

Teresa Dennis
Re-Purposed Treasures

Artist Statement

Chocolate as Medicine

The hospital has a garden it is very proud of, that is kept up and decorated with art from various sources.

The university has the garden as a place of respite and calm for patients and visitors, all through the simple sight and smell of flowers. When I was given my five chocolate boxes, all stuffed with random artifacts, I did

not know where to start. I sorted through everything until I found my inspiration, two purple flowers. I realized I did not have to create a complex scene to tell a story, I could focus my work on something small, but just as powerful. To create the flowers, I used the flattened chocolate box tins – the stamens are wooden “chocolates” – and various types of found object leaves decorate the space around the flowers.

