

## **CHALLENGING OBJECTS?**

### **WELLCOME COLLECTION'S REDEVELOPMENT OF 'MEDICINE NOW'**

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How can a permanent gallery with a ten-year lifespan dedicated to contemporary medicine continue to feel relevant amid radical social and scientific change? Curator Clare Barlow will explore this question in the context of Wellcome Collection's redevelopment of one of its permanent galleries, formerly known as 'Medicine Now'. With displays that present cutting-edge contemporary artworks next to medical objects and personal ephemera, Wellcome Collection is dedicated to 'challenging how we think and feel about health by connecting science, medicine, life and art'. The redevelopment of this gallery offers the opportunity to reflect on what is changing and what will endure in our attitudes towards contemporary medicine. What does it mean to be healthy? How do we think and feel about our minds and bodies – and those of other people? Does naming a health condition change how we feel about it – and why are some conditions stigmatised? How can we feel emotionally invested in seemingly abstract global challenges, such as drug resistant infections and how will the changing global context alter our relationships with one another? This paper will focus on the curatorial approach for the new gallery in exploring our complex relationships with health and medicine.