



aA art Ability

a celebration of art by artists with disabilities



Main Line Health®
Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital

2024-2025



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Gen Farrell, *Horses Star Trails*

2024 Art Ability Celebration

29TH ANNUAL EXHIBIT AND SALE

Sunday, November 3, 2024 – Sunday, January 26, 2025

The exhibit will be open daily during visiting hours at
Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital. Tours will be available upon request.
Please email artability@mlhs.org to schedule a tour.



Debbie Huff, *Abstract Universe*



Joan Lesikin, *My First Lie*

ON THE COVER

Featured Artist: Rebecca Scheuer
Norma Jeane Ostrich Queens



Rosadele Plumari
Vice President,
Executive Director
Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital

Dear Friends,

We are excited to celebrate the 29th annual Art Ability Exhibition and Sale. Welcoming everyone back to Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital for the preview party, dinner and auction is a momentous occasion filled with excitement, anticipation and joy. By supporting this event you are helping to break down barriers and promote a more inclusive and accepting society for individuals of all abilities.

Since 1996, Art Ability has been integral to Bryn Mawr Rehab's mission. This exhibit serves as a platform for artists with disabilities to share their unique perspectives and voices with the world, and for us all to experience the beauty and complexity of their art. We applaud this year's slate of artists, at least 40 of whom are participating in their first Art Ability. Our artists perseverance and drive is evident in the amazing artwork featured in this year's exhibit.

Funds raised through art sales, sponsorships and outright donations during the exhibition benefit both the livelihoods of our participating artists and the hospital's strategic initiative fund. This fund supports the life-changing work we do every day for our patients, providing them with the quality and excellence in care they deserve throughout their recovery journey.

During the dinner and auction program we celebrate the triumph of the human spirit. Special thanks to Kurt Angstadt, his wife Katie and their two children for sharing their story of hope, resilience and recovery.

This evening we also thank Donna Phillips for her unwavering dedication to Main Line Health and Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital, and for consistently guiding us with wisdom, vision and integrity for nearly 30 years. Her passion for our mission, commitment to our values and ability to inspire and empower others have been instrumental in our continued growth and success. Under Donna's guidance, we have achieved milestones, overcome challenges and made a lasting impact on our community.

Thank you for being a part of this meaningful event and supporting these talented artists. This exhibition and sale would not be possible without the involvement of our Art Ability committee and volunteers, and we thank them sincerely. We also express our gratitude to the Bryn Mawr Rehab Foundation Board, staff and very generous sponsors, advertisers and donors for their continued support of Art Ability.

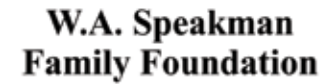
Warm regards,

Rosadele Plumari

Premier sponsor



Dinner sponsor

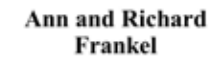


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In addition to these leadership sponsors, we extend our special thanks to the many others who demonstrated their support through ads.

List current as of September 15, 2024.



FOR THE FIRST TIME IN ART ABILITY'S 29-YEAR HISTORY, BRYN MAWR REHAB HOSPITAL HONORS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO HAS NOT ONLY HELPED SHAPE THIS EXHIBITION AND EVENT AS IT IS KNOWN TODAY, BUT HAS HAD A TREMENDOUS IMPACT ON THE BRYN MAWR REHAB AND MAIN LINE HEALTH COMMUNITIES IN HER 28+

YEARS OF SERVICE: **DONNA M. PHILLIPS.**

Raised in a family of nurses, Donna always felt comfortable in the healthcare environment. She started her career in the “up and coming” field of medical records at Mercy Haverford Hospital, forging a strong relationship with her supervisor and mentor, now-retired Main Line Health CFO Mike Buongiorno, who ultimately convinced Donna to follow him to Main Line Health when he joined the system.

In her first years at Bryn Mawr Rehab, Donna was not only responsible for medical records, but also utilization review, outpatient admissions and, eventually, inpatient admissions. In 2001, Donna was promoted to Vice President of Clinical and Support Services, assuming responsibility for program development, facility design, financial oversight and facilitation of quality.

In 2003, Donna was promoted to President, making her the fourth female hospital president in the Main Line Health system at that time.

Donna credits the plethora of opportunities and exciting projects she has been afforded throughout her career for her long tenure at Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital. President and CEO of Main Line Health Jack Lynch called on Donna in 2015 to oversee the PIVOT Project — the system-wide implementation of the Epic electronic health record and largest organizational transformation in the history of Main Line Health. Donna was responsible for managing the team, technology, training and processes that comprised Main Line Health's \$500 million investment. On March 3, 2018, Main Line Health became one of the few health systems across the country to implement Epic simultaneously across all acute care locations and ambulatory practices.

One program close to Donna's heart is Project SEARCH, an educational and work transition program for adults with disabilities to achieve sustainable employment and greater independence.

Donna recalls attending a conference with current Executive Director and Vice President of Bryn Mawr Rehab Rose Plumari, where they learned about



Donna with Doris Gorden, Art Ability benefactor (2004)

the program and decided to pursue it for their patients. Formally established at Bryn Mawr Rehab in October 2010, Project SEARCH combines real-life work experience through the integration of classroom instruction and on-the-job training. Fourteen years later, Donna still feels personal pride in the program, for both its graduates who have achieved longevity in their positions and continue to express gratitude for the life-changing opportunities provided by the program — as well as the Main Line Health employees who guide and nurture the interns throughout their time with the program.

Perhaps the pinnacle of Donna's contributions to Bryn Mawr Rehab is Art Ability, an integral part of Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital since its first exhibition and sale of work by artists with disabilities in 1996. Under Donna's leadership, the program has grown exponentially, thanks in large part to the addition of a gala in 2018 to highlight an impactful patient story and raise funds for the betterment of Art Ability and the hospital. Almost 30 years after its inception, Art Ability has become a well-recognized program in the international art community, with more than 1,000 artists participating over the years, generating over \$12.3 million in sales. These sales not only benefit the artists directly, but also help sustain the innovative therapies and programs available to our patients.

While Bryn Mawr Rehab has experienced significant growth and therapeutic advances over the years, Donna acknowledges one thing that has not changed — its people. Many individuals lifted her up throughout her



Donna with Dr. David Horwich, Vice President Medical Affairs, and his wife, Paula Hian (2015)

career and provided her with opportunities to grow and be successful: Mike Buongiorno, Pat Ryan, Jack Lynch and Barbara Wadsworth, to name a few, as well as a close friend and colleague whom Donna acknowledges to have been extremely instrumental in her career, Rose Plumari. She is also incredibly grateful for the unwavering support of her family: her husband, Chris, and children, Sean and Jenna. As for the Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital community, Donna says, “The dedication, the compassion, the creativity that our staff show every day for the care of our patients. That has not changed. We wouldn't be who we are if it wasn't for our team — the doctors, the nurses, the therapists, the housekeepers, the food service staff, the pharmacists. We're all on the same playing field to get our patients where they need to be — on the road to recovery.”



Patricia Caulfield, *The Path*

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List current as of September 30, 2024.

BRYN MAWR REHAB HOSPITAL, PART OF MAIN LINE HEALTH, IS A LEADER IN THE FIELD OF PHYSICAL MEDICINE AND REHABILITATION.

The 148-bed, not-for-profit hospital offers the full continuum of rehabilitation services, including acute inpatient care, as well as outpatient services for adults and adolescents. The hospital is accredited by The Joint Commission and the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF). Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital treats patients with traumatic and nontraumatic brain injury, stroke and other neurological disorders, traumatic and nontraumatic spinal cord injury, amputations and orthopaedic injuries. Bryn Mawr Rehab Outpatient Network treats individuals with a wide range of conditions and injuries from brain injury, spinal cord injury and Parkinson's disease to concussions, pelvic floor disorders and lymphedema. Our outpatient rehabilitation services are conveniently located throughout the western suburbs of Philadelphia.

For more information about Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital, visit mainlinehealth.org/rehab.



Adam Feinberg, *Sun Fades Over Valley Forge*



Angelica Vences, *Self Portrait*

Mission

Art Ability is dedicated to creating community awareness of cognitive and physical disabilities, encouraging people with disabilities to reach beyond their limitations and find fulfillment and inspiration through art. Art Ability is a showcase of artwork by artists with disabilities. The program successfully develops new markets for artists with disabilities where they can gain recognition for their technical skill and artistic vision.

Now celebrating 29 years, Art Ability continues to be an integral part of Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital since its first exhibition and sale of work by artists with disabilities in 1996. It continues to be a year-round showcase and celebration of artists with disabilities and is the country's largest international, juried exhibition and sale of its kind.

Proceeds from sales of artwork help support Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital's patient and community programs. The exhibit is free and open to the public and enjoyed by more than 3,500 people annually, including the hospital's patients, families, staff, friends and visitors.

The exhibit will be open to the public for self-guided tours based on Bryn Mawr Rehab's current visitor policy. If you'd like to schedule a private tour, please email artability@mlhs.org for more information.

David Terrar, *New Day is Here*

Program

SELECTION OF THE ART

A stringent, two-step process ensures that Art Ability presents highly professional artwork, demonstrating the strength of artistic talent within the disabled community. The first step is conducted by the Art Ability Committee jurors and the Art Ability curator who review the submitted images and choose the artwork for the exhibition. The second step involves esteemed judges who are selected based on their expertise and prominence in the greater Philadelphia fine arts community. They judge the work, selecting the pieces to receive awards in their respective categories.



Participating artists express their creativity through many mediums including painting, photography, sculpture, fiber arts, jewelry and fine crafts. Through these creative modes of expression, artists are able to convey their talent and receive recognition for their work, and in many cases are able to further recover from a life-altering illness or injury.

SALES

Artists earn 80 percent of the sales of exhibited work and those commissioned during the 12-week show. Unsold works are returned after the exhibit closes. Select artists may be invited to take part in Art Ability's ongoing sales and traveling exhibitions throughout the remainder of the year.

PROGRAM COMPONENTS

While the annual exhibition is the highlight of the program, Art Ability has many other components, which include:

- **Satellite exhibitions** Traveling satellite exhibitions of Art Ability artwork are a key component of the program and have been successful in generating enhanced awareness of the talent and skill of our artists.
- **Online sales gallery** Our online sales gallery provides the opportunity to view works for sale from our consignment inventory. Each year, Art Ability retains a number of works from our annual exhibition



Afi Ese, *The Plot*

to allow for more exposure for our artists and their talents. To browse artwork available for purchase, visit ibid.org/v/Artability24.

- **Corporate art acquisition program** Art Ability also serves as a resource for corporations to help meet their needs for artwork for their collections.
- **Permanent collection of work** Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital actively collects art and maintains a permanent collection of over 500 works, which are on display throughout the year. The hospital clinical staff often incorporate Art Ability work into their daily treatment activities with patients. Staff motivates patients by using the collection as tangible evidence of their potential to return to meaningful, productive lives.

For more information about Art Ability programs, call [484.596.5607](tel:484.596.5607) or email artability@mlhs.org

Kurt Angstadt



Kurt, alongside his wife, Katie, and sons, Kyle and Kalen

Memorial Day Weekend 2023 marked a day that would forever change Kurt Angstadt's life. A financial planner by day and avid triathlete in his free time, Kurt was training for a half-Ironman and had a three-hour bike ride ahead of him. His ride was cut short 15 minutes into his training when he was hit head-on by a van. He was immediately brought to the trauma team at Paoli Hospital, where they discovered he had numerous fractures of his ribs, spine, pelvis, face and right leg, in addition to injuries to his lungs, heart and abdomen. Due to the severity of his injuries, Kurt was transferred to Lankenau Medical Center, where he underwent many life-saving surgeries. After 55 days, he was able to move to Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital and begin the difficult journey to recovery.

In addition to working on his physical recovery, Kurt's time in rehab allowed him to process the life-changing accident. He needed to learn how to walk, talk, eat and even breathe again. Wanting to get back to his wife, Katie, and two young boys at home, Kurt became a determined participant in his own recovery. His athletic mindset, the very foundation of his discipline, helped him

push through the excruciating physical and emotional challenges. Reconciling his current state with the capabilities he once had was no easy task, yet his resilience and mental toughness were undeniable assets in the battle ahead.

Early in Kurt's recovery, he and his family began to refer to his healing journey as his "marathon year of recovery." Just as an athlete runs a marathon, each step, no matter



Kurt and his sister, Kim, in the hallway of Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital, celebrating his progress

how small, gets them closer to the finish line. Kurt focused on incremental progress, recognizing that small achievements get you to your bigger goal. After 25 challenging days at Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital, Kurt was finally discharged, having made extraordinary strides in both body and spirit.

"My therapist knew which [Art Ability] pieces were my favorites and would start me walking a little further from them each time I started. I would walk until I got to my favorite picture. It kept me going." — Kurt Angstadt

Kurt will tell you of the angels that helped in his recovery, including the doctors, nurses, therapists, aides and more, who worked with him as he healed. Art Ability inadvertently played an important part in his recovery as well. Kurt became fond of several works of art throughout the hospital, and his therapist cleverly used them as goals during therapy sessions. He says, "My therapist knew which pieces were my favorites and would start me walking a little further from them each



Kurt, with his sons Kyle and Kalen, outside Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital

time I started. I would walk until I got to my favorite picture. It kept me going."

Eighteen months since his accident, Kurt has returned to work and is focused on regaining the strength and stability needed to have a catch or kick a soccer ball around with his boys. For now, he treasures the simple moments with his family and the immense gift of a second chance at life.

Offering the most advanced therapeutic innovations

Gifts to Bryn Mawr Rehab touch patients in several ways, such as impacting patient safety, alternative therapies, staff education, access and patient experience. Our donors' generosity was especially important in 2023–2024 as the Main Line Health system faced residual financial challenges from post-COVID recovery and inflation.

PATIENT AND EMPLOYEE SAFETY

New ceiling lifts were installed on the Oak unit to assist our caregivers in safely moving patients from the bed to a wheelchair. This is not only beneficial to the patients' comfort and safety, but to our employees' safety as well. The improvement undoubtedly reduced staff injuries, potentially saving the hospital hundreds and thousands of dollars in non-productive staff time due to injury, ultimately a win-win for patients and employees.

NEW TECHNOLOGY

To provide patients with the best possible care, Bryn Mawr Rehab Foundation funds support the nursing staff with state-of-the-art tools and resources. The **AccuVein AV500** technology, recently purchased with donor dollars, is an ultrasound device that illuminates the veins in a patient's arm, making it easier to identify appropriate sites for inserting intravenous (IV) lines and drawing blood.

