

We believe that art has the power to heal and reassure. The art in the new Le Bonheur was created around the themes of courage, compassion, hope and love. More than 200 pieces of art were created by regional school children, and the works of more than 40 professional artists will grace the hospital's walls. From quilts and mosaics to metalwork and photography, the new hospital provides children an opportunity to see and experience all types of art.

Children's artwork

To give children across the Mid-South community an opportunity to contribute to the new hospital, Le Bonheur Children's conducted an art contest. More than 3,000 pieces were submitted, and of these, 200 were selected. The winning artwork can be seen throughout the hospital. The aquatic-themed pieces hang together in a main corridor of the hospital to elicit feelings of peace and tranquility.

I Can Fly: Dreams of Wisdom and Wonder

Illustration by Jeanne Seagle; Fabrication by Lea Holland

Made of thousands of tiny, colorful mosaic pieces, "I Can Fly" stands nearly 17 feet tall, reaching into the second floor rotunda at Le Bonheur Children's Hospital. The obelisk's four sides represent the four seasons of healing, designated by the words hope, faith, children and love. On top of the obelisk, a child rides a giant blue bird, nearly nine feet wide. The colorful child represents the "every child," as Le Bonheur welcomes all patients seeking care.



Mapping Our Lives By Carol DeForest

A fusion of hand-made clay models dot a winding road on the second floor to create "Mapping Our Lives," a workshop piece designed under the direction of local sculptor Carol DeForest. The eye-catching, almost chaotic display combines the work of more than 200 Le Bonheur Associates, patients and families and sprawls across three short walls. DeForest hosted 10 workshops, including a stop at The Neighborhood School, a private school in Binghampton for at-risk children, where the art was made. DeForest glazed the colored clay in a low-fire kiln and assembled the pieces along the path, which spells Le Bonheur.

Out of the Hearts of Babes By Bob Myers and Graham's Lighting

"Out of the Hearts of Babes" hangs over the welcome desk in the new Le Bonheur's main lobby. The lighting fixture is a three-tiered, multi-paneled display for 36 pieces of children's artwork. The panels are backlit with LED light to showcase the colorful art framed in stainless steel. At its widest part, the fixture measures 4.5 feet across and more than 3.5 feet tall.



Untitled By George Rodrigue

One of the New Orleans artist George Rodrigue's iconic Blue Dogs is displayed in the new Le Bonheur. The 56- by 80-foot silkscreen ink and acrylic paint on chrome board hangs in the Hall of Mirrors on the first floor of the hospital. Rodrigue, who had polio as a child, feels a special connection to Le Bonheur, which opened when polio was the No. 1 reason children were hospitalized. The Untitled Blue Dog delights children who can see their reflection in the colorful work.

Heart Ties

By Mary Cours Burrows

In "Heart Ties," 12 life-size children made of ¾-inch birch plywood wrap along the length of a wall near the bridge that connects the new and old hospitals. Using charcoal and colorful crayons, artist Mary Cours Burrows transcribed handwritten letters of children of different nationalities onto the wood. A ribbon of edged copper weaves through the heart of each child, connecting the pieces together.

Lift

Design by Dolph Smith; Fabrication by Don DuMont

In the historically driven piece titled "Lift" by Dolph Smith, each scene in the thematic sculpture 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 collection of display boxes are composed of hand-made, found and collected materials including wood, paint, watercolor and altered works. The design was conceptualized by Smith, fabricated in collaboration with Don Dumont and hung at a child's eye-level on the first floor of the hospital. A special touch from Smith includes work from his grandchildren and a miniature blanket sewn by his wife.



Night Diptych, Day Diptych

By Herb Williams

Herb Williams' dual panels "Night Diptych, Day Diptych" mix ancient Greek formatting with modern materials. Assembled from nearly 100,000 Crayola crayons and pieces, Williams' wood panels hold more than first meets the eye. Two depictions of a tree surrounded by animals foil one another in day and night scenes. The intense color and bold, simple design give the installation an iconic air.

Where the Wind Plays

By Yvonne Bobo

Memphis metalsmith Yvonne Bobo captures the imagination with her kinetic garden "Where the Wind Plays." Driven by the elements, brightly colored metal flowers and insects spin outside the window of the first floor heart and neurosciences clinic waiting area. Built with patients in mind, Bobo said she wanted her art to provide a welcome distraction for Le Bonheur families during their time in the hospital.

