



art Ability

a celebration of art by artists with disabilities



Main Line Health®
Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital

2019-2020

Carol Spiker

Wilmington, Delaware

Carol Spiker, a former patient at Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital, has always had a passion for graphic arts. As a busy mom who raised two boys, Carol worked for an ad agency, did a great deal of volunteer work, ran a couple of marathons, and started a lacrosse program that ran for 26 seasons. She returned to school in the late eighties to study painting, as she wanted to begin creating art that was inside-out versus outside-in. This journey continues today after a few big twists and turns along the way.

In 1998, Carol was thrown into a creek when her car was hit on I-95. She realized immediately that she was paralyzed, and her only words were: "Thank God I have my hands." Yes, being paralyzed makes painting more difficult, and she can no longer tackle that 8'x10' canvas. But, she can still paint. She is one of the lucky ones, and art has become a driving force in her life, a focus that has sharpened even more after her accident.

Painting is her passion—no matter how often she has explored other directions, the figure continues to pull her back to a brush and a



canvas. Carol has found that color choices are an important part of her creative process. Her decisions involving colors have evolved over time and reveal evidence of her feelings, while at the same time grow into beautiful passages that empower the picture's surface. Carol says, "I would have loved to hang out with Richard Diebenkorn and the Bay Area Figurative painters in the 50s or Milton Avery in NYC in the 40s!"

Making art exposes oneself and for Carol it can be scary. Over time, she has learned that it takes courage to put your creations out there to be seen by the world and for others to judge. Somehow, this understanding—that she must be brave—has helped her through her 20-year journey as a paraplegic.



When Feathers Fall,
Oil on paper



It's Not Working,
Oil and pencil on paper



Priscillia Bohlen, *Ballet*



Shelby Brown, *Urban Collision*

The 24th Annual Art Ability Exhibition Preview Party

Saturday, November 2, 2019
Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital

Preview Reception

5:00–8:00 pm

“Art to Life”

7:10 pm—Patient Dining Room

Our speakers will share their perspective on the impact of art and Art Ability.

Dinner & Auction

7:00–10:00 pm

Closing Reception: Art and the Patient Experience

Sunday, January 12, 2020 | 1:00–3:00 pm

Exhibit is free and open to the public from November 3, 2019 to January 26, 2020



Dear Friends,

Welcome to Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital and the 24th annual Art Ability Preview Party. This evening’s event includes the exhibition and sale of artwork as well as the dinner and auction. As the largest program of its kind, Art Ability provides a special opportunity for artists with disabilities—from around the world—to showcase and sell their work. Since the program’s beginning in 1996, over 850 artists have displayed their work and have personally benefited from sales in excess of \$1.2 million. Thank you for being part of this success.

My congratulations to our artists, and appreciation for the examples of courage and triumph they model for each and every one of us. Art has the power to heal and transform lives. We see this every day, as our clinicians incorporate Art Ability into their treatment plans, challenging and inspiring our patients to stretch beyond their present limitations and achieve their goals.

During the Dinner & Auction program we also celebrate the triumph of the human spirit. Special thanks to Alexandria Warner and her parents Susan and Darrell Giles for joining us and sharing their journey of recovery following Alexandria’s life-threatening auto accident while a student at Spelman College.

Funds raised this evening benefit the livelihoods of our participating artists and the Art Ability program as well as support other hospital priorities that enable us to provide the most progressive rehabilitation environment for our patients, like Alexandria.

Thank you for joining us, and a very special thank you to our Art Ability Committee, Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital Foundation Board, sponsors and volunteers for contributing to a remarkable event!

Warm regards,

Donna M. Phillips

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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.

Art Ability was supported in part by the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.



Sal Panasci, *Snowy White*

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Lists current as of September 30, 2019.



Bill Porter, *Father Nature*

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 received Magnet® designation, the nation’s highest distinction for excellence in nursing care and 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 orthopedic 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.