The tool works well for all skin tones and will especially benefit patients who have darker skin or have had complicated, multiple phlebotomy or IV access attempts in the past, both factors that can make it more difficult to locate appropriate veins. As a result, all patients at Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital can expect reduced pain and anxiety surrounding IVs and blood draws.

PATIENT EXPERIENCE

For the past several years, orthopaedic and spinal outpatient therapies have experienced longer wait times and increased patient demand for services at the hospital. Therapy staff were hired to alleviate these demands, but due to space constraints in the main gym, the location reached its maximum for staff additions and the number of patients that could be seen at one time.



A generous grant from the **McLean Contributionship** allowed Bryn Mawr Rehab to renovate 1,600 square feet (about half the area of a tennis court) for a new outpatient therapy gym. Five therapists can now treat patients at one time without space constraints, adding an estimated 4,680 additional therapy visits per year. In addition, the new equipment purchased for the space has enhanced the treatment options for our therapists and patients, improving each patient's experience and potential outcomes. This space allows Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital to serve more of our community once they leave our inpatient care and those who only need outpatient services.

ACCESS

The Bryn Mawr Rehab Patient Assistance Fund was established to help patients afford accommodations to help them resume a full life after accident or injury by removing financial barriers. The fund granted over \$15,000 in fiscal year 2024. Many of those supported through this fund received adaptive equipment for their cars, which allows them the freedom to get back to driving independently. In addition, other equipment such as wheelchairs, prosthetics or home modifications were made possible through the fund. These key supports give our patients the tools they need to live their best lives.





Erin Panner
Art Ability Program
Coordinator

Dear Friends,

We are so excited to welcome you all back to campus for the 29th Annual Art Ability Exhibit and Sale. After our virtual and hybrid years, we're thrilled to bring our amazing evening of art, camaraderie and celebration back together under one roof!

Our tone for this year's show is set perfectly by our featured artist, Rebecca Scheuer. Rebecca's whimsical paintings have long been a favorite among patrons, staff, patients and visitors. Her quirky ostriches have an innate sense of life about them. You can see the playful spark in Rebecca's eyes echoed in her work, especially in her series of art historical images with a twist. *Norma Jeane Ostrich Queens* perfectly captures Andy Warhol's graphic style, while her ostriches are seamless stand-ins for Marilyn Monroe.

The levity Rebecca brings to Art Ability is also echoed by many of her fellow artists in this year's show. I think it serves as a fabulous reminder that art does not always need to be capital S Serious. Our show adorns the walls of a hospital, and if we can bring a smile to a patient during their stay, a staff member having a tough day or a visitor merely passing through, we have succeeded.

Our Art Ability artists certainly bring a smile to my face every day. They are the heart and soul of our program and I'm excited to say that of the 170+ artists in this year's show, more than 40 are participating in their first Art Ability. I hear from our artists that they look forward to it every year and that it gives them something to work toward, even when their disabilities may not make it easy. I hope our new slate of artists gain the same sense of enrichment and remain a part of Art Ability for years to come.

Thank you, as always, to my team of amazing volunteers and Art Ability committee members. Each and every one of you is vital to Art Ability and I'm thankful for the help, advice and knowledge you bring to the program each year. Thank you as well to the Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital staff, jury and judges. Finally, thank you to my Project SEARCH intern and Art Ability artist herself, Dana Gabriel. Dana worked with me throughout the busy summer months and has grown immensely, both personally and professionally. I am so proud of her accomplishments and can't wait to see where life takes her next.



Jeanine Pennell

Jeanine Pennell is an artist and former art gallery owner. After owning an art gallery and framing studio for 25 years, she was ready to retire from her business, but still longed for creativity and art. She signed up for a few classes at a local pottery studio where she discovered kiln-fired paper clay. Her whimsical sculptures are influenced by her love of clay animation, doll house miniatures and a pull to create a world of one's own. As a self-taught artist, she loves the freedom in her work that can go beyond the limits of normal convention.



Ryan Collerd

Ryan Collerd is a Philadelphia based photographer specializing in photojournalism and documentary photography. His work regularly appears in *The Philadelphia Inquirer* and *The New York Times*. His work is wide ranging, from in-the-moment photographs of political rallies to the first images of the newly restored *Portrait of Samuel D. Gross (The Gross Clinic)* by Thomas Eakins hanging in the Philadelphia Museum of Art.



Liz Ruff

Liz Ruff has served on the board of the West Chester-based Art Trust at Meridian Bank since its founding in 2006, currently as president. The Art Trust is a volunteer, charitable art organization that promotes and cultivates the exploration of a contemporary aesthetic for the benefit of artists and the community. Through the support of Meridian Bank, The Art Trust holds eight exhibits a year, with net proceeds from sales going towards art scholarships, sponsorships and grants. Self-taught and enlightened through studio training with local contemporary artists, Ruff's favorite practice is mixed media/collage.

Best in Show

Charles W. Hennessy Artist Award

Presented by: *The Charles W. Hennessy Art Ability Endowment Fund*

Emma van den Akker, *The Ritual*



Judge's Choice

RYAN COLLERD

The Kozicki Family Award

Presented by: *Jean P. Kozicki*

Alonzo Humphrey, *The Violinist*

JEANINE PENNELL

The Doris B. Gorden Award

Presented by: *The Doris B. Gorden Art Ability Endowment Fund*

Afi Ese, *The Reward*

LIZ RUFF

The Nancy Kopecky Pope Memorial Award

Presented by: *Sal and Linda Panasci*

Kelly McQuain, *Maybe The Trick Is To Know*

Curator's Choice

ERIN PANNER

In Honor of Erin Panner

Presented by: *The Art Trust at Meridian Bank*

Joan Lesikin, *The Nap*

People's Choice

The Lois Levy People's Choice Award

Presented by: *Scott and Lara Evans*

Winner will be announced in December after a public vote.

Drawing and Fine Printmaking

1st Prize

The Myra Jean Burke Memorial Award

Presented by:

Donna and Victor Hansen

Frank Van Curen,

Kitten with Hearts

2nd Prize

The Louis Serrapica Memorial Award

Presented by:

Sal and Linda Panasci

Carol Foerster,

Zebra Study I

3rd Prize

Jace Laakso,

Fort Missoula Tower

Honorable Mention

Presented by:

The Art Ability Committee

Ginger Gehres,

Mama's Boy

Sculpture, Jewelry and Fine Craft

1st Prize

The Madeline Bolet Memorial Award

Presented by:

Sal and Linda Panasci

Lynda Collins,

Forest Bear

2nd Prize

Presented by:

The Art Ability Committee

David Gerbstadt,

Mr. Heavy Body

3rd Prize

Presented by:

Ruth Porritt

Nancy Cook Smith,

Persian Princess

Honorable Mention

The Fischer Family Award

Presented by:

Jeannie Fischer

Jennifer Ingalls,

Large Oval Pendant



Afi Ese, *The Reward*



Lynda Collins, *Forest Bear*



Carol Foerster, *Zebra Study I*



Frank Van Curen, *Kitten with Hearts*



Emily Tironi, *Lifted*

Mixed-Media and Digital Art

1st Prize

The Elliott T. Settle Memorial Award

Presented by:

The Settle Family

Linnie Greenberg,
Project Funway - Vitto

2nd Prize

Presented by:

The Art Ability Committee

Emily Tironi, *Lifted*

3rd Prize

Patricia Goodrich,
Forest's Edge

Honorable Mention

The James M. Hamm Memorial Award

Presented by:

The Hamm Family

Nancy Wood,
Botanical Blue Green



Priscilla Bohlen, *Market*



Victor Mordasov,
Ethereal Forest Glow

Painting

1st Prize

In Memory of

David E. Tordone

Presented by:

The Tordone Family

Priscilla Bohlen, *Market*

2nd Prize

In memory of Gail P. Panner

Presented by:

The Panner and Rawson Families

Belinda Chlouber, *S.I.P.*

3rd Prize

Presented by:

The Art Ability Committee

Victor Mordasov,
Ethereal Forest Glow

Honorable Mention

The Schwartz/Panasci Family Memorial Award

Presented by:

Sal and Linda Panasci

Rebecca Scheuer,
Universal Mom Look

Watercolor and Wash

1st Prize

Presented by:

Scott and Lara Evans

Mark Kaufman,
Gus and Gus

2nd Prize

Presented by:

The Art Ability Committee

Kathryn Noska,
Binary Support

3rd Prize

Presented by:

Linda Heiberger

Jan Alice Keeling,
Dream Café

Honorable Mention

Elizabeth Sullivan, *Elvis*

Photography

1st Prize

Presented by:

Scott and Lara Evans

Ken Smith,
Summer the Autumn

2nd Prize

Presented by:

The Art Ability Committee

Kurt Weston, *Blind Faith*

3rd Prize

Presented by: *Ruth Porritt*

Rona Golfen,
Naylor's Run Park

Honorable Mention

The Joyce Comer Memorial Award

Presented by:

Katrina Van Alstyne

Cherie Lee, *Floral 2*



Mark Kaufman, *Gus and Gus*



Kurt Weston, *Blind Faith*



Ken Smith, *Summer the Autumn*

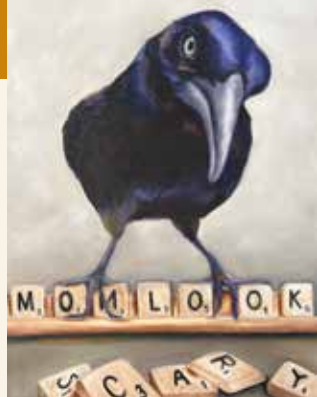


Jan Alice Keeling,
Dream Café



Rebecca Scheuer, *Universal Mom Look*

Despite her challenges, Rebecca has maintained a cheerful, positive outlook on life and her sense of humor is often reflected in her colorful, whimsical paintings. She enjoys painting animals and cocktails, two of her favorite things. Rebecca says, "Painting things that make me smile has given me the opportunity to express myself and share my love of bright colors, nature and the simple beauty in our everyday surroundings. It took an unfortunate event to jump-start this journey, but now I'm hooked."



Rebecca Scheuer, *Goldie*

Rebecca Scheuer

Narvon, PA

Rebecca Scheuer is a retired high school counselor and artist living in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania with her husband, two dogs and two cats. She began her oil painting journey in 2015 after a serious car accident. Rebecca and her husband, John, were hit head-on by a texting teenager going 80 miles per hour. The accident left her with a concussion, hemorrhage behind her right eye, and months spent in a fog with severe double vision. Her visual therapist suggested painting as an exercise in hand/eye coordination. Having never dabbled in anything more than a few craft projects, Rebecca immediately took to painting and devoted herself to her practice. She began taking painting lessons with Bruce Becker at The Warehouse Studios in Reading, Pennsylvania, who helped her hone her style and technique.

Elisabeth Aggarwal Fort Worth, TX
After becoming disabled during a career in nursing, Aggarwal decided to paint like her grandmother, who has always been her inspiration. Painting became Aggarwal's oasis, and she paints what she loves — vibrant colors, blossoming flowers, complex shapes, delicate beauty and engaging abstracts. She's been influenced by artists such as Georgia O'Keeffe, Monet, and Frida Kahlo. Aggarwal strives to show passion in her work and bring joy to those who see it. "Art has been my awakening and has provided me a safe space and opportunity to grow in ways I would never have expected."

Carrie Albert Seattle, WA
Albert expresses her artistic visions in myriad ways, including collage, poetry, assemblage, drawing and photography. Albert has chemical sensitivities and uses only non-toxic mediums in her art. As a collagist, Albert searches for healing by gathering fragments, symbols and torn ephemera, and piecing them together in unexpected ways. Through this methodology, she creates wholeness and recognizes herself and others. Albert says she works with subjects that call to her, relying on subconscious

wisdom through dreams, poetry and closed-eye visions. She seeks peace in the process and always, she finds beauty. A favorite quote of Albert's comes from Langston Hughes: "Perhaps the mission of an artist is to interpret beauty to people — the beauty within themselves."

"My art and I represent differences and my hope is that the world can see beauty and acceptance through my eyes." —Ronaldo Byrd

Brandon Allebach Albuquerque, NM
Allebach has been an Albuquerque artist for over 15 years. Inspired by Cubism, Catharsis and art of the Southwest, Allebach paints abstractions with acrylic on canvas. Using sharp lines and contrast, he focuses on creating depth that interweaves the foreground and background. His disability challenges him to do things he never thought he could, like tattooing himself and framing.

Jo Allebach Phoenix, AZ
Allebach's art reflects her inner peace and excitement for life. She has bipolar disorder and was recently diagnosed with Parkinson's disease. She started painting as therapy in 2002 and has learned to modify her style to accompany new challenges in her body and mind. Through vibrant landscapes, she has strived to draw the viewer into the scene and evoke a sense of joy and reflection. Her inspiration comes from the beauty of nature, particularly sunshine and trees. Painting is not just a passion to Allebach, but a lifeline that has brought her immense joy. She hopes her artwork brings the same joy to others.

Dave Aquilante Downingtown, PA
Aquilante is a stroke survivor who uses watercolor as a means of recovery. His subject matter includes nature, animals and portraits in both Realism and Impressionism categories. Aquilante's inspiration comes from his mother and nature. Aquilante says, "Art speaks for the soul when there are no words strong enough to encapsulate reality."

Kathryn Ashleigh Elverson, PA
Ashleigh was born 60 percent blind and with no lens correction



Lynne Green, *Abstract Rose Blue*

until age 5, her other senses developed exponentially. Her vision can be a challenge to creating, but she pushes through the difficulty. Working up close is not a problem for Ashleigh, but creating large canvases can be. She cannot step back to look at the developing work unless she puts on her glasses, which can be a dizzying process. Despite it all, she continues to paint, grateful to be able to do so after all these years.

Constance Avery Utica, NY
As an artist with vision and hearing loss, Avery has faced many limitations for the last 30 plus years. Instead of seeing her disabilities in a negative light, Avery uses her restrictions to

allow her to take a different and interesting path in her artistic journey. Creating and selling her artwork, which consists of paintings, pottery and photography, has helped Avery to feel confident and free, despite



Ginger Gehres, *Desert Beauties*

her disabilities. The different mediums have also given Avery the chance to expand her artistic explorations, therefore reaching out to the different desires of the art communities. "As I travel into my images of art, my limitations disappear ... letting me feel expressive, free and safe."

Renee Ballard *Philadelphia, PA*
Ballard says that art has had a positive influence on her life. The major inspiration for her artwork comes from nature. "Art has provided a valuable outlet to express my feelings and convey them to others."

