activism and his PhD research methodology into the artistic and psychological process of the Gugging system. The *Falling UP* project exists on both 'sides-of-the-fence', as 50% of its 32 participants have chronic mental illness, 50% are medical professionals, and 50% are self-taught artists. Collaborations proceeded within a framework of co-mutual, open-dialogues, which crossed boundaries of vulnerability, experience and knowledge. Providing the experience of reciprocal 'mutuality-in-action', and traversing professional and experiential borders, *Falling UP* has raised awareness of Gugging through seven exhibitions. With a footfall of 44,000 visitors, these functioned as a discursive platform and exploratory tool, illuminating shared narratives of mental illness. The *Falling UP* 7.0 exhibition was held in the Scottish Parliament in April, 2022.

Text by Dr Drew Walker.

Thanks to Professor Johann Feilacher for permission to feature a group portrait of artists from the House of Artists, Gugging.

We are always looking for interesting and visually appealing images for the cover of the Journal and would welcome suggestions or pictures, which should be sent to Dr Allan Beveridge, British Journal of Psychiatry, 21 Prescot Street, London, E1 8BB, UK or bjp@rcpsych.ac.uk.