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‘GARDEN’ sculpture announced as the centrepiece artwork at the new Tweed Valley Hospital

A specially commissioned sculpture by celebrated local artist Hiromi Tango has been chosen as the centrepiece artwork for the new \$723.3 million Tweed Valley Hospital.

Ms Hiromi Tango’s large sculpture GARDEN will be suspended from the high ceilings of the main hospital foyer and has been inspired by the colours of the local landscape.

Artist, Ms Tango said she hopes the sculpture will bring a sense of peace, calm and comfort to the hospital.

“Patients, staff and visitors will be captivated by GARDEN, a lush sculpture which will create a vibrant and welcoming space as you enter the new Tweed Valley Hospital,” Ms Tango said.

“The people of the Tweed Valley will recognise GARDEN’s colour palette of blues and greens, illustrating both the hinterland and the ocean and bringing the outdoors inside.

“For many, a hospital visit may involve uncertainty, which can be difficult to deal with. I hope that through bringing art and health together, we will be able to shift the notion of hospital environments to a space of nurturing, education and wellness.”

The unique sculpture will reflect a canopy of lush greenery, by using textiles and sculptural elements to show off local native flora and fauna. GARDEN explores the healing properties of flora, including the medicinal and nutritional properties.

It looks at the natural phenomena of regenerative processes and how art can be good for the soul – this is particularly important in helping to lift the spirits of patients and their families.

Ms Tango’s sculpture was selected from 22 expressions of interest. She is known for her art using metaphors from the natural world to represent brain processes.

There will be opportunities for the community to take part in the creative journey of GARDEN, with local residents being invited to share personal reflections on plants and flowers native to the area. There will also be opportunities for people to create the woven elements that will form part of the permanent artwork.”

As part of the new hospital’s commitment to arts and culture, there will be works showcasing the culture and the history of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the region, as well as the Australian South Sea Islander community.

The \$723.3 million Tweed Valley Hospital is on track to open to patients in 2023.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Hiromi Tango is a Tweed Heads based, Japanese-Australian artist whose work spans sculpture, drawings, photography, installation and performance. Hiromi has completed several major public art commissions, including a large-scale permanent bronze sculpture (Mount Coot-tha Botanical Gardens, Brisbane), and permanent textile installations at George Place, Sydney and vue de monde, Melbourne.

Hiromi has also undertaken major temporal public art installations at major institutions around Australia including QAGOMA (Brisbane), MCA (Sydney) and Art Gallery of South Australia, as well as international projects in Japan, South Korea, Singapore, USA, and Indonesia.