Frances Bernhardt-Noll
Malvern, PA

When Bernhardt-Noll is sketching and painting, she feels like she's creating something beautiful. She prefers painting because it's something she's worked with since she was a child. Bernhardt-Noll often chooses to work with floral and natural themes because she likes to explore the different colors and shapes. She gets inspired by each step of the process. Living with a disability, art-making is a way for Bernhardt-Noll to connect and share with others. When she was in the acute hospital, art and crafts helped her to remember who she was and the things she enjoyed doing before her injury. She was then able to refocus on her areas of interest and continue to develop her skills. "Today art is my coping skill."

Carrie Bertschy *Cincinnati, OH*
Bertschy is an artist who has worked in different mediums

for over 20 years. She lives with the disabilities of epilepsy and psoriatic arthritis, but art has been her therapy to manage her conditions. She says, "I will continue until I decide I cannot use my hands anymore. That is how therapeutic art can be for a disabled woman like me."

Martha Bird *Minneapolis, MN*
Bird was born in upstate New York, raised outside of Milwaukee, and has now made Minnesota her home for most of her adult life. She's an adventurer at heart: she traveled to many countries, loved skydiving and explored pitch dark caves crawling on her belly. Bird learned basketry as a way to "get back to life" after injuring her back and being on bed rest for two years. She alternates creating woven willow sculptures (with specialty willow she grows and harvests) and using other mediums to express herself. Bird exhibits regionally and nationally and says her work expresses her life's journey.

Shawn Bittenbender
Philadelphia, PA
Bittenbender says that art has always been a source of joy for him. Though he lost the passion for a long time, it has been brought back to new highs

with support of family, friends and the Art Ability staff. They inspired him to study all styles and techniques of painting and drawing. Bittenbender believes the confidence he found to push past his breathing issues and pain he owes to these kind souls. Bittenbender loves all subjects, but prefers the beauty of people and the natural world for inspiration. "Thanks to you all, who inspire the best in others."

Robert Bohle *Henrico, VA*
Painting non-representationally is an act of discovery for Bohle, i.e., he often doesn't know what he is going to end up with when he pulls out another blank canvas. His paintings often end up being a delightful surprise. He paints mostly non-representationally because he wants the work to communicate viscerally to the viewer. Representational art can rely on responses to the familiar. Rather, he wants to deliver his message, sometimes whispering, sometimes shouting. Bohle agrees with Aristotle, who wrote, "The aim of art is not to represent the outward appearance of things, but their inward significance." He has suffered with Parkinson's disease for the last 22 years, which makes fine brush control difficult.

Priscilla Bohlen *Wynnewood, PA*
Bohlen is a professional visual artist who works on canvas using acrylic paint, resin and acrylic mediums. She received her BFA in 1974 and subsequently lived in New York City for 10 years. During this time she designed patterns for sheets and towels for Fieldcrest Cannon as well as continued to study art at the graduate level. Bohlen moved back to the Philadelphia area and began creating landscapes. Recently, she has focused on large abstracts using acrylics. She shows her work extensively throughout the region and is an active member of multiple professional art groups. Bohlen believes in "bringing the best to life and not holding back; always press on to new horizons and stay committed to serving the public through your practice."

Dwayne Boone *Philadelphia, PA*
Boone is an emerging Philadelphia-based artist and entrepreneur. Born and raised in Germantown, he began to draw comic book characters at an early age. As a child, Boone would have a pencil in his hand as soon as he got home from school, and his mother would nag him to finish his homework before drawing. Boone's passion

for making art has been a common thread throughout his life. His work has been exhibited internationally in galleries including Arts Project Australia, Space 1026, Fleisher/Ollman, apexart and John Lucas Gallery.

Jane Bouchard
Saratoga Springs, NY

Bouchard suffers from depression, which has sometimes kept her from moving forward. While she always wanted to do artwork, an art teacher in junior high school told her that she had no talent because she could not draw figures. Of course, her teacher never suggested another art form. It wasn't until 40 years

later when someone said that she was a natural for assemblage, that Bouchard could begin doing just that. It has not only been satisfying work, but helps her lose a depressive mood. "When I am engrossed in making assemblage, pottery or mosaics, I can relax and it changes me."

William Brewer *Upper Darby, PA*
Brewer began his artistic journey in 2014. He creates art using a variety of mediums, including paintings, drawings, digital art, jewelry and more. He uses his work as a way to express his observations of daily life, inspired by things that go unnoticed by most. Brewer is interested in

imagery from human culture. He enjoys masks because they are expressive and show feelings like happiness, anger, fear and spirit. He says, "My art is a glimpse of the world through my eyes!"

Joyce Brommer *Philadelphia, PA*
Brommer is a retired teacher who spends most of her time managing doctors' appointments and singing with the Wayne Oratorio Society and the Delaware Valley Opera Company. For the latter, she serves as an officer on the board of directors, stage director, props mistress, set designer and painter. Despite holding several degrees, none of which is in art, "creative" is



Joan Lesikin, *The Nap*

probably the most likely word one would use to describe her. She has no particular style or medium, and can only go so long before her soul cries out for an opportunity to create.

Shelby Brown *Clarksville, IN*
Brown's current work reflects on her experience as a woman with autism spectrum disorder. Her work uses bright colors

“After receiving my diagnoses, I turned to photography to express myself.” —Rona Golfen

and patterns to heighten the viewer's senses, reflecting the overstimulation that autistic individuals face every day. Brown's art practice has been influential in her life since she was a young child and it has inspired her to become a student at University of Louisville in the Art Therapy graduate program. She currently works as an art instructor at Sacred Heart School for the Arts in Louisville, Ky., where she teaches adaptive art classes for students with disabilities.

Aimee Bungard *Pittsburgh, PA*
Bungard is an artist living and working in the hills of Appalachia just outside Pittsburgh with her guitar player husband, three free-range children, two Suessian mutts and one perfect Torti kitty. She considers Giacometti, Vincent, Frida, Hilma Af Klint, Tascha Tudor, Bukowski, Dylan, Townes Van Zandt and Ram Dass to be of the highest inspiration. In the last few years, her art has become a statement of the present. From the collective trauma of COVID-19 to her work as a doula, and beyond the increasing frequency of migraines she experiences, she is reminded that our point of power, personal



Jeffrey Iverson, *Restless*

and collective is held within the honesty of our moments. Bungard's art has become an authentic statement of her ever changing now, filled with fears (real and imagined), pain (chronic and seasonal), repressions and unimaginable growth.

Ronaldo Byrd *Burlington, NJ*
Byrd is a contemporary “Hip Pop Artist.” He has been painting and drawing since the age of 3, and it was at 3 years old that Byrd began developing his now over 200 original characters, which are used in his original acrylic scenes on foam board. Byrd gets his inspiration from people. He believes there is beauty in

everything he sees, and everyone has something to offer. “My art and I represent differences, and my hope is that the world can see beauty and acceptance through my eyes.”

Tiara Byrd *Chicago, IL*
“The two most important days in your life are the day you are born and the day you find out why” — Mark Twain. Byrd is an abstract artist. She loves to paint mixed-media art using textured paste, egg shells, gold leaf, acrylic paint and sands from various beaches. Byrd began painting because she loved art, but much of it was inaccessible to her due to financial constraints. She started to create her own work in the hopes of making abstract art accessible to all socioeconomic classes. She discovered a hidden talent the first day she picked up her paint brush and never wanted to put it down again. Byrd finds peace and joy in creating art for others to enjoy. She hopes to share her vision and connect with others from different backgrounds through the language of abstract art.

David Caron *Hyannis, MA*
Caron is a differently abled young man with autism. A native of Cape Cod, he has an innate affinity with

the natural environment. Caron responds joyfully to the ocean, wind and thunderstorms. This is the same enthusiasm that he shows when he expresses himself through art. Art is an act of pure self-expression without regard to the finished work. Caron loves how the materials feel, how paint is absorbed by the canvas, and how the paint spreads and is diluted by the water. Through painting, he expresses himself beyond the limitations of his disability. Edward Hopper best described Caron's passion for painting: “If you could say it in words then there would be no reason to paint.”

Patricia Caulfield *York, PA*
A visually impaired abstract artist, Caulfield works primarily in mixed media on cradleboard including acrylic paint, vine charcoal, conté crayon, pencil, collage, sanding and distressing. Clouds have always been a source of inspiration for her. By constantly studying form, movement and light, she creates atmospheric paintings — land and seascapes, without using photographic reference. Drawing from the motivational power of nature, her vision of depth and space is brought to the forefront. Moving from realistic painting to abstract due to vision loss from glaucoma,

Caulfield sees her role as an artist in a new way. Her work is a product of her own thinking, her soul, her heart. It is an authentic expression of a created world that you can see and experience. It is intangible. It is abstract.

Belinda Chlouber *San Mateo, CA*
Chlouber's mixed-media paintings explore humanity's complex relationship with the natural world. Inspired by contemporary issues, particularly the climate crisis, her work seeks to inspire a shift in collective values that promotes the thriving of all life. As an artist who experienced progressive hearing loss, culminating in cochlear implants, she has gained a unique perspective on human connection and our interdependence with nature. This personal journey has heightened her awareness of environmental challenges and fuels her artistic voice. “My art serves as a call to action, echoing Ernest Shackleton's words: ‘Optimism is true moral courage.’”

Cindy Clark *Eagleville, PA*
Clark uses acrylic painting to spark joy and provide happiness and encouragement to others. Having encephalopathy and ongoing neurologic issues from undiagnosed Lyme disease for



Martha Bird, *Inside Out*

more than six years, she learned in cognitive therapy at Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital to adapt to her brain's limitations. Taking up painting as therapy, Clark enrolled in an adult education painting class where she learned to mix her own colors. This gives her control over the images she tries to convey. Painting provides a sense of accomplishment and helps her focus on the beauty of nature. Clark especially loves skies, water and animals and is drawn to the endless colors in nature, crediting God as the ultimate painter.

Briheem Cobb *Philadelphia, PA*
Cobb is a large, kind gentleman. He is creative and enjoys drawing

and painting animals and flowers. Art has helped Cobb become more thoughtful and intentional in his life. He draws inspiration from others, especially his fellow artists at Inglis House.

Billy Cogswell *Louisville, KY*
Cogswell is a multimedia artist with autism spectrum disorder who resides in Louisville, KY. He's been making art for over 15 years and he is extremely passionate about his practice. His favorite mediums to work with are markers, pen and watercolor. Cogswell loves drawing and painting, especially favorite subjects like air balloons, nature and scenes from his favorite musicals.

Rachel Coleman *West Chester, PA*
Coleman is a fluid artist from Chester County, Pa. She is attracted to fluid art because of the vibrant colors and the way they could be manipulated

help of her husband because after becoming a recent full-time artist, he not only helps with her business, but has been instrumental in getting her where she needs to be.

Debra Hope Colligan
South Yarmouth, MA

Colligan creates paintings in oils, using a variety of palette knives, brushes and mediums, enhancing her artwork with a great deal of texture and color. Creating sea and landscapes on Cape Cod and Nantucket, along with portraits of animals and people, gives her a “soulful impression” to look past the obvious and see beyond the distraction of the conspicuous; to capture its unique self, to inspire folks to look more carefully at the beautiful world and people around them. Colligan sustained a traumatic brain injury from a horseback riding accident that significantly changed her life. She believes that art has expanded her life, and healing is essentially a creative process. “Through my art I have created a new state of health for myself, pursuing an artist’s life.”

Lynda Collins *Neeah, WI*
Collins uses hand weaving, handmade felt and other fiber art techniques to express silent soul songs or to journal wordlessly. She

loves the interplay between the process, color, materials and the inner wisdom that always lies on the cusp of conscientiousness. For her, art is both a way to gain inner clarity and to communicate to the larger community.

Charles Connelly *Ardmore, PA*
Connelly was born in Philadelphia, Pa. and had an early interest in drawing and sketching. Art fed his interest in analyzing how things worked. Connelly became fascinated with Philadelphia’s art museums. This led to classes at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, watercolor classes and

“When my mind is not fixed on worry and anxiety, I know my healing is happening.”

—David Terrar

his pursuit to paint regularly in watercolor. In spite of Connelly’s sight and hearing challenges, art, drawing and painting provide him an oasis of contentment.

Richard Crumb *Stillwater MN*
Crumb grew up on a family Century Farm in southern

Minnesota. He was severely injured in a car accident over 40 years ago and has been propelling himself in a wheelchair ever since. Crumb loves to travel and as part of his travel experiences, he enjoys capturing some of the delightful scenes of God’s wondrous creation through his camera lens. Crumb’s rural upbringing often expresses itself in the pastoral scenes he captures with his trusty camera. Crumb’s disability allows him to perhaps see things slightly differently through his camera lens, with an eye toward the freedom nature suggests, rather than the physical limitations that he deals with every day.

Jen Dacota *Conshohocken, PA*
When Dacota saw her MRI, and the “big black hole” where part of her brain used to be, her jaw dropped. She had just suffered a bilateral hemorrhagic occipital stroke. While home recovering with reduced vision and comprehension difficulties, she knew right away that life would be different. Having worked in physical therapy, a most useful idea sparked — why not try to paint as a form of therapy? She had always been artistically inclined, but had never tried painting. Starting over with a disability, painting has put her

in touch with her true self and feelings. She can express herself without using words. Dacota finds “the gift of creativity” to be a valuable gift received from her stroke, and she challenges herself with every painting she creates.

Tiffany Daniels *Philadelphia, PA*
Daniels was born in New York in 1983. She has multiple sclerosis and lives at Inglis House. She is a member of a variety of groups at Inglis House, including being

a member of the Exploring Art group and expresses that “her art is an extension of her heart.” She has a love of fashion, jewelry and people. Daniels is fun-loving, always has a smile on her face and loves meeting new people.

Diana de Avila *Sarasota, FL*
A disabled veteran with multiple sclerosis (MS) and a traumatic brain injury, de Avila became a sudden savant in 2017 after a worsening of these conditions.

She never created art before this time. Her synesthesia-driven digital artwork hones in on themes of galactic, math and science-related forays, as well as spiritual exploration and introspection into the mastery of color and movement. From an Army military police officer to nun to educator, and through traumatic brain injury, MS and migraines, de Avila has excelled in living adventurously despite challenges. All facets of art have become her life and therapy. She is a full-time artist who exhibits her art professionally and is a member of several prestigious and historical women’s art organizations where she has won awards.

Aaron Deede *Philadelphia, PA*
Deede is originally from New York and is an avid Mets, Islanders and New York Giants fan. He has been active in all types of art, especially in theatre. Deede has been acting his entire life and aspires to be a playwright. He likes to use colors streaked with a brush and a scraper while doing his art. Deede says that he just puts color on the canvas until he likes the outcome, then he repeats the process. He says, “Art has given me a voice to speak when words can’t find a way.”

Jackson Deyerle *Fort Bragg, CA*
Deyerle makes delicately rendered drawings, paintings and prints of imagined characters and scenes inspired by fantasy, manga and anime illustration, particularly the work of Hayao Miyazaki. His art classes at Mendocino College have been particularly exciting and have inspired him to further pursue rendering color and light in paint. Deyerle is always excited about exploring new techniques, receiving feedback about his work and expanding the boundaries of his technical skills.

Donna Dvorak *Chalfont, PA*
Dvorak is a multi-talented artist working in both oil and acrylic. Although she is well known as an author, international journalist and poet, her interest in art has become more intense. She says, “In my creative world, painting on canvas is comparable to writing a book. When writing, I’m portraying a picture using words. When painting, I’m creating a story expressed through colorful paints, brushes or palette knives. The transition from writing to painting was appealing as both demand a concentrated creative side.” Whether painting a landscape from Greece, Italy, Israel, Maine, England or anywhere in the world, her vivid



Alonzo Humphrey, *The Angel*

on a canvas. She is inspired by geodes, biology and color, which is reflected in her work. She was born with retinitis pigmentosa, a rare genetic eye disease that is progressive. She has difficulty adjusting from light to dark and has lost some of her peripheral vision. She is grateful for the



Mark Kaufman, *Colored Face*

colors jump from the canvas directly into the viewer's eye. Her love of bright hues enables her to see the world through rose colored glasses, which is evident in her work. Dvorak's art is displayed around the world in many private homes, restaurants, galleries, hospitals and more.



Carol Foerster, Bulldog

Bobby Edmon *Oklahoma City, OK* Edmon is 79 years old, married and the father of three grown children. His favored medium is acrylic paint, which he applies to canvas after sketching the subject. Edmon's subjects are often unconventional and whimsical.

Art has given him a sense of accomplishment and has boosted his self-esteem; it is the one thing he can still do well after having a stroke at the age of 58 and a second stroke at age 74. Edmon's balance, speech and strength are affected, but not his art ability. "My disability allows me to have more time to paint, as I am no longer able to work. I can spend hours at a time drawing and painting and I receive much joy and serenity in doing so."

Clara Edmon *Oklahoma City, OK* Edmon is an 82-year-old married mother of three. Much of her art derives from her struggle with depression and health issues, and the relief and diversion art provides. She favors working in oil and sometimes watercolor, and prefers painting landscapes, animals and Native American subjects in the method of realism. Her creations are the main source of her identity and self-esteem. Sometimes it is hard for Edmon to feel well enough to work due to her disabilities; however, she strives to continue her art when she is able.

Ivy Egger *Coatesville, PA* Egger begins her mixed-media mosaics with a simple acrylic or gouache painting, providing a

foundation. Working with mosaics reminds her that she can take broken pieces of glass and make them into something new and beautiful, much like living with a disability. She also creates dreamy landscape paintings to create an escape from her daily challenges. She has a rare liver disorder called glycogen storage disease, type 1A. Because of this, she must monitor her blood sugars to prevent hypoglycemia. Art provides her an outlet to help her forget about her physical challenges.

Jonathan Egger *Coatesville, PA* Egger is a photographer, focusing on landscapes, places and various other things to capture whatever mood or emotion he is feeling. He says, "A vibrant sunset might have sad undertones since it's the end of a day, but I feel a sense of hope for an even greater day tomorrow." His photos are a visual memoir of everything he has seen and done, over the course of his life. Egger uses photography as a means of escaping the daily struggles associated with his almost lifelong struggle with type 1 diabetes.

Matt Emerson *Youngstown, OH* Emerson has painted since he was a child. A misdiagnosis of ALS was later discovered to be

muscular dystrophy. Through all of this, art has been a rock for him. Emerson uses a variety of media, from watercolor to acrylic and inks. He loves to paint a variety of subjects; any new ideas are a challenge on how to complete them. Emerson uses art to give him something to do to pass the time. The disease he has affects his arms and legs. Movement through physical therapy exercises and some adaptations to his painting technique works to offset loss in his range of motion. "Each morning I smile for another day on earth. It's time to work."

Afi Ese *Houston, TX* As a wheelchair-dependent person with deformed hands, Ese believes her abilities are underestimated or overlooked. As an African American, she feels she is a part of a marginalized group in the art world as well, with no less talent or ability. Unable to paint in most traditional ways, such as standing at an easel or studio wall, Ese must sit to create. She incorporates plasters, stencils and stamps to add visual interests as well as the use of mediums that aid in texture. It is important to Ese to do her part in writing and controlling the Black narrative. She believes she has a responsibility to record history.



Rona Golfen, Naylor's Run Park

Ese's way just happens to be through visual art. "Art is a means of expressing my physical abilities in visual form."

Gen Farrell *Burleson, TX* Farrell is a horse-lover and an artist. She loves creating paintings, which show her the spirit of the horse. She works primarily in oils because she loves the shine and the depth of the color. Farrell also enjoys researching cave paintings and petroglyphs and incorporating them into her artwork.

Adam Feinberg *Cheltenham, PA* Feinberg has led an assortment of lives ranging from product

designer, landscaper, security professional, HVAC professional and bathroom remodeler, along with a Spartan Mud Run racing and CrossFit lifestyle. He has always shared an interest in photography, even as a child. He is always trying to find the perfect shot or angle, or the best background or lighting. Due to Feinberg's attack and recovery from Guillain-Barre syndrome and seven months in various Main Line Health facilities, he is now in a position where his joyful hobby can become a part of Art Ability. He hopes his artwork will increase awareness of Guillain-Barre syndrome as we work toward a cure.

Patrick Finucane *Phoenixville, PA* Finucane's art is born from efforts to share his views of his surroundings, trying to bring to light many sights which can easily and often be taken for granted. After filling photo albums and sketchbooks with pencil and ink drawings of his travels, Finucane moved to acrylic painting, which now adds life to what was previously a monochromatic translation of his journeys. Born with spina bifida myelomeningocele, and more recently undergoing related spinal surgery, Finucane has found creating art is a relaxing way to escape those painful days while expressing his creativity with minimal physical demands. "I find it most satisfying when I create a piece of art which then translates into happy memories for my viewers."

"Art has become a huge source of healing for me through the tangles of disability. It helps me uncover emotions and be more mindful." —Lumi Forbes

Robert Flatt *Houston, TX* Flatt started his passion to become a photographer in 2004, when he left a successful career in the oil service industry due to

the onset of Parkinson's disease. He and his wife love to travel to wild and beautiful places. He uses his camera and Photoshop to create highly saturated pictures, full of color, full of life, with vibrant and surreal backgrounds. Flatt's photography is in the permanent collection of the Museum of Fine Arts Houston and in Rice University. He says, "Parkinson's disease gave me the marvelous gift of time to master the art of photography. It has helped me 'slow down' to see this beauty and has given me the urgency to 'hurry up' and capture as much as I can photographically, while I still can."

Carol Foerster *Gettysburg, PA* Foerster is a pencil artist, both graphite and colored. She likes the detail she can achieve with pencil art and the discipline required to create it. She loves nature,

so most of her art is about the natural world. Her disability is in her arms, so the gentle movement of drawing is something she is able to do, albeit with a time limit.

Being able to create her art gives her a sense of purpose, since she is not able to keep a full-time job.

Gail Foley *Chester Springs, PA*
Foley injured her neck while working as a radiation therapist. Her days became filled with excruciating neck issues, fibromyalgia, chronic migraines and headaches. Her life took a turn for the better when Foley, along with her husband, purchased a farm. This allowed her love for photography, an early passion of Foley's, to return to her life. She now spends

“My head and heart connect, and I am at peace

within myself.” —Nina Yocom

time capturing and sharing the growth of their crops, as well as the nature and wildlife around their property, with her camera. “Photography has given me purpose again. It has given me strength, control, peace and escape during my times of chronic pain.”

Lumi Forbes *Hopkins, MN*
Forbes is an abstract intuitive artist working in a variety of mediums, most commonly acrylic, alcohol

ink and mixed media. They love to explore new techniques with anything they can get their hands on. The “rules” are not something they strongly adhere to. A large part of the journey is finding the methods that bring them the most release, and these are the ones they stick to. Art has become a huge source of healing for them through the tangles of disability. It helps them uncover emotions and be more mindful, which has yielded some interesting creations and a better understanding of themselves. They are influenced by nature and modern life, color, movement,

sound, hope and all things mystical. It is their goal that these themes come through in their finished works, blended with wonder.

Dana Gabriel *Paoli, PA*
Gabriel has been drawn to painting and art-making since she was a child. At 24 she was in a motorcycle accident. It took years for her to heal and talk again. Gabriel moved to a ReMed home in 2018 and tries very hard to keep going and never stop. As an artist and musician, she

enjoys painting and clay. Gabriel uses these as strategies to express herself and stay engaged in meaningful activities. Her daughter is a large source of inspiration and motivation to always better herself and Gabriel's artwork is a way for her to express and connect with others. “It's not always as easy for me to express myself now as it was before my injury, and so artmaking is another way to do so.”

Jon Gabry *Kearny, NJ*
Gabry is a deaf and blind artist who creates 2D and 3D art through touch. He adds 3D media such as sand, fabric paint, gloss and more to create his drawings and paintings. He focuses on making tactile art so the blind can enjoy it by touch. Gabry particularly enjoys when colors and textures come together. He says, “Art is more than a job to me. It is a way to express myself and communicate with the hearing/sighted world. I hope people find lots of details and appreciate the emotions in my art.”

Ginger Gehres *Chocowinity, NC*
Gehres considers herself to be a wildlife artist. She likes to portray animals in different ways; some in their natural state of being, while also showcasing the importance and value of the animals' lives. She



Kurt Weston, *Transcendence*

wants her art to bring awareness to the animals that are going extinct, so that we may help to stop it in time. Gehres uses scratchboard as her art form of choice, using a knife and other reductive tools to scratch on the surface to create the images on a clay covered surface.

David Gerbstadt *Berwyn, PA*
Creating has been a part of Gerbstadt's life ever since he stood on a kitchen chair to reach the counter in order to help his mom make cakes and cookies from scratch. “She would always let me lick the mixer beaters.” His inspiration comes from his

mother, who showed him that he was able to make something with his hands. Gerbstadt says his motivation comes from knowing that each moment of life is a gift that he is given, and that making art is why he is here. Art has given Gerbstadt a means to cope with several disabilities and brings fulfillment in his life where he never thought possible. “Making art allows me to feel part of society and that I belong.”

Phyllis Gholston *Philadelphia, PA*
Gholston is an animal lover who enjoys attending Inglis House's pet therapy program. She also likes to attend community outings and art classes. Gholston's younger brother was a good artist and inspired her to explore her own artwork. She enjoys painting nature, specifically trees, flowers, birds and oceans. Art motivates her to continue living even though some things are very challenging in life. Art helps Gholston to keep going and not to give up. The daily life inspires her to be creative and motivates her to paint.

Rona Golfen *Upper Darby, PA*
After being accepted to Moore College of Art in Philadelphia, Golfen became ill. This left her feeling uncoordinated, prompting her to change course. She

studied psychology and special education instead, which led to a satisfying career working with disabled adults. Golfen's interest in art remained, but receiving diagnoses of both essential tremor and multiple sclerosis explained why using a pencil or brush had become so difficult for her. She turned to photography to express herself, often adding textures and emphasizing blur. Since retiring in 2006, Golfen has devoted herself to photography. She says, “It absorbs me, helping me to focus my attention on a small piece of reality, separated from the other visual stimuli that normally surround and obscure it. Its inherent beauty then has a chance to be viewed and appreciated.”

Patricia Goodrich *Quakertown, PA*
Goodrich works with a variety of media, as well as creating earthworks and installations. She began as a poet, with a sense that everything connects. Having lost her lower left leg in a motorcycle accident, those few missing inches contribute to a sense of being “off balance” and an awareness of what it means physically to connect to earth, to be “grounded.” That off-kilter, heightened awareness is an asset in the arts, both visual and

literary. Goodrich feels the arts provide a universal language, a way of communicating at a deeper level.

Anjali Goodwin *Philadelphia, PA*
Goodwin is inspired by both the city and country and looks to images of both to find inspiration. She finds that it is difficult to create her artwork, but the result makes the difficulty worth it. She tries to take her time to really see the small details, so that they are reflected in her work.

Linda Goschke *Philadelphia, PA*
Goschke is a lifelong artist, currently working in photography. A brush with death from an

automobile accident and the resulting traumatic brain injury made her more aware of our physical fragility and our individualized interpretation of reality. Goschke's physical and mental challenges pushed her more into the digital realm. The precise methodology assisted with focus, multiple outcomes aided creative exploration, and it used few hazardous chemicals. Recently retired as a high school and college fine, commercial and performing arts educator, Goschke is working as a photographer now, exploring the natural world through the camera lens and computer.



Nancy Wood, *State Park Spring*

Beth Gotfried *Wayne, PA*
Gotfried works in encaustic collage, a traditional method of layering images, paint, ephemera and 3D objects in between thin layers of hot wax. The technique dates back in time to the early Greeks. Because she is hearing-impaired/deaf, her primary means of gathering information and experiencing the world is visually. Gotfried is inspired by the colors and patterns she sees in nature. Making artwork is an intuitive and

“Art has been there for me in my darkest hours like a guiding light of love and warmth gently coaxing me to be hopeful and believe in my creativity to find healing.” —Nimrat Sandhu

emotional process for Gotfried and she would like for the viewer to decide for themselves what each story is about.

Lynne Green *St. Louis, MO*
Green is nearly 80 years old and has spent a lifetime in the

arts. From copywriter to stage director to video artist, her work has earned awards and grants. When she became disabled, she began using a camera because it was an accessible tool. Her hobby turned professional in 2011 when her work was recognized and published. Green says, “I create because I want to connect with people, nature, concepts; explore life. I am a seeker.”

Linnie Greenberg *Ardmore, PA*
Greenberg took her first art workshop in 2011, a short time after developing tinnitus — which resulted in 80 percent hearing loss. It opened up a wondrous world of sparkle, spin and creativity that brings her great joy and makes her forget the constant high-pitched ringing in her ears. Greenberg is mainly self-taught and says she is still exploring and learning about art. Greenberg cuts imaginary creatures and organic shapes from handpainted paper, along with images from vintage books, magazine advertisements and other ephemera. She then creates a story while making a picture with her cutouts. One of Greenberg’s favorite quotes comes from Hans Christian Andersen: “Life itself is the most wonderful fairy tale.”