Jo Allebach, *Poppies and Friends*

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 provides positive role models for people with disabilities while increasing their access to the arts. The program successfully develops new markets for artists with disabilities where they can gain recognition for their technical skill and artistic vision.

Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital's Art Ability has been an integral part of the 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.

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

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 a jury of art professionals and the Art Ability curator, and includes reviewing the submitted images and choosing the artwork for the exhibition. The second step includes 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.



Allen Bryan,
On The Trail in Sonora

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. Artists may be invited to take part in Art Ability's ongoing sales and exhibition programs, receiving 60 percent of the sales for work sold during this time.

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; in addition to communicating that disability is as personally limiting as you make it.
- **Online sales gallery** Our online sales gallery provides the opportunity to view works for sale from our



Victor Mordasov, *Winter Sunrise*

consignment inventory. Each year, with the permission of the artist, Art Ability retains a number of works from our annual exhibition to allow for more exposure for our artists and their talents. To browse artwork available for purchase, visit bidpal.net/artwork.

- **Corporate art acquisition program** Art Ability also serves as a resource for corporations to help meet their need for art for their corporate art collections.
- **Permanent collection of work** Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital is an actively collecting institution whose permanent collection of over 400 objects is on display throughout the year. Clinicians at the hospital often use the art as a tool to motivate and treat their patients.

For more information about Art Ability programs call or email:

484-596.5607 | artability@mlhs.org



Alexandria Warner

A high-speed police chase of a stolen car ended in a horrific fiery crash and marked a watershed moment for the Warner Giles family. Their then 20-year-old daughter, Alexandria Warner—who was a passenger in the rear-ended car crushed in the collision—suffered multiple life-threatening injuries, a traumatic brain injury, and the loss of both of her kidneys.

Alexandria, a junior honors pre-medicine major, had taken a break from an on-campus study group to get dinner with two girlfriends. During their return trip and only a couple of blocks from the Spelman College campus, the car she was riding in was struck by the stolen vehicle estimated to be traveling 80-100 mph.

The force of the impact propelled the car into a utility pole striking the right rear side, where Alexandria was sitting buckled into her seat. Fire ignited in the rear of the car. Emergency responders arrived, the fire was extinguished, and the arduous work of extricating Alexandria from the mangled wreck was quickly accomplished.

Due to the severity of Alexandria's injuries, she was put in a medically induced coma

and placed on a ventilator. Alexandria spent nearly two months in intensive care before being transferred to a rehab hospital where she received subpar care resulting in almost another full month in intensive care. Finally, after more than nine surgeries and more than three months of hospitalization, Alexandria came to Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital as both inpatient and outpatient as part of her long journey of healing and recovery.

As a patient at Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital, Alexandria relearned many daily activities that are often taken for granted. She has made extraordinary progress due to the talented and compassionate staff, the state-of-the-art therapy equipment, and her strong determination and hard work.

Alexandria and her family learned firsthand the impact acute rehabilitation hospitals have on patient recovery—and, the importance of actively evaluating and advocating for the right rehabilitation care.

Alexandria's miraculous story and road to recovery will be shared during this year's Art Ability Dinner & Auction.

New van for patient transportation and RightEye tracking system

Thanks to last year's Dinner & Auction Call to Give, we purchased both a new patient van and a specialized piece of therapy equipment.

The van enables patients to participate in community outings—to the grocery store, town park and mall—with the assistance of Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital's recreation therapy team. This is a crucial piece in the physical rehabilitation process as it allows for patients to not only work on their physical functioning in a common public setting outside of the hospital, but also provides the emotional and social support in building their comfort and confidence as they prepare for discharge.

Using advanced eye-tracking technology, the RightEye system uncovers issues that an observation-only exam cannot. The system pinpoints vision and brain health issues. We are very excited to have this advanced equipment as part of our treatment options.



Last year's featured patient, Lee Lee Jones, and members of the Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital transportation team



Gaby Heit, Art Ability Curator

I recently repaired *A Little Girl's Trip* (2005) by Judy Miller, an artwork in Art Ability's permanent collection. It is now out of storage and has a new life on display. Every time I pass this artwork (a naïve mixed media piece of a girl with her arms outstretched, in the cab of a colorful hot air balloon) I feel so much joy and it makes me smile. It speaks to me. I feel like I must be sharing the artist's joy and excitement, and I want to jump in and join the ride. Small doses of positive energy like this are contagious, and necessary. Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital cultivates an environment of positive energy and moving forward in so many ways. Like the hospital, Art Ability celebrates both process and progress.

With *Energy*, the special category for 2019, in its obvious form, we have several works of horses running with the wind through their manes, birds flying, and bees buzzing. But *Energy* also has a quieter, individual presence, as growth and renewal. With fuel from the sun, every single blossom blooms. With this internal positive energy, movement isn't always noticed. Still, it aims to reach its full potential. This year we get a close-up, new perspective on viewing flowers. The tightly-cropped focus, and abstract beauty of the single bloom, in the style of Georgia O'Keefe, is a dominant visual theme across all media. The diverse animals we feature span from the Serengeti plains to the farms of Lancaster County. And they, too, pose for their close-up.

I have curated the hallways in a way that transitions between style and groups similar pieces together. This format provides a nice comprehensive flow, allowing each viewer to find an area that speaks to them. The only thing more inspiring than the artwork you will see throughout the hospital are the artists behind them.

We are so grateful to the Art Ability Committee, staff, jurors and judges for all their hard work in making this exhibition possible. A special thank you goes to our Art Ability Coordinator, Cristine Largoza, whose guidance continues to be invaluable. It is clear that the positive energy collected in the hallways full of art, is an extension of Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital's achievements in rehabilitation therapy.



Alex Conner

Alex Conner is an artist, educator, entrepreneur and art collector living in Philadelphia. Alex's artistic practice is focused on showing the social construction of everyday life through dismantling

its coded visual language. He is a K-12 gallery educator at The Barnes Foundation, where his teaching combines an irreverent approach to art objects with factual knowledge of their history, in order to allow art which is separated from students by geography and time to become relatable to their everyday life. Alex is co-owner of a ceramic design company based in Philadelphia and runs Philly Stewards, an arts organization dedicated to the collection, support and promotion of Philadelphia's art and artists.



Genevieve Coutroubis

Genevieve Coutroubis is a documentary photographer and ethnographer. She has exhibited extensively, and her work appears in numerous national and international collections including

SEI's West Collection. Her photography was recognized by the National Museum for Women in the Arts when she was invited to participate in *Women to Watch: Photography in Philadelphia*. Genevieve joined The Center for Emerging

Visual Artists (CFEVA) staff in 2001 as the Director of Programming. She heads CFEVA's Visual Artist Fellowship and has mounted numerous exhibitions throughout the region. She also established CFEVA's Regional Community Arts Program (RCAP)—a vehicle to bring substantial career development opportunities to Philadelphia's visual artists. In May 2018 Genevieve accepted the role of executive artistic director and president of CFEVA, and currently co-directs the organization.



Katie Samson

Katie Samson is the Director of Programs for Art-Reach, an organization that creates, advocates for, and expands accessible opportunities in arts and culture in greater

Philadelphia. Katie previously taught Disability Studies at West Chester University and was formerly the assistant director of museum education at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts (PAFA). She assisted in launching the Art of Observation program to Jefferson, Cooper and Drexel University Medical Schools' for students to learn and build observational skills through visual art prior to their clinical work. Katie is also the spokesperson for the Katie Samson Foundation, a non-profit organization that provides funding for research and quality of life programs for people with disabilities.

