

## Submission to the Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System

**Artwork Title:** Out of the Fog

**Artist:** Malcolm Charles Berry

**About the Artist:** Malcolm Charles Berry is a professional artist and the creative director of Apollon Studios. He has lived experience of mental health problems. Currently Malcolm also works as an advocate, and in care and maintenance work for a number of providers of mental health services. He is also a member of VMIAC and assists with research into mental health.

**Description of Artwork:** The work symbolises the incredible dedication of carers where the Indian henna hand symbolises protection and love, while a calming face comes out of the fog for those with lived experience with mental health issues. The collage includes India ink on paper and leather plated with 22 carat gold which was salvaged from a collection of an old leather merchant of Melbourne. It represents solidity of caring responses and also the reward that kindness and care can offer. The image is based on the quirky posters of 17th and 18th century Europe that advertised magicians and almanacs. The characters that surround the face are based on old Aramaic and Cyrillic alphabets reinforcing the idea of a universal language of care. Care is the central pivot of recovery.

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"Out of the Fog" for Tandem Carers