Jen Dacota, *Exciting Possibilities*

Ina Greenstein *Philadelphia, PA*
It wasn’t until her children were grown and she didn’t have to work full time, that Greenstein was able to rekindle her passion for art. Originally focused on oil painting, she took a course in watercolor painting and was instantly smitten. The ability to capture light and have it shine through a painting has been a rewarding and engrossing pursuit of self-expression. Her eye disease necessitates some downtime in order to allow her vision to come back into focus.

Liz Griesser *Elverson, PA*
Griesser says that painting has saved her life. When it had seemed most bleak, painting gave her hope and purpose for another day. Using the familiar landscapes, animals

and surrounding life, Griesser creates an earthy and emotive interpretation of her world. Oil paint is her main love. The visceral texture and colors make what she is trying to convey so much easier. She likes to say that animals paint themselves. “I just hold the brush as they come to life. Their emotion is there on the surface and their story is all in their eyes.” Griesser believes that en plein air painting is both a challenge and the best teacher ever. Competing in plein air events has taught her so much about patience, values, color mixing and capturing the moment.

Elaine C. Grose *Philadelphia, PA*
Grose is a 77-year-old woman who began painting in 2020 after the pandemic grounded

everyone. Her spouse suggested she try painting to encourage her injured brain to heal and rewire itself. Grose says, “I had never thought of myself as artistic so this endeavor seemed unreal for me. I started with painting still life as I could see what was in front of me.” Eventually she was able to visualize what she wanted to create and felt her mind was starting to develop in new ways. Painting now brings her peace and centers her. She feels it is a great joy to take her paints and imagination into new realms.

Lynn Hartman *Phoenixville, PA*
Hartman has always had a creative spirit, but did not consider herself an artist. Her medium was needlework, but after an accident and traumatic brain injury, it became impossible for her. Desperate for a creative outlet, when the adult night school catalog arrived, a beginner’s painting class with no experience required immediately caught her eye. To her amazement, Hartman found she could put paint to canvas and feel good about the finished work. She has been painting ever since. She says, “I am not a true ‘artist.’ More a creative spirit that has found an outlet for my creativity in a way that challenges,

stretches and gives me a feeling of great joy and wonderment at what I CAN do!”

Gregory Harvey *Philadelphia, PA*
Harvey has been painting professionally since 1969. His favorite representational subjects are Black Moshannon State Park, Ricketts Glen State Park, and the Cape May and Avalon beaches. When multiple sclerosis impaired his vision, Harvey realized that if he was to continue in the visual arts, he must find workarounds in many aspects of his representational painting. Fortunately, Harvey has been able to find these and continues to paint. “Having visual impairment has helped me to appreciate how fragile is the mechanism of discerning reality through the eyes.”

Umbreen Hasan *Minneapolis, MN*
Art defines what it means to be human. It transports the viewer to a time and place of rich, multilayered experiences in an explosion of emotion that is hard to quantify. It fills empty spaces with the exuberance of the artist, triggering long forgotten memories of the nexus between life and its many-colored vistas. Hasan is one such creative who understands this connection and has been making bold statements in her chosen

field of mixed-media visual art. After a traumatic motor vehicle accident, she chose painting as the therapy to overcome the mental and physical anguish. She began to experiment and immerse herself in color and design, and since that time has never looked back. The subliminal context of Hasan’s paintings makes for an unpredictable journey into an organic meeting place of the mind and soul. They exude the kind of emotional rectitude that one can only find with an artist unafraid to share herself with an audience. Moments that fire the imagination as well as the spirit are self-evident as they can gaze endlessly at her glorious creations.

Patrick Hatfield *Philadelphia, PA*
“The chance to be creative gives me a chance to go someplace else rather than what we perceive to be the real world.” Hatfield feels that all of the encouragement from individuals involved with the art program at Inglis House is one source of his inspiration. He takes those individual ideas and tailors them to his bizarre interests. It becomes a combination of what his art teacher wants and what he wants to bring to it for individualization and uniqueness. Hatfield is motivated by his desire to make his mark and to create

something that others are going to see, whether they like it or not. He likes to create things that we don’t normally see.

John Haus *Hatboro, PA*
Haus’ art is whimsical, inventive and truly his own. His diverse collection of work utilizes multiple mediums. He uses life experiences and creates his own universe. Haus speaks to the viewer through his art. The conversation is fluid and captivating, with a splash of humor, whimsy and personality. In 2002 at the age of 18, Haus sustained a traumatic brain injury, paralyzing the right



Shelby Brown, *Letter to Myself; Masking*

half of his body, and requiring him to relearn daily living skills with his left side after having been dominant with his right. Haus struggles with aphasia and pain daily, so art has been his saving grace and brought a true purpose to his life.

Passle Helminski *Erie, PA*
Helminski finds great meaning in her sculptures and textile works. A visually impaired artist, Helminski capitalized on textiles because it is a medium that depends heavily on sense of touch. She uses tubular knitting to create energetic forms and



Debra Hope Colligan, *My Happy Home*

says of her work, “Whether my art is freestanding, wall-hanging or suspended, it is the combination of my deep love of art history with my deep musical, spiritual side.” Helminski graduated from Edinboro University with a master’s degree in weaving and textiles and has since exhibited nationally and internationally. She has taught at the Neighborhood Art House, been an adjunct professor at Mercyhurst College and Gannon University, and has been Artist-in-Residence at the Cathedral Center in Erie, Pennsylvania. Helminski has received multiple artist residencies and grants, and her work has been published many times. Helminski says, “Please take the time to be still with my art and maybe you will be lucky enough to hear the beat of my art.”

Pat Henriques *Key West, FL*
Henriques became an artist later in life, moving from a corporate office position to fabricating jewelry. Her primary focus is on enameling and making pieces from fine or sterling silver. Henriques’ specialty in enameling is cloisonné. She uses stones in her work as well. “Nature inspires me and I am amazed by the designs and hues that are found

in various stones and flowers.” Henriques has 11 herniated disks in her spine, causing sciatica. Fabricating jewelry has helped her realize that you can overcome obstacles. Henriques says when she is in pain, she tends to choose darker or more heightened colors in her work. Her personal quote is: “Experiment. You won’t know if you can accomplish something if you don’t try.”

Twilah Hiari *Mountain View, MO*
Hiari always wanted to make art, but life circumstances didn’t support learning art. While the onset of autoimmune encephalitis when she was 38 seemed like an end to life, it turned out to be the beginning to making art. She has had an auditory processing disorder her whole life, but it became much more severe following the encephalitis. She finds solace in art, as she doesn’t need to process speech or withstand background noise in order to make art. Even on the most challenging brain days, she can enjoy working with colors and shapes.

Ed Hille *Media, PA*
Hille, 74, spent more than four decades as a working photojournalist, striving to capture moments that have

helped to shape our lives. He crisscrossed America and the globe, completing assignments on five continents while covering a spectrum of news, features and sporting events. In 2017, Hille was diagnosed with Parkinson’s disease; a year later he retired from the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, ending his 40-year career as a photojournalist. Inspired by a quote from Muhammad Ali, “Don’t count the days, make the days count,” Hille picked up his cameras and immediately went to work shooting a book project as a way to pass on his inspiration to others.

Debbie Huff *Landenberg, PA*
Huff finds inspiration in the rolling hills of Southeast Pennsylvania for her alcohol ink and colored pencil paintings and drawings. Her favorite subjects are animals and flowers. In her youth, Huff did a lot of painting and drawing in school, but got away from art as an adult. Several years ago, after an ankle injury, she started to paint and draw again. Now art is a regular hobby of hers along with cycling. Born legally blind in one eye with reduced vision in the other, art helps Huff “see” details she normally wouldn’t in real life. Using a computer, she is able to enlarge photographs to



Emma van den Akker, *Trying to get in a Good Headspace*

the point where she can see the fine details in animals and bring them to life in her art.

Alonzo Humphrey *Philadelphia, PA*
Humphrey is a visual artist who was born in Chattanooga, Tenn. His mother, also an artist, shared her love of artmaking with her son at a young age. Humphrey says they used to sit beside each other at the kitchen table and draw. He moved to Philadelphia in 1980 and continued producing his lyrical renderings of people and landscapes. Humphrey does not draw from visual sources, but from his imagination; people

and places that he remembers, historical figures, and scenes from his memories. He says the images form as lines in his head, and putting them on paper is like putting them to sleep.

Jennifer Ingalls *Clarksville, TN*
Ingalls has been a professional jewelry designer for over 25 years. She holds a degree in art history from the University of Rochester in Rochester, New York and a degree in metalsmithing/silversmithing from the Massachusetts College of Art in Boston, Mass. Ingalls was one of the founding owners of Metalwerx, a jewelry and

metalsmithing school in Waltham, MA. Her craft gallery in Salem, The Picklepot (2005–2013), was named one of *Niche Magazine’s* Top 100 Contemporary American Craft Galleries. While having multiple sclerosis has slowed her down some, it hasn’t affected her creativity. Her jewelry has been featured in professional magazines and at some of the largest steampunk conventions in the country. She offers a line of jewelry and accessories for humans of all kinds, meticulously built from recycled watch parts.

Jeffrey Iverson *Springfield, IL*
Iverson’s work is a synthesis of the intricate, chaotic and unpredictable. He works primarily in digital media, focusing on colorful abstracts, complex fractal manipulations and digital photography. “I see the world as a struggle between the ‘thinking’ and ‘feeling’ parts of the mind, each becoming more or less dominant over time, and I endeavor to appeal to both in my work.” Art allows Iverson to express himself in ways that he finds difficult to express otherwise.

Janice Jackson *Philadelphia, PA*
Jackson is an only child with no children. She has found her family at Inglis House in

the other members of her art class. Art relaxes her and makes her feel better. Jackson says, “Having multiple sclerosis is very frustrating, but my art takes me to another place and makes me feel calm and serene.”

Mimi Johnson *Haverford, PA*
After a successful career as a stage/scenery/lighting designer for opera companies, and finally for the Orpheus Revels in Philadelphia, Johnson began to paint. Oils at first, then the more difficult transparent watercolor. When she became disabled after two devastating car accidents, Johnson had to overcome frustration and anger before accepting the reality that she would never paint en plein air again or even stand at an easel. Painting was and still is a struggle for her, but once she learned to paint again from the different perspective of sitting, she began painting from memory. “In my mind I can still see the incredible colors of shadows, see the light dancing on distant water, and see the movement of joyful people. That is what I paint now — memories.”

Morgan Johnson *Gold Beach, OR*
Johnson is an artist working in oil on canvas. His styles range from

realism to abstraction. Currently he is working in his own style, which he calls Fractionalism. This is a melding of all recognized “isms,” with a heavy emphasis on color theory and Cubism.

Johnson attempts to capture beauty by reproducing what he sees as awe-inspiring. Johnson has been disabled officially since 1994 with AIDS. He contracted HIV in 1985. While Johnson has survived long-term using the available medications as they came on the market, both the virus and the powerful drugs have limited his eyesight, stamina, mental faculties and perception/understanding. Johnson is motivated by the statement: “Art is long, follow your awe.”

Diamond Jones *Baltimore, MD*
Jones’s artistic journey is a combination of resiliency, diversity, and unexplored creativity as a Black, female veteran from the Midwest. Being self-taught and having multiple hyphenates in her approach, she traverses the artistic spheres as a representation of the intersections that influence who she is. The rigor of military life, mixed with the free-spirited freedom of self-expression, is reflected in her work. She

incorporates vivid colors from the Midwest and the tapestry of her heritage into her work to give them a distinct touch of regional sensibility and cultural storytelling.

Mark Kaufman *Wilmington, DE*
Art seeks connection to write, paint, dance, query, invite an expectant waiting — that moment of connection when artist and viewer both wait for questions to emerge. Kaufman’s images seek to connect. He almost hates to name them for that limits what the viewer sees. Thirty years ago, Kaufman was diagnosed as having bipolar 1 disorder. He has, however, been somewhere on the spectrum of those disorders since kindergarten. Kaufman began painting as a child, and in his teens studied at the Corcoran Museum’s School of Art. After a decade as a practicing attorney, in his 30s he returned to the study and practice of art. He now lives in Wilmington, Del. with his wife of 51 years and his cat named Cat.

Jan Alice Keeling *Nashville, TN*
Keeling creates portraits in watercolor. Her current approach is to create paintings with a dreamy mood, and to include



Robert Winig, *Water Lilies*

a “daimon,” or benign animal spirit, for each person in a painting. She was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in 1991, and this disability played a role in her decision to stop office work and to paint full time. Then she was diagnosed with autism in 2020, a diagnosis which was a surprise and yet which explained so much about her life. Though autism is considered a disability in some areas, it has not proved to be so in her art life. In fact, her intensity of focus on details, along with her need for solitude, can be considered advantageous for her kind of art.

Cheryl Kinderknecht *Bradenton, FL*

Kinderknecht is an abstract artist whose formal educational background includes a degree in art from Fort Hays State University. Regardless of the subject matter portrayed or the medium used, her work is heavily influenced by the colors, patterns, strata and textures of the Kansas High Plains landscape where she grew up. Kinderknecht further relies upon emotions, dreams and memories to anchor and inform her work. Much of her inspiration is from within ... an intuitive, stream of consciousness

process that expresses a mood or creates a sense of movement, balance, rhythm and tension. Kinderknecht’s work is exhibited in local galleries, juried regional and national shows, and is included in many private collections throughout the United States and abroad. A visually impaired artist, Kinderknecht has been represented since 2019 by ArtLifting, a professional platform that markets the work of artists with disabilities and other underrepresented artists.

Julie Kitzes *Denver, CO*

Kitzes is an illustrator and designer residing in Denver. She works in a variety of mediums including colored pencil, acrylic, watercolor, gouache, digital, needlepoint and more. Her subject matter often pertains to animals and nature, but with a touch of whimsy. After enduring several neurosurgeries, she decided to pursue her hobby of art as a full-time job since it allowed her to work on her own schedule and base her hours around her symptoms and capability for that day. Art has played an important role in Kitzes’ life with a disability as a coping mechanism. It’s a meditative experience that provides distraction from chronic

pain while simultaneously allowing her to express herself.

Tyson Klug *Philadelphia, PA*

Klug says that art is a way for him to express what words can’t. “My mind and heart are very full and art gives me the opportunity to express that. Color and form are untethered by rules and restrictions.”

