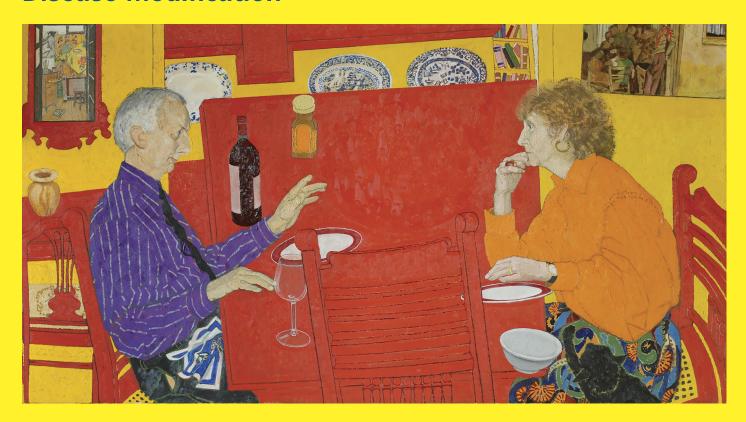


# The British Journal of Psychiatry Solvential Control of Psychiatry Solve

**Editor-in-Chief: Professor Gin Malhi** 

Themed Issue 2024: Pathway to Delivery of Dementia Disease Modification



Shifting paradigms in dementia care: navigating new therapies and prevention strategies

Koychev et al

Estimating demand for potential diseasemodifying therapies for Alzheimer's disease in the UK

Laurrel et al

Associations between multimorbidity and neuropathology in dementia: consideration of functional cognitive disorders, psychiatric illness, and dementia mimics

Hamilton et al

The usability and reliability of a smartphone application for monitoring future dementia risk in ageing UK adults

Reid et al



## The British Journal of Psychiatry

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#### **Themed Issue**

This themed issue on Pathway to Delivery of Dementia Disease Modification was published without external financial support or sponsorship.

#### Cover picture

#### Conversation. 1990. William Utermohlen



In 1995 the artist, William Utermohlen was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. Signs of his illness are retrospectively apparent in his works of 1990-91, notably in

the "Conversation Pieces". These paintings, which can be seen as a celebration of William and his wife, Patricia's life together, describe the warmth and happiness of their apartment and the joy they took in the companionship of friends. However, signs of the disease that was about to strike William are also apparent in the shifting perceptions of space, objects, and people. They are premonitions of a new world of silence and sensory deprivation about to close in on the artist. Clearly the artist's most openly biographical pictures, this cycle centres on his wife, his friends, and his immediate environment: the objects, books, and paintings that have made his life meaningful and towards which he feels the greatest attachment.

In this painting, the artist seems inspired by the traditional composition of the Christian Annunciation, in which the angel Gabriel generally appears on the left lifting his hand towards the Virgin Mary who responds to his symbolic message seated on the right. In his personal version of an "Annunciation", Utermohlen uses the portrait of a close friend, James, gesturing across the table to the artist's wife, Patricia, who appears both thoughtful and puzzled. In the background behind James, a mirror reflects the entrance to the artist's studio.

To my mind, "Conversation" is the painting in which the artist visually communicates or announces to his wife, his consciousness of an inner disturbance that he feels intensely but can no longer articulate verbally.

Chris Boïcos

#### Acknowledgments

Photo Credit: Chris Boïcos Fine Arts, Paris and Patricia Utermohlen.

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, 21 Prescot Street, London, E1 8BB, UK or bjp@rcpsych.ac.uk.