



## A MULTI-MEDIA INSTALLATION EXPLORING THE EXPERIENCE OF BEING ON MEDICATION

**Carlo Golin**  
**Sally Pryor**  
**Bill McDonald**

The starting point for this multi-media exhibition at the eMerge Gallery was the discovery that the two artists, Carlo Golin and Dr Sally Pryor, both obsessively collect the packaging of the medication they take. Thus, Carlo has collected everything involved with his anti-stroke medications and Sally all the bottles for her thyroid medication.

This formed the starting point for an installation that explores the experience of being *on medication* and includes painting, sculpture, photography, video, animation and sound.

Carlo investigates his stroke while Sally responds to what's said about medication, particularly on Twitter. Musician Bill McDonald expresses the experience of being in hospital.

Carlo is a Melbourne-based artist, represented by the Libby Edwards Gallery, and here he expresses the complex and frightening experiences involved in his stroke and the vulnerabilities of being dependent on medication for life.

In contrast, Sally, a lecturer in media design at JCU, calls on her art-design/science/IT background to explore the roles of medication in contemporary life and the complex responses people have to it.

For example, she monitored Twitter for several months, collecting over 500 tweets that included the words *pill* or *medication*. Then she wrote a program to randomly assemble collages of these many different hopes, fears, problems, solutions and experiences of medication.

Bill McDonald is a Melbourne musician – a bass player who has played with Paul Kelly and others – and a long time collaborator with Carlo and Michelle Heaven, a dancer also featuring in the exhibition. Bill turned his time as a hospital patient into a powerful soundscape for the installation.

The exhibition would not have been possible without the support of Richard Gillespie and Benjamin Van Houts.

**Turning the medicine cabinet into art**

**Paula Tapiolas**  
**ABC North Queensland**

**eMerge Gallery**  
**School of Creative Arts**  
**James Cook University**  
**Townsville Campus DA300**

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