Ryan Krauss *Phoenixville, PA*

Krauss is a painter specializing in oil and gouache. In her work, she tries to capture the intimate

moments in a person’s everyday life as a practice of record-keeping and mindfulness — the beauty of a seemingly ordinary moment that can stay with a person for years to come. The examination of mundane spirituality — that is, the moments of connection with self, others, the universal consciousness — is what drives them. For Krauss, art is a necessary act, a fact of living in the world, a way to learn how to negotiate life. Art has always been a way for them to cope with and manage their ADHD; it allows her

She tries to make universal the feelings that art can evoke, through what makes us human and our connections with the larger world. Her subject matter is nature, whether it is a traditional landscape or an abstraction. In painting, she uses traditional materials to capture movement and depth, making the colors dance and swirl. Everything is captured in the spontaneous, unpredictable interaction between brush, paint and paper. “To me, color is powerful and joyful.” Experimentation is a big part of Krol’s creative process, and she’s always learning through it.

Jace Laakso *Missoula, MT*

Laakso works with reduction relief printing, which uses a single block for as many as 10 colors. The block is inked, then printed, then carved, for the next color. This continues for each successive color as ink is applied and printed until finally, with the last color, most of the block’s surface has been carved away. Much of Laakso’s inspiration comes from seeing the landscape and mentally framing how it could best fit into his art. Negative spaces and shadows play a huge part in how he translates these surroundings. Laakso says making art is

“My work reflects on my walking disability, encouraging patience, and the understanding of how to find beauty in the commonplace.” —Ken Smith



Patricia Goodrich, *Forest’s Edge*

time to bring herself into focus, rest and recuperate, and feel like a human being again.

Debrah Block Krol *Bloomfield, NJ*

Art has kept Krol sane throughout her diagnosis and treatment. She is diabetic, which over the years has affected her eyesight. She also has essential tremors in both her hands and feet. Krol’s work originates from the desire to explore the relationship between color, form and emotion.

meditative. He can lose sense of time. “While I don’t ever forget that I am disabled, it does not define who I am.”

Mary Alice Landry *New Britain, CT*
Landry has a deep love for Mother Earth and all of her creatures on this planet. It inspires all of



Nina Yocom, *The Hardest Hope*

her artwork, with Landry often finding herself painting animals as well as different forms of trees, mushrooms, water and more. After a recent depression, she

began to include whimsical cats and creatures. She has learned to adapt to new techniques and styles as her rheumatoid arthritis has progressed in her hands, making it very difficult to do detail work. She says, “I’m embracing the changes in my abilities by accepting I am a completely new artist that is creating completely different art now.”

Cherie Lee *Cherry Hill, NJ*
If anything could be said to be a benefit of disability, slowing down might be one aspect in which artist Lee could find value. As a former firefighter, first responder and corporate liaison for a multimillion-dollar telecommunications firm, ‘diminished capacity’ was a daunting thought ... until it became a gift. Here the artist turns her camera’s eye toward the easily overlooked and invites you to look again, in hopes you, too, might rediscover the beauty and wonder which you already know surrounds us always. The camera allows her to savor what otherwise goes by too fast. It’s a slice of time that she can sit within, where there’s nowhere else to go, and nothing else to do; a paper-thin attempt to hold on to the fleeting and to hold fast to the ever changing.

Joan Lesikin *Hendersonville, NC*
Lesikin’s Bodyscapes series combines her love of color, nature and human form to create a unique vista of mountains and valleys while putting draped, striped cloth in the foreground. Being hearing-impaired has influenced her paintings. Her goal is to create safe, colorful spaces to enter for viewers.

Jake Liberman *Chatham, NJ*
Liberman is on the autism spectrum and he likes to paint abstract designs with acrylics on canvas, and draw designs on paper. He was inspired to paint after viewing art at MoMA, where he realized art does not have to be realistic. He says, “Painting gives me confidence and pride, and helps me get my feelings out if I am upset.”

Katie Lickfield *Kennett Square, PA*
As a local artist in Kennett Square, Pa., Lickfield focuses on mediums of pastel, acrylic and oil paints. Last summer she was featured in the WCU and *Daily Local News* for the portrait she painted of West Chester University President Chris Fiorentino, for his retirement in summer 2024. She also became a first-year artist in the 75th Annual Chadds Ford Art Show, reflecting on the art of the Wyeths.

Bonnie MacAllister *Philadelphia, PA*
MacAllister’s portraits on handmade felt are crafted through embroidery, created from an original figure drawing. She transforms it into needlepoint, a quilt of pores, threaded with 20+ colors, bounded and knotted with each perforation, a performative puncture onto self-healing felt. After learning to spin and weave as part of her Fulbright Hays to Ethiopia, MacAllister became determined to continue her story through textiles. As she describes her practice, “The muscle memory of sewing is guided by recollections, stringing the grit and tooth of obstacles ... pounded out in coarse intermingling of fibers, torn out and restitched, a forgiving medium where every loop can be redone and undone, tacked and basted anew.”

Susan Martin *Woodinville, WA*
Martin’s art reflects her adventures through the emerald woods and over the rolling meadows, where every leaf and pebble told a story. Her illustrations are more than just drawings; they are windows into fantastical worlds where animals speak, stars dance and dreams are as tangible as the paper they are painted on.

Kelly McQuain *Philadelphia, PA*
McQuain’s jubilant paintings feature people and animals in symbolic arrangements that hint at mysteries of the imagination. His work in acrylics, mixed media and watercolor start with abstract color washes and random patterns over which he teases out shapes in a manner akin to a daydreaming child imagining animals in the clouds. Recent works are inspired by his ADHD, which he describes as akin to trying to focus on three radio broadcasts at once. McQuain harnesses his neurodivergence as a source of inspiration, channeling overlapping stimuli into innovative ideas as unusual



Max Tzinman, *Being*

connectomes wire together inside his head. He often paints “in reverse” — the abstract initial layers of his paintings emerge as the foreground as he pushes the negative space around his subjects toward the back, teasing new imagery and order from the chaos of his initial start. This approach stems in large part from McQuain’s love of literature and work as an English professor and poet. He also draws on the folk art of his native West Virginia as well as his outsider status as a gay man living with a genetic demyelination disease (HNPP). This neuropathy affects his hands, sometimes causing his paint brush to fly from his fingers and mar his canvas. “Happy

accidents” he calls such marks, often incorporating them into his patterns and shapes.

Christopher Miller *Phoenixville, PA*
Miller is a survivor of a traumatic brain injury due to a bicycling accident in 2020. Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital was critical to his recovery. Since retiring from a 25-year career in pharma R&D in 2022, he has focused on enjoying life and exploring creative pursuits that combat depression. Photography has been a major outlet for him. There’s so much to learn and it’s changed the way he sees the world. Miller is fascinated by the beauty and wonder of the natural world. Photography has awakened a creative part of him that had been dormant for most of his adult life. He says, “I take great pleasure in creating something beautiful and sharing it with others.”

Nicole Miritis *Montreal, Quebec, Canada*
Miritis started painting as part of a therapeutic process following a back injury from a car accident. Her journey has redefined her and permitted her to progress as an artist. She describes her painting style as fearless and feels her expression is limitless. She applies

a strong sense of forward-thinking and out-of-the-box techniques that are consistently displayed across all her artworks. Miritis is grateful for Art Ability and honored for the opportunity to exhibit and share her passion.

Victor Mordasov *West Chester, PA*
Mordasov, a widely recognized artist whose work has been exhibited both nationally and internationally, has spent many years exploring different mediums and methods of painting. He discovered the joy of painting by following the techniques of the Old Masters in combination with an impressionist manner of painting. Mordasov paints a wide range of subjects, including landscapes, still life, portraits and marine venues. His paintings, as well as his sculptures, display a commitment to portraying not just the exterior of the subjects but their characters and personality as well. Mordasov’s focus is to bring people’s attention to the beauty of God’s creation, which is around us all. He has had Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease since he was a young teenager, which limits his physical activities. It was not long after this diagnosis that Mordasov started to draw, leading to his education and professional career in art.

Amuri Morris *Richmond, Va*
Morris is an artist based in Richmond, Va. She recently graduated from painting and printmaking at Virginia Commonwealth University. Throughout the years, she has acquired several artistic accolades such as a Virginia Museum of Fine Arts Fellowship. She aims to promote diversity in art canon, specifically focusing on the Black experience.

Daniel Neufeld *Philadelphia, PA*
As a little boy, Neufeld was diagnosed with pervasive developmental delay, a learning disability. But it didn't stop him at all from gaining and sharing as many talents as possible. He grew fond of art through his mother, also an artist. Neufeld is into drawing, painting, ceramics, printmaking, photography, comic books and animation. Subjects that he enjoys capturing with his pencils, pastels, pens, inks and paints include people, still lifes and sites that he sees on his travels. Art has inspired and helped Neufeld see things in the world creatively. His skills include not only fine art, but also playing sports, singing, playing the cello, cooking and making and editing his own movies.

Kathryn Noska *Phoenixville, PA*
Noska's path is winding. She has chemical sensitivity, affected by tiny amounts of many different chemicals, and stopped using oils and acrylics due to debilitating off-gassing which caused her to periodically stop creating. Now, she uses blackberry honey watercolor. Her art highlights choices made in life to courageously do what's in your heart and go your own way, even if you don't know where you'll end up. It also encourages you to find your way when you feel lost and believe in yourself to confidently choose your path, knowing you can do it. When you take chances and trust the unknown, there's always a way forward.



Ethan Smith, *Desert*

Timothy O'Donovan *Wayne, PA*
O'Donovan likes the idea of seeing nature by itself in its own form. He feels very comfortable with nature when he takes hikes and walks. O'Donovan feels more in control of his life and his emotions when he makes a piece of artwork. If there is too much tension, he paints and draws while listening to natural music, sounds of the ocean, and Enya. O'Donovan is a learning-disabled individual since birth. He's been independent since age 14, a self-advocate for 26 years, and an artist at the Center for Creative Works for 13 years.

Jon Ohman *Dennis, MA*
Ohman is an enthusiastic young man with high-functioning

autism, a cognitive disability involving an impairment of social interaction and communication, and repetitive behaviors. He draws and paints images with colored pencils, markers, oil pastels, acrylics and watercolor. When drawing or painting, he does best at two-dimensional art in both side view and front view angles. Ohman's artwork is mainly inspired by animals. It makes him feel proud to have the talent to bring his images to life and considers it one of his most significant accomplishments. His creation of artwork makes his family and friends proud.

Patrick Ohman *Dennis, MA*
Ohman has been diagnosed with the classic form of autism. His favorite subject matter for his art is animals, and he likes to use mixed media for his creations. Much of the artwork he has made was inspired by some of the beautiful images he has seen of animals. Ohman says that creating art helps him cope with his autism.

Susanne Dagmar Olsen *Vordingborg, Denmark*
Olsen thinks art reflects the person you are. She works in a broad range of media, but her favorite is linocut. Her subject matter consists of flowers, animals and

people. Olsen believes that if you do what you like most, you get the best results.

Diana O'Neill *Haverford, PA*
O'Neill spent 25 years as a successful glass etching/carving artist. Though she enjoyed completing various commissions, they lacked color and expression. So, when O'Neill was introduced to watercolor painting, she fell in love with this exciting medium. It freed her creative imagination and she has become passionate

“For me, art is a necessary act, a fact of the living in the world, a way to learn how to negotiate life.”

—Ryan Krauss

about it ever since. Her paintings typically are impressionistic and are inspired by the incredible beauty of nature found in scenic landscapes, birds and animals. It's O'Neill's hope that the bright colors and natural patterns in her work will inspire others to appreciate the natural environment that surrounds us.

One of her favorite quotes is: “Every day is a gift, so enjoy and make it count.”

Joanne Orth *Phoenixville, PA*
Orth is a lifelong artist whose work emphasizes how contrasting light and shadow define a subject and how color can add to the emotional feeling of a painting. She works mostly in acrylic and pastel, tending towards subjects that appeal to her love of color and nature. Orth often focuses on local, Chester County subjects, but is always on the lookout for that special light or mood that grabs her eye. As an animal lover, she also enjoys portraying animals in their natural surroundings. Orth is a member of the Delaware Valley Art League and the Chester County Art Association, exhibiting in their shows as well as in the Yellow Springs Art Show, Daylesford Abbey Show, and other local and regional exhibits.

Mindy Orth *Philadelphia, PA*
Orth has a spinal cord injury and uses a strap to help her paint. Art inspires her to explore different media. She looks forward to Tuesdays, when she has her class. Making art makes Orth happy and relaxes her.

Leslie Palmer *Audubon, PA*
Palmer enjoyed a 30-year career as a scientist, but always found time for her other passion, art. A bicycle accident ended Palmer's career after she suffered a traumatic brain injury. Art became part of her therapy. She enjoys an experimental approach to her art, choosing the medium and technique that best convey the subject or mood. Taking part in the Art Ability show holds great meaning for Palmer. “I found so much needed hope looking at the work of disabled artists on the walls of Moss Rehab Hospital, where I was treated. I'm excited to now be able to exhibit my paintings at Bryn Mawr Rehab in the hopes of giving other patients the hope that meant so much for my recovery.”

Sal Panasci *Devon, PA*
Panasci is inspired by many subjects, whether flowers, a landscape or places he has visited. The style in which he paints can be characterized as “traditional contemporary.” He captures the mood of his subject instead of its details, with color and individuality interesting him the most. Panasci wants his paintings to have a character of their own, with a specific visual interest that allows the viewer to



Sal Panasci, *Iris Dance*

recognize a familiar subject in a new and different manner.

Tynisha Parker *Philadelphia, PA*
Parker has two children, a boy and a girl, and they are her whole entire world. She loves snacks, soap operas and R&B music. Parker's art piece, “The Shape of You,” uses her favorite colors: red and yellow. They intersect with each other to make black, another one of her favorite colors. Art gives Parker something to fall back on. When she looks at her art, she feels a sense of accomplishment.

Christopher Pereto

Weymouth, MA

Pereto has been drawing since before age 5. He can't imagine art not being a part of him. When Pereto first began trying to be "serious" about art, he used colored pencil and aspired to be like illustrator Richard Scarry. It wasn't until the second half of his college career that Pereto got into marker and pen, thinking more in terms of animation cells. Somewhere along the way he combined the media and began adding watercolor and even paint marker to the mix. Pereto says, "I've never had any conception of what role art played in my life as an autistic man; however, neither have I had an idea of how my condition may impact how I create. Both would seem to be something beyond words, fully coming from intuition and the subconscious."

Tracee Perkins

Philadelphia, PA

A native of Philadelphia, Perkins likes music and art, and is very independent and helpful to others. She has epilepsy, but enjoys creating art and finds it to be a good pastime. She is inspired by nature, flowers and gardens.

Cathy Pregmon

Media, PA

Pregmon has had multiple careers,



Kelly McQuain, *How We Delight in Showing Off the Petals of Our Splendor*

including schoolteacher, artistic director for a theater company that toured plays of empowerment for children, consultant with the Bureau of Special Education in Pennsylvania, and now as a designer of handcrafted, one-of-a-kind jewelry. Pregmon never makes the same piece of jewelry twice. She favors beads that are organic and come from nature. Many of her pieces feature semiprecious gems but her work

also incorporates seeds, horn, bone, shells and vegetable sources such as tagua and açai nuts. She favors fair trade beads such as Kazuri porcelain beads from Kenya and paper and linen beads from Uganda. Her pieces are chunky and funky "jewels" with touches of whimsy, and creative use of unusual materials. Pregmon is currently experiencing symptoms from long COVID, making life much more difficult. The flow and

concentration that the creation of art demands help control the chaos and pain of the many disabilities with which she deals.

Meg Quinlisk

West Chester, PA

Quinlisk is a 45-year survivor of rheumatoid arthritis. Having suffered all those years with chronic pain, enduring over 45 surgeries to repair or replace damaged joints, she has had to learn to accept her disability, adapting to a life of pain while not allowing her arthritis to define who she is as a person. She defines herself as a wife, mother of three, a professional artist and art instructor. She uses many mediums to create her art from oils, acrylics, gouache paints and glass mosaics. Quinlisk says, "I wanted to create a connection between my life with chronic pain and my art. The pain from arthritis feels like glass shards are surrounding your joints. I decided to use mosaics to take my brokenness and create something beautiful. Mosaics perfectly capture that." Her mosaic pieces evoke the beauty that can emerge from brokenness. "When you live with arthritis, the pain and destruction leave you feeling broken and damaged. We're all broken in some way. The choice is what we make from those

broken pieces." Quinlisk made a choice to accept her condition without allowing it to become her sole identity. Striking this balance involved a mindset shift of acknowledging that arthritis is a big part of who she is, yet not allowing it to define her.

Judy Quitariano

Pacifica, CA

After Quitariano's stroke, she could not even count the stitches to make a granny square. She simply wanted to resume doing her crocheting, which she had learned at age 15. Now, Quitariano is happy to create wearable art which she has designed herself. "It is my hope to encourage others who have experienced disability to never give up."

Megan Rahm

Toledo, OH

Rahm's journey as an artist started when she was diagnosed with schizoaffective disorder in her early twenties. She found peace and connection in creating work about her mood and psychotic symptoms. Recently her art helped her with a different kind of recovery. Following knee surgery, she created a series of drawings and finger paintings of flowers to find solace on her healing journey. She hopes her flowers bring others peace as well.

Lillian Rhinecker

Boonsboro, MD

Rhinecker has been painting for more than 25 years. She often paints en plein air so that others can observe her process. She paints in a variety of themes, including landscapes. Rhinecker says that art is her ability to express herself without using words. Art has helped her social life.

Holly Robbins

Edinboro, PA

Robbins is a mixed-media artist with a flair for colorful, high-intensity imagery. Disabled most of her adult life from reflex sympathetic dystrophy syndrome/complex regional pain syndrome (RSD/CRPS), she has been forced to adapt

her art to her ever-changing medical conditions. Once solely a photographer, she now enjoys acrylic painting of those same, beautiful high-intensity images. Robbins has learned many lessons through her disability, but flexibility in her thinking has been her greatest lesson of all. Being able to adapt her art to meet her abilities at the moment, has put her on artistic paths previously undiscovered. Her favorite saying is, "Nature is my religion, outside is my Church."

Nimrat Sandhu

Malvern, PA

Bright, bold and beautiful are the colors with which Sandhu tells her stories. Growing up, she moved

a lot, as her father was an Army officer. It gave her an opportunity to see a lot of places that were not yet tampered with by human beings. Gorgeous landscapes and beautiful animals in their natural habitat left a lasting impression on her. Sandhu works in multiple layers, often dominated by warm colors. She has always found solace and peace in nature and has a deep respect for all of Mother Nature's creatures. On days when the pain is unbearable (physical or mental), art gives her an escape to comfort and hope. Art has been there in her darkest hours like a guiding light of love and warmth, gently coaxing her to be hopeful and believe in her creativity to find healing.

Chris Schallhorn

Friendship, MD

Schallhorn first started honing his visual art practice at Art Enables in DC in the mid-2000s, creating intricate, geometrically structured paintings on cardboard or canvas. He joined Make Studio after recently relocating to the Baltimore area, and picked up right where he left off. Schallhorn says, "My titles give the viewer a clue to catch the objects and color principles that are most obvious to me in the piece. I hope you see it or believe it."



Cheryl Kinderknecht, *Places I Remember*

Robert Schmus *Bryn Mawr, PA*
Schmus began painting in 2018. He categorizes his paintings into two categories: grounded and intense. His grounded pieces are landscapes from places he's traveled like Salisbury Cathedral,



Jennifer Ingalls, *Long Heart Pendant with Dragonfly*

Winchester Palace, and the Ben Franklin Parkway. His intense work is based on anxiety he experienced when he could not find the words to express himself. He works primarily with acrylic

paint, focusing on creating texture and tactility. Not only has painting become an outlet for Schmus, it has led him to new opportunities within the local art scene of Philadelphia. He is a member of the Autistic Art Coalition of Philadelphia. He says, "Being an artist has been truly essential in my life. It is a passion that I have and I wish to continue to share my work with you."

Christine Severson
Richmond, VA

If not for a life-altering accident while working as a nurse, Severson the artist within would not have emerged and blossomed. Creating allows her to transcend her physical self — a body in chronic pain with limited mobility. Severson has reinvented herself as an artist. The media she works in has to be lightweight and able to be worked from a reclining position. Working in different mediums alters the demands on her body. Each creation is unique and contains a piece of her spirit.

Michael Shane *Drexel Hill, PA*
Shane is a 64-year-old artist from Pennsylvania who loves to work with acrylic paints on canvas. He started painting in 2015 as therapy to recover his speech after brain surgery. His abstract

paintings allowed his right brain to stimulate his left damaged brain, and he subsequently regained his speech and motor skills. But the switch was on, and art became his being. An artist of textures and colors, each piece is a victory and bleeds with his soul.

Chenxi Shao *Philadelphia, PA*
Shao is an artist and designer originally from Beijing, China, now based in Philadelphia. Their work explores dynamic identity, humanism and environmental ethics, bridging the realms of sculpture and animation. With a background in ecological research, Shao integrates ecological concerns into their art, addressing pressing societal

"I am embracing the changes in my abilities by accepting I am a completely new artist, that is creating completely different art now."

—Mary Alice Landry

and environmental issues. Their contributions have been showcased at various venues including Philadelphia City Hall, the Fringe Arts, Flux Factory, Galleries at Moore, Vox Populi Gallery among others. Shao holds degrees in Plant Genetics and

Breeding (BA), Interface Ecology (PhD) and an MFA from the University of Pennsylvania. They also received the Monument Lab MFA Fellowship at the Center for Public Art and Space in 2023.

Stephanie Shea *Philadelphia, PA*
To Shea, art means the ability to express herself. Her source of inspiration and motivation to create is anything that piques her interest. She says, "Art lets me express myself in a healthy way and it makes me forget that I am living with a disability for a while."

Ethan Smith *Baltimore, MD*
Smith has been expanding his material practice to include a wide range from oil pastels to marker. He

is inspired by a wide array of things he finds beautiful: landscapes, animals, foods and references to favorite media. Outside his studio practice, Smith also loves doing crafts at home, including painting rocks and building LEGO sets. He also enjoys going to Home Depot



Emily Tironi, *Lifted*

for wood to do wood projects. Smith has been a member artist at Make Studio since 2022, when he joined through the transitional-age workshop series. He just graduated from Perry Hall High School. His work was most recently shown in "I Define Who I Am" at Bender JCC in Rockville, Md.

Ken Smith *Riverside, WA*
Smith specializes in limited-edition fine art, with a primary focus on still life. He prints his work in black and white and color, using both traditional photographic processes and archival pigment ink on fine cotton printmaking papers. Smith feels his role as an artist is to

be open, curious and available to observe and report back. He looks for something to move him, so he might pass that on to the work. The process of observing leaves one open to a mystery beyond thought or the so-called coincidence. This reverence for the unexpected is key. His work reflects on his walking disability, encouraging patience and the understanding of how to find beauty in the commonplace.

Nancy Cook Smith
Santa Monica, CA

Smith is a fabric collage artist who takes found fabrics and cuts them up to put them back together in a new composition. Her approach is simple yet effective: she repurposes, reorganizes, refreshes and redefines elements from the initial items. Conceptually, her collages follow two paths. Most pieces center on a formalist concern where a "chaotic" composition is grown over an often obscured geometric skeleton. Order (or lack of), movement, color, shape and mood are the main focus. In others, she constructs a surrealist narrative where items create a dynamic but unclear story. Sometimes these two paths merge. Smith's work is unplanned. The act itself of putting items

together suggests connections, direction, cohesion. These hover and bob around in one's mind. Seizing the right hint and letting it carry the day regularly brings her to the finish line.

Eugene Soh *Singapore*

Soh started to learn painting when he was 11 years old. Although he had art training during his primary school days, he did not touch brushes for more than 10 years after his major spinal cord surgery in 1981, which resulted in him being paraplegic and needing a wheelchair. Soh is a self-trained artist with a BA in Mathematics from the National University of Singapore. He admires the artistic style of Van Gogh and Pierre-Auguste Renoir. To him, art is everywhere: from the depository of his memories of traveling with his wife to the expression of his deep faith in God, the mainstay of his artistic inspiration.

Oranit Solomonov *Philadelphia, PA*
Solomonov is a self-taught artist from Tel Aviv, Israel. She immigrated to Philadelphia with her family when she was a teenager. Her work depicts vibrant, playful scenes that express a variety of interests including animals and airplanes, as well as elements of her strong

Jewish identity. Because English is not her first language, Solomonov uses her artwork to make connections and communicate with a larger audience. Her work has been featured in exhibitions both regionally and nationally, and is held in private collections around the world. She is also an uncertified pilot and loves to fly.

Kari Souders *Villanova, PA*
Having been born with vision in only one eye, Souders has always seen the world through a monocular lens. This more narrow window has made her hyperaware of fine details. It has given her a deep appreciation for experiencing our world not only visually, but also tactilely. As a result, she gravitated toward a career that relied on her unique vision through creating artworks that are densely layered and richly textured. These floral and fauna mixed-media paintings aim to express love and loss. They are meant to convey a romantic nostalgia for the natural world as it transforms due to climate change. Nature's wonder and beauty is enchanting even as it breaks down and adapts. As our sacred world evolves, these paintings depict the artist's fantasy of how nature will flourish regardless of new climate realities.

Harry Spilker *Camp Hill, PA*
Spilker is a self-motivated artist, using his digital camera or iPhone to capture images and different apps to manipulate the colors and other aspects of the pictures, creating an artistic effect. He especially likes to photograph everyday objects and scenes and then create boldly colored abstract pieces that evoke an emotional response. Spilker enjoys photographing nature and the environment. He likes taking pictures of trees and clouds and the Susquehanna River in different light. He also takes lots of pictures of his dad. "My photographs make a statement about how I see the world."

Valerie Stanley *Philadelphia, PA*
Stanley is a very excited person who likes to be out in the world. She loves music and art; they are both her favorites. In Stanley's work, the sun is rising over the green and gray rocky mountain. A foggy lake lays below, waiting for the sun's warmth. Art has helped Stanley express herself. It's fun to do and is a great way for her to relate to her daughter and others. Stanley's artwork helps her to not doubt herself. She is inspired by her art teacher, Rhoda, a great artist.

Craig Stephens *Philadelphia, PA*
Stephens prefers landscapes and abstract art. His father drew cartoon characters, thus beginning his enjoyment and appreciation of art. He looks to



Gregory Harvey, *Pink Sky Over Cape May*

a variety of videos on YouTube to find inspiration. He is always willing to try new things and has recently been exploring more abstract works.

Siddhartha Sankur Sukla *Cuttack, India*
Sukla has enjoyed painting since childhood. Though hearing-impaired, he doesn't feel inferior to others, just differently-abled. A graduate of Fine Arts from Utkal University, he works in various

mediums like watercolor, oils and collage. Sukla has been awarded a number of prizes by different organizations, both national as well as international. He attributes his success to the blessings of all

his mentors and well-wishers. He says he feels fortunate if he can satisfy his supporters through art. Sukla continues to focus on his work as a professional artist and finding more opportunities. "I stand similar to abled people through my art. Disability does not affect my work."

Sriharsha Sukla *Cuttack, India*
Sukla was born with a hearing impairment. But in spite of his disability, he feels able in every

respect. He has been inspired by his parents, especially by his mother, to pursue art. "Whatever the position I have reached it is due to the blessing of all my mentors and well-wishers." Sukla

"I am not a true 'artist.' More a creative spirit that has found an outlet for my creativity in a way that challenges, stretches and gives me a feeling of great joy and wonderment at what I CAN do!"

—Lynn Hartman

has been awarded a number of prizes by different organizations, national as well as international. He has worked in oil painting and watercolor and his specialty is collage work. Sukla has a degree in Fine Arts, and he continues to concentrate on his work as a professional artist and look for more opportunities.

Elizabeth Sullivan *Elgin, TX*
Sullivan has been a professional watercolor artist and mural painter for the past 20 years. Painting is her happy place. "The joy of creating supersedes all else." Being disabled limits her career options, but fortunately she's been able to make a living doing what she loves. Sullivan's art is

inspired by life around her. She is fascinated by cave paintings, Asian brush paintings and ancient art, which also serve as inspirations reflected in some of her work. Sullivan lives in Elgin, Texas with

a tiny dog, 12 cats and 11 chickens. She also has three grandsons nearby and she shamelessly and repeatedly paints their portraits.

Eric Tate *Newtown Township, PA*
Tate is currently an art therapy graduate student in Philadelphia. His paintings illustrate an abstraction of what it feels like to reach out for help and receive an empathetic response, and each canvas illustrates its own part of the journey. Tate believes it can be scary and burdening to share dark thoughts, but oftentimes the sharing alone relieves a lot of the pressure. The initial disclosure is the scariest; the emotional connection that follows is not only hopeful, but allows

for curiosity and self-discovery. "During all the times I felt I had nobody to talk to, making art was my way of being heard."

David Terrar *Gaithersburg, MD*
Terrar survived a major heart attack. His life changed suddenly and a long, depressing struggle followed. Terrar needed stability and hope to get through it. On a wintry walk through the woods, he saw his struggle played out in nature. The struggle to get through the winter was the snow. The sun struggled in the last half hour of the day. All the colors changed, yet the golden sun coming through the trees was a sign of hope. The struggle inspired his work using acrylic and 23 karat gold leaf. Gold has been an artistic symbol for hope and heaven for

thousands of years, and the trees in his paintings are a symbol of strength and stability. "When my mind is not fixed on worry and anxiety, I know my healing is happening."

Emily Tironi *Saratoga Springs, NY*
Tironi's works are a celebration of the disabled experience and the disabled body. She often uses surrealism, bright colors and humor in her work to challenge societal norms and stereotypes regarding disability. Bringing this perspective to the general public and society is important, and her experience as a disabled person and knowledge of disability studies serves to enhance and inform her work. Tironi uses a variety of materials, such as gel prints, tissue paper, books and magazine images, to



Leslie Palmer, *Valley Forge Farm Buildings*

create contrast while still uniting the work through color and layering. Recently, she has begun working with assemblage and found objects, including medical

devices, to create sculptures. Her hope is to continue to explore three-dimensionality and viewer interaction in her work. The process of using different

mediums and putting separate parts together to create a new whole strengthens the messages of the work.

Leo Tujak *Floral Park, NY*

Tujak thinks that photography is great. It allows him to see something and transfer it to a photograph, but with some input from him as he takes the picture. By controlling the composition, lighting and angle at which the photo is taken, one can alter many things. But the outcome all photographers are looking for is a “good” photo. Due to a retinal eye problem, Tujak could no longer use his right eye when taking pictures. This required him to retrain himself to use his left eye to look through the camera’s viewfinder. Tujak hopes that everyone enjoys looking at the photos as much as he enjoyed taking them.

Max Tzinman *New York, NY*

“If you could say it in words, there would be no reason to paint.” (Edward Hopper) Like Hopper, Tzinman finds it difficult to explain his work, because it does not come necessarily from a logical place ... it emerges from a maelstrom of concerns, fascinations and experiences. He is exploring the disconnect between

reality and the pervasive myths that surround us. He is questioning our purpose in these turbulent times and how we can avoid the emptiness of an unthinking existence. Tzinman’s creative process varies. It starts with an idea, then working digitally in two or three dimensions. He enjoys using a variety of media, such as acrylics, oil, plastic, collage and metal, to construct still pieces and dioramas. For some projects, he works with video and animation, incorporating light and sound to communicate the desired effect.

Selina Valentin *Philadelphia, PA*

Valentin is a happy and fun girl who tries to bring that same energy to her painting. She says that painting is fun. Tie dye is one of her favorite forms of art. Valentin paints “sandwich art” on canvases by selecting many different colors of paint and then sandwiching two canvases together. She then uses her arms to “smoosh” the paint and move it around. Valentin is inspired by her Aunt Frances.

Frank Van Curen *Fort Bragg, CA*

Van Curen loves to make and sell his art, and with the help of many people that care deeply for him, he has created a rich life for himself. His approach

to making artwork is bold, and he dives into each new piece without hesitation or self-doubt. His images often incorporate lighthearted, funny elements and his delightful sense of humor always brightens the studio. He is a prolific linoleum printmaker and mainly enjoys drawing animals, making up stories to go along with each illustration. Van Curen has written and illustrated two books featuring horses, “Wild Thunder” and “Misty and Danny at the Fair.”

Emma van den Akker *Philadelphia, PA*

Van den Akker is a multimedia artist focused on acrylic and oil paintings. Van den Akker has struggled with severe ADHD for most of her life, inspiring her to work in a multitude of mediums and styles. While serious artists are encouraged to hone a specific niche, Van den Akker embraces her ADHD; frequently changing her artistic style, exploring new mediums and concepts. You can find her rug-making, pouring paint down loose canvas or creating massive figurative paintings. As a lesbian, Van den Akker is inspired by femininity, gender and identity. Van den Akker’s currently focused on creating oil portraits to critique the societal interpretation of

femininity; depicting her subjects in a natural and humanistic light, untampered by the social expectations of beauty, posture and etiquette.

Angelica Vences *Houston, TX*

As a young student with schizoaffective disorder, Vences’ life has had its challenges. While hallucinating, she had erratic behaviors that led her to be suspended from school. She was hospitalized three times and visited a rehab for a month. Despite these challenges, she stands today as a student again and a painter, hoping to tell her story via her paintings and regain control of her life.

Hilda Volkin *Albuquerque, NM*

Volkin is a New Mexican artist working with materials that combine both art and science. Working with light has been a constant source of inspiration in her work. Combining fluorescent plexiglass with dichroic and holographic films reveals the spectrum and wavelengths of light. Fluorescent plexiglass transmits colored light to the edges, giving the appearance that the art is lit. The films split a beam of light into two beams with different wavelengths. It transmits one color and reflects

another. When viewed from different angles, new colors appear. Inspired by nature, these artworks demonstrate how light affects us. Volkin was diagnosed with otosclerosis over 40 years ago. She has very little hearing in her left ear and the right one is failing as well.

Natalie Weidner *Philadelphia, PA*

Art helps Weidner to express herself. It makes her feel relaxed and takes her into her happy place. Her art reflects what she feels inside, reflected by her choice of colors.

Jeffrey McCredie Weiss *West Chester, PA*

Weiss paints primarily with oils, but also watercolor. He has painted for over 50 years and is inspired by the beauty of nature. He was influenced by the plein air painters of the late 19th century when he studied art in Europe many years ago. Art has been a catharsis with respect to his multiple disabilities. Without art, he is certain he would not face the chronic pain and physical problems that he has with endurance. Although it does influence his ability to paint from time to time, he uses his disability as a catalyst to create art that is beautiful and warm and friendly.



Ken Smith, *Flicker*

Jo Ann Welch *Hendersonville, NC*

When Welch was 18, she was diagnosed with a vascular malformation located in the cervical spinal cord. This affected the right side of her body, which is now partially paralyzed. This presents a challenge to her, but it is one of many she has learned to manage since becoming disabled. She is incredibly grateful for the role artwork has played in her life. Sometimes Welch feels inadequate because she is unable to do all the things that a “normal” person can do. Being an artist, she is able to do what some other people can’t, and that gives her the confidence to overcome



Jan Alice Keeling, *Kitten Dream*

her disability. Welch creates using many mediums, including printmaking, photography, collage, assemblage, as well as painting in oil, watercolor and acrylics. Her current body of work includes seascapes and landscapes that are simplified and explore the possibility in the unknown.

Debra Westdorp

Langley, British Columbia, Canada
Westdorp comes from a creative family. She was diagnosed with complex regional pain syndrome (CRPS) at age 26, forcing her to adapt her creative style. She took watercolor lessons, but soon moved on to acrylics because of the vivid color palette. She began to create jewelry and started working in resin a few years ago. She is inspired by nature and tries to recreate it in her jewelry and paintings. She is also fascinated by the artists and creators on YouTube and tries to figure out how to adapt their techniques to work within her limitations. Creating has given her a lifelong love of art and a distraction from the pain of CRPS.

Kurt Weston *Mission Viejo, CA*
Weston is a legally blind fine art photographer. He enjoys photographing natural beauty. Weston is currently creating

stunning portraits of beautiful flowers, emphasizing their color and pattern. Although he has limited visual acuity, he is able to sensitively arrange and carefully light his unique bouquets and focus on the singular beauty



Belinda Chlouber, *S.I.P.*

within. Weston is a resident of Mission Viejo, Calif., and received his Master of Fine Arts degree from California State University, Fullerton. His luminous color photographs, created

after his sight loss, are truly breakthrough images. In 2010, he was recognized by Arts Orange County with the Outstanding Artist Achievement Award for his solo exhibition, "Seasons in a Prayer Garden," and in 2012 he

was featured in an interview on CNN, highlighting his photographs and advocacy. Weston's work has been exhibited nationally and internationally and is in both private and public collections.

Don Whittecar *Stevensville, MT*

Whittecar's passion lies in documenting the beauty of his subject matter, primarily threatened and endangered species of wildlife. His medium, copperplate engraving, is also disappearing. While most people are aware of conservation efforts for wildlife and their habitats, few are aware of the need to preserve vanishing art forms. Whittecar strives to preserve both. *Wildlife Art News*, an international publication with circulation to 110 countries, has cited him as one of only seven or eight wildlife art engravers currently practicing worldwide (*Wildlife Art News*, Artists Edition, 2004.) Whittecar's disabilities, Stills disease and tardive dyskinesia, enable him to devote the focused attention needed to cut each individual line into a copper sheet to produce a printing plate.

Robert Winig

Rancho Palos Verdes, CA
Winig was introduced to the art community at a very young age, growing up the son of an artist. He tried many disciplines of artwork in his youth and always enjoyed photography, and after retiring from a long career in engineering, he found his way back to it. In his photography,

Winig now combines his passion for experiencing the great outdoors with capturing the beauty that nature has to offer. With limited range of motion in his shoulders, he is still able to enjoy taking shots in nature.

Nancy Wood *San Antonio, TX*

Wood is a classically trained artist currently using photography and digital media to explore the aesthetics of the natural landscape. She received her BA and MFA degrees from the University of California, Los Angeles. As Wood describes, "During the 1990s, I bought a computer and began to teach myself digital media because I believed it would be the future of visual arts." She was right, and this led her to become a successful digital artist. Wood experienced severe hearing loss and mental illness during a difficult period in her life. Her digital artworks are included in private and corporate collections and have received many awards.

Nina Yocom *West Chester, PA*

Yocom was diagnosed with bipolar disorder in her early twenties. Over the years, she has searched for a way to give expression to an acceptance of her condition. The fluid nature of

alcohol inks as they move along nonporous surfaces is highly meditative and soothes her mind. She can express such joy and happiness with bright blues and purples and can dig deeper into the scars of her life with darker shades of greens, yellows and reds. Yocom uses these vibrant hues to express emotion whether they are the highs of mania or the lows of depression. Using this medium gives her permission to articulate what cannot be put into words. She says, "My head and heart connect, and I am at peace within myself."

Jacque O. Young *Lewes, DE*

Young believes we live in a world that is complex and a constantly changing puzzle, in a time when people need creative visual energy to excite the mind. She says a "speed bump," better known as multiple sclerosis, has averted her photographic career into the fine arts of photography. It is through her lens that she captures visions that portray uniqueness. Some through a different spectrum of light, the unseen surreal spectrum of infrared. Others through art lenses, seeing in a new way, capturing creative visions. The surreal or dreamy sense of Young's imagery feels as surreal



Jace Laakso, *Fort Missoula Tower*

as her diagnosis of MS. Creating art becomes a therapeutic healing process for her, an escape from MS. The once-acquired images from her camera become visual interpretations of her imagination.

Catherine Zhao *Newton, MA*

Zhao is an autistic and aspiring young artist at Gateway Arts. She communicates with people in a very elegant manner, using expressions and simplistic dialogue as the main medium. Her passion for the arts began with using Perler beads to create 3D decor that encompassed her

fundamental interests in colors, shapes and patterns. Later, she broadened her passion toward more representative images of real-world observations. She would take photos of animals and flowers during her hiking trips and neighborhood walks and convert them into acrylic and digital paintings. She also enjoys making scarves with colorful patterns that represent her love of the seasons and even candy. In all her works, Zhao displays her simple, yet complex, perceptions to others.

Charitable gifts play an essential role in helping Bryn Mawr Rehab to serve individuals with disabilities and our hospital community. Philanthropy directly supports our alternative therapy programs such as Creative Arts Therapy, enhances our equipment and technology, provides critical funds for patient assistance, endorses our community programs such as Art Ability, and overall enhances the hospital's ability to provide the top level of service and care to our patient community.

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If you would like to memorialize or pay tribute to someone with a gift to Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital, please direct donations to Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital Foundation, 240 North Radnor Chester Road, Suite 340, Radnor, PA 19087, and provide the name and address of the person to be notified, if applicable. The amount of the gift will not be included in the notification.

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Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital benefits greatly from the bequests and life-income gifts of friends and donors who want to ensure that the very best rehabilitative care continues to be available to patients and their loved ones. In appreciation, donors who have made planned gifts are welcomed into the Legacy Society and thanked publicly. Planned gifts include naming the Foundation as a beneficiary of your will or trust, IRA or other retirement plan, life insurance policy, or life income agreement (charitable gift annuity, charitable remainder trust, or remainder interest in a personal residence).

To add your name to the list of Society members, call the Development Office. To name the Foundation as a beneficiary of a retirement plan, please share the following with your plan administrator:

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Address: 414 Paoli Pike, Malvern, PA 19355
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Sample language to make an unrestricted bequest to Bryn Mawr Rehab can be found on our website.

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Donna Phillips

for nearly 30 years of dedicated service to Main Line Health.

Donna is a pillar of excellence always driving meaningful work and outcomes that benefits our patients, families and the entire team. We extend our biggest **THANK YOU** to Donna's family, Chris, Sean and Jenna for sharing her with us. The Main Line Health Senior Leadership team salutes Donna!



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We are proud to support Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital and the wonderful artists who share their talents at Art Ability.

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Donna Phillips

Donna has been a cornerstone of excellence at Main Line Health for 30 years, consistently delivering impactful results for our patients, families and team.

The Bryn Mawr Rehab Senior Leadership team extends our deepest gratitude to Donna for her unwavering support and we proudly salute her.



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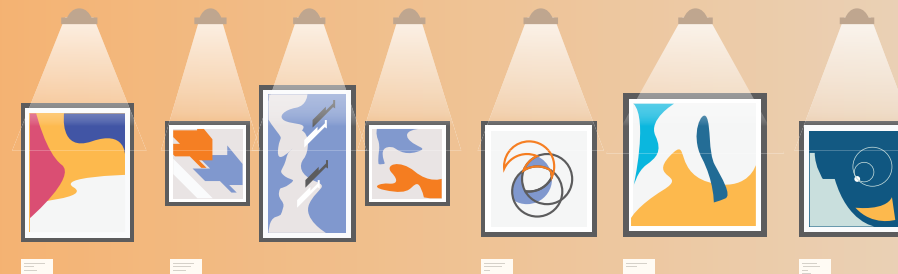
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