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Where Art meets Science (and earplugs): *a tale of acoustics, aesthetics and audiology*



For the fifth cover in the *Art meets Science* series, we celebrate not only the fusion of audiology and art, but also friendship, nature and the kind of collaboration that reaches far beyond the clinic walls.

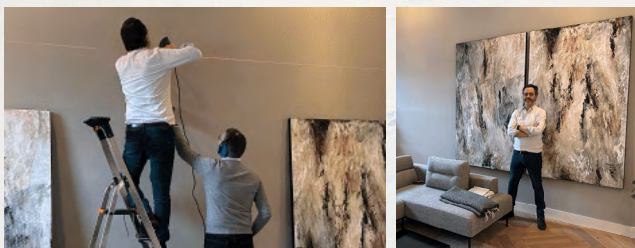
My colleague and dear friend Martin Stollman, fellow medical physics expert in audiology, lives with his wife in a beautifully renovated former

monastery. The home, with its grand architecture, high ceilings and serene atmosphere, is truly breathtaking. But, as often happens with visually stunning spaces, the acoustics told a different story. The large, open surfaces created long reverberation times that made the room feel cold and echoey – a sensory mismatch for such a warm and inviting home.

Martin and his wife invited me to create a large diptych – two connected works of art – designed specifically for their space. But more than that, they welcomed me into the creative process. Together, we explored not only how the piece should look, but also what it should evoke. We talked about atmosphere, about emotion and about how art can mirror the feeling of a quiet, meaningful conversation.

The resulting diptych is deeply inspired by nature. With warm reddish browns, earthy blacks, soft greys and touches of white, the work resembles wood, forest and soil. It feels rooted, grounded. The textures are layered and tactile – telling stories for those who take the time to pause, to look and to listen. Much like in real human connection, the depth only reveals itself when we allow space for it. And isn't that also what good hearing care is about?

In addition to transforming the acoustics of the room, the artwork brings visual warmth and narrative richness. It doesn't shout for attention – it invites reflection. It doesn't fill the silence – it honours it.



The installation process became its own lesson in hearing health. As we drilled into century-old walls, Martin and I

instinctively reached for our earplugs. Two audiologists, protecting their hearing while hanging a work that celebrates sound – how's that for walking the talk?

A story from the field

Beyond creating art, I also regularly give lectures – often about hearing, acoustics and the spaces we live in. After one of these talks, an older gentleman came up to me. With a warm smile, he thanked me and shared something deeply personal:

"Now I finally understand," he said, "why in my old English house I could easily follow conversations when friends and family visited, but in my new modern, spacious apartment I struggle so much to keep up."

For me, that was the most beautiful confirmation of why we do this work. I thanked him in return – because his story perfectly captured the heart of what I believe: that good hearing care begins not just with technology, but with understanding the world we listen in.

The image on this cover is a detail from that very diptych. A close-up of abstract textures where shapes and forms seem to emerge the longer you look. I warmly invite you, the reader, to pause for a moment and take in the image. Let your eyes wander. What do you see? What stories begin to surface?

Because when art meets science, and we take time to truly observe – and to truly listen – something beautiful happens.

Coming next: the closing chapter

In the final edition of this *Art meets Science* series, we will reveal the right panel of the diptych – completing the full picture that began on the very first cover with the left panel. Together, these two works mark the end of a creative journey told across six covers: a story where art, acoustics, friendship and the heart of audiology come together.

I invite you to join me one last time as we look back, reflect on what we created and discover the deeper story behind it all.



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