

BJPsych

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Cover picture

Petit DEXA-Dan (2010).
Danny McDonald (b. 1949)

Recent studies have demonstrated the involvement of psychological factors in the development of heart disease, with depressive illness and anxiety being linked to clinical cardiovascular events. Danny McDonald is an Australian artist who has been dealing with medical science as a subject for his work for over 20 years. Responding to his own family history of cardiac health, he established a residency in the Human Neurotransmitters Laboratory of Dr Gavin Lambert at The Baker IDI Heart & Diabetes Institute, Melbourne to explore the potential central nervous, physiological and genetic narrative. *Petit DEXA-Dan* derives from this intervention and functions as a portrait of the artist – a definition of self through data of various kinds – a 'research visage' highlighting the brain-heart nexus. Based on clinical tests this view from within provides new knowledge of his internal being, identity and materiality – a graphic image expressed in alternative vocabulary as to what he is rather than what he looks like.

We are always looking for interesting and visually appealing images for the cover of the *Journal* and would welcome suggestions or pictures, which should be sent to Dr Allan Beveridge, British Journal of Psychiatry, 17 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8PG, UK or bjp@rcpsych.ac.uk.