Best In Show

Charles W. Hennessy Artist Award

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

Thu Nguyen, *The Dream*



Judges Choice

ALEX CONNER

The Doris B. Gorden Award

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

Carol Spiker, *It's Not Working*

GENEVIEVE COUTROUBIS

John Schwartz, Jr. Family Memorial Award

Presented by: Sal and Linda Panasci

Jessica Hays, *In These Places Called Home*

KATIE SAMSON

In Honor of Carol Chapman

Presented by: Stephano Slack

Yoland Skeete, *Stepping Out, Ancestors 6*

Curator's Choice

Jones Family Award

Presented by: Brian and Peggy Jones

Nancy Nalbandian, *Love in A Mist*

Jewelry, Fine Craft & Functional Art

1st Prize

Presented by: The 5 Senses

Joy Raskin, *Pod Pendant*

2nd Prize

In Honor of Claire Larson

Presented by: Brian and Peggy Jones

Pat Henriques, *Karma*

3rd Prize

Jones Family Award

Presented by: Brian and Peggy Jones

Brian Cagle, *Capped*

Honorable Mention

In Honor of Lauren McGowan

Presented by: Brian and Peggy Jones

Nicole Cote, *Floral Ballad*



Mixed Media

1st Prize

The James Panasci Family Memorial Award

Presented by: Sal and Linda Panasci

Bill Porter, *Father Nature*

2nd Prize

In Memory of Pennie Marx-Bellard

Presented by: Jeanne B. Fisher

Thu Nguyen, *Determination*

3rd Prize

The Kozicki Family Award

Presented by: Jean Kozicki

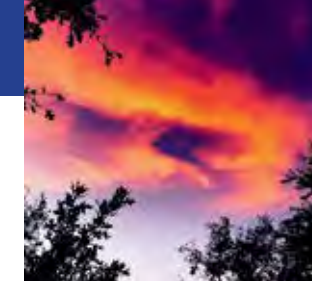
Shoaib Wazir, *Messenger*

Honorable Mention

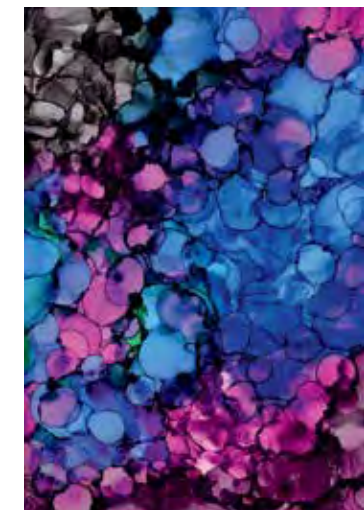
The McTear Family Award

Presented by: Brian and Allyson McTear

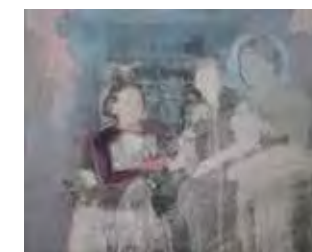
David Terrar, *The Fox Waits*



Jeremy Schack,
Shape of Light



Emily Forbes, *Dance*



Monica Chulewicz,
Good Times or Bad, It's Always There

Nancy Nalbandian,
Love in A Mist

Mary Ellen Cabry, *Sky Writer*Carrie Albert, *Buddha Bunny*

Photography

1st Prize

The Bernadette Schwab Clark Memorial Award

Presented by: Sal and Linda Panasci

Allen Bryan, *On The Trail in Sonora*

2nd Prize

Presented by: Scott and Lara Evans

Ken Smith, *Petals in Japanese Bowl*

3rd Prize

In Appreciation of the BMRH Staff

Presented by: Linda W. Heiberger

Mark Wittig, *Pleasant Valley School*

Honorable Mention

Presented by: Stephano Slack, LLC

Leslie Zukor, *Skate Day 2018*

Sculpture and 3D Work

1st Prize

The Bob and Joan Constable Memorial Award

Presented by: The Constable Family

Carrie Albert, *Buddha Bunny*

2nd Prize

Presented by: Scott and Lara Evans

Cherie Lee, *It's Just a Scratch*

3rd Prize

Presented by: Ruth Porritt

Sarah McDaniel, *Hollow*

Honorable Mention

Presented by: Stephano Slack, LLC

Bernice Paul, *Face Vase with Flowers*

Special Category: Energy

1st Prize

In Memory of Jacqueline Van Handel

Presented by: Jeanne B. Fisher

David Neufeld, *Drumroll Please*

2nd Prize

In Memory of Ralph and Carmen Terrazas

Presented by: Brian and Peggy Jones

Linnie Greenberg, *Play!*

3rd Prize

Presented by: Ruth Porritt

Mike Coury, *Monster*

Honorable Mention

In Memory of Robert L. Rotoli

Presented by: Janet Rotoli

William Spiker, *Trumpet Fish*

Painting

1st Prize

The Thomas and Harriet Blank Award

Presented by: Jeanne B. Fisher

Sal Panasci, *Snowy White*

2nd Prize

In Memory of Fred Stern

Presented by: Brian and Peggy Jones

Brandon Allebach, *Three Sisters*

3rd Prize

Jones Family Award

Presented by: Brian and Peggy Jones

Thomas Miller, *Battalion Fire Chief*

Inspection on 9-14-2001

Honorable Mention

Presented by: Janet Rotoli

In Honor of CJC

Joanne Orth, *Secret Garden*

Drawing & Fine Print Making

1st Prize

The Elliott T. Settle Memorial Award

Presented by: The Settle Family

Monica Chulewicz, *Good Times or Bad, It's Always There*

2nd Prize

In Memory of Barry and Graham and Boose

Presented by: Brian and Peggy Jones

Ginger Gehres, *Umami*

3rd Prize

Jones Family Award

Presented by: Brian and Peggy Jones

Susanne Dagmar Olsen, *Alfred*

Honorable Mention

In Honor of Sally Hess

Presented by: Douglas Hess

Malcolm Corley, *Lancaster Farm*

Jessica Hays,
In These Places Called HomeAmanda Klinger, *Edge of Spirit*Thomas Miller,
*Battalion Fire Chief Inspection
on 9-14-2001*

Painting and Drawing

Acrylic a fast-drying synthetic paint containing pigments suspended in an acrylic polymer emulsion. Acrylic paints can be diluted with water but become water-resistant when dry. Acrylic painting can resemble a watercolor or an oil painting, or have its own unique characteristics not attainable with the other media. Acrylic paint can be applied to paper as well as to canvas and other surfaces.

Chinese/India Ink an opaque black ink that is commonly applied with a brush, rather than a pen, due to its density. This ink is also used for Chinese calligraphy. Rooted in centuries of scholarship and practice, Chinese calligraphy is executed with an aesthetic combination of speed, the pressure of a brush and the responsiveness of rice paper.

Collage an art form that began with the invention of paper in China around 200 BC. Today, the name collage (derived from a French verb “to glue”) refers to an assemblage of different media that may include newspaper clippings, ribbons, bits of colored paper or hand-made portions of other artwork, photographs, etc. glued to a piece of paper or canvas.

Gouache a form of watercolor paint where pigments are made opaque by adding zinc, in contrast to pure watercolor paint which is transparent.

Mixed Media the use of different materials, methods or techniques to create a single work of art. When working in mixed media it is important to choose the layers carefully and allow enough drying time between the layers to ensure the final work will have integrity. Often, found objects are used in conjunction with traditional artist media, such as paint and graphite giving the artist more flexibility.

Oil a type of paint developed in the sixteenth century. Pigment is combined with oil as its binder. Oil can be applied to many different surfaces: linen, cotton canvas or board.

Oil Stick/Cray Pas/Artstix similar to crayons, a kind of oil pastel that is used for painting and drawing. Oil pastel sticks are made of pigment mixed with a non-drying oil and a wax binder.

Pastel/Conte Crayon a combination of dried pigment and a binder forming a colored chalk stick.



Gen Farrell, *Through The Fog*

Scratchboard Art is a two-dimensional, subtractive medium that involves the use of abrasive tools to directly remove a surface layer of one value (typically dark) to expose a secondary layer of a contrasting value (typically white).

Tempera a water-based opaque paint usually applied on paper.

Watercolor any paint that uses water as a medium. Generally applied to paint formed of pigments mixed with a gum binder and diluted with water to form a transparent film, as opposed to gouache, which is opaque.

Printmaking

Original/Fine Print a work of art created by hand and printed from a plate, block, stone or stencil. In most print media, the image on the plate, block or stencil is a mirror image, or backwards, from how the finished work will appear. Each print produced is technically a unique work, although produced as a multiple in a limited edition. Original prints are traditionally signed by the artist and are numbered to indicate how many prints there are in the edition and how to identify the individual print.

Chine Collé a special technique in intaglio printmaking where the image is printed on very thin paper or on a delicate surface and then bonded to a heavier backing surface.

Digital Print a method of printing from a digital-based or electronic image file, onto any surface. An inkjet printer is most commonly used.

Engraving a physical process using sharp, pointed tools called gravers, to carve lines directly into a surface, usually metal. The metal is then inked and pressed onto paper for a reverse image. Some metal engravings are the artwork and are not used for printing.

Etching an intaglio process where an image is created by scratching, burning or cutting into a coated metal plate and then dipping the plate in acid. The exposed areas are eaten away by the acid, making depressed lines. Ink is pressed into the depressed lines, the surface of plate is wiped clean, and the plate is pressed onto paper. The resulting image is the reverse of the design as seen on the plate.

Intaglio Process a printing process where paper is pushed onto depressed or recessed lines made in a metal plate and filled with ink. The image can be made on the plate by acid or a sharp tool. There is often a visible imprint of the plate itself. Etching, aquatint, mezzotint and dry point all use the intaglio process.

Monoprint a single print created as a unique work. The plate is then destroyed.

Polygraveur a work made from several printing plates.

Relief Process/Woodcut, Linoleum a printmaking technique where the image is printed from a surface of wood or linoleum, after non-image areas are cut away.

Silk Screen/Serigraph a printmaking technique that creates a sharp-edged image using a stencil or screen usually made of silk. A separate stencil is cut for each color. The areas of the stencil that are cut out accept the color, and each color is applied as a separate layer.

Photography and New Media

Digital Illustration the use of digital tools to produce images under the direct manipulation of the artist, usually through a pointing device such as a tablet or a mouse.

Digital Photography a form of photography that utilizes digital technology to make digital images of subjects. Digital images can be displayed, printed, stored, manipulated, transmitted and archived using digital and computer techniques without chemical processing.

Film Photography any film photography relies on chemical processing of negatives and exposure for printing. Analog negatives can also be printed digitally. Polaroid, actually a brand-name, is an example of film photography.

Gelatin Silver Print a photographic process that consists of suspending metallic silver salts embedded into a gelatin coating onto acetate film or fiber-based or resin-coated paper and allowed to dry. This photographic process is used with black and white films and printing papers.

Giclee Print a digital print produced on an Iris Printer, or any inkjet process. The image has all the tonalities and hues of the original painting or photograph.

Photo/Digital Manipulation the application of image editing techniques to create an illusion or deception. Image-editing software is used to apply filters and effects, and warp an image until the desired result is achieved. The resulting image may have little or no resemblance to the photo from which it originated.

Wraparound an image is printed directly on canvas, then stretched over a wood frame.



Yoland Skeete,
Stepping Out, Ancestors 6

Fine Crafts

Batik a method of dyeing cloth using wax to resist the dye on specific parts of the design.

Blown or Cast Glass two ways of forming glass. In one process molten glass is handblown and shaped. In the other process, hot glass is poured into a mold and cooled.

Enamel a method of applying ground glass to metal and fusing it with heat for a shiny, colored surface.

Fiber Art art using any textiles, thread or yarn.

Fused Glass an ancient technique describing glass that has been fired in a kiln at various ranges of high temperatures.

Glaze a liquid suspension of finely ground materials applied by brushing, pouring or spraying on the surface of bisque-fired ceramic ware. After drying the ware is fired to the temperature at which the glaze ingredients will melt together to form a glassy surface coating.

Iris Folding a form of origami or folded paper originated in Holland. The folded strips of paper are layered to create a