



# The art of courage

**YOUNG ARTISTS:**  
Conor Reidy (5),  
Jane O'Regan (4)  
and Michael  
Cawley (11)



**Brave** children treated in Our Lady's Hospital for Sick Children will have their art displayed in an exhibition in the prestigious Hugh Lane Gallery.

Original pieces of art have been created by children as young as three as part of a competition held in connection with Golden Pages company Truvo.

The children were encouraged by play therapists to paint and draw images with the theme of 'My World'.

The competition is the brainchild of Truvo's Emma Walsh. She said the goal was to get as many children as possible involved.

"I think we underestimate the stress that these children are under when in hospital.

"Children can be in for a long time, between coming in and out, and having chemotherapy treatment," said Emma.

"We brought the artists and art materials around to every single child in the hospital," Emma added.

"Children in wheelchairs and in their beds could paint and draw on boards, while others came to the playroom. All of the children who could, came down.

"It was something all the children could do together, working towards the same goal.

**HAUNTED**

"We chose the theme because it was along the lines of the theme of the environment."

The art lessons, one of which was carried out in Dublin's Hugh Lane Gallery, proved to be very popular and patients and visitors were all asked to interpret a theme.

The resulting images ranged from shoes and spacemen to pyjamas, haunted houses and families.

"While most of the children were bubbly and fun, some were quite low and sad," Emma said.

"Art therapy obviously has a positive effect on them. The Hugh Lane Gallery offered their help and support free of charge as one of their projects."

The Art and Hobby Shop provided a pallet of art

How the plucky children from Crumlin children's hospital turned brushes with serious illness into brushes with greatness as their paintings are unveiled in a prestigious gallery, reports **Claire Murphy**



**TALENT:** Left - My Family, by Anna Maria Gavrilenko (3). Right - Blue Sky, by Emer Downes (11). Below left - Feathery Stars, by Aimee McMahon (3). Below right - Untitled, by 16-year-old Claire Murphy



materials to the hospital and have also sponsored the prizes for the 16 talented winners.

The exhibition, which is entitled Truvo Gets Mugged Art Competition, will open in the gallery on Saturday at noon and will remain open to the public for a month.

Four winners from each category were chosen and their images have been placed on mugs for staff of the company producing the Golden Pages.

It is hoped that the competition will run again, but this will be dependent on corporate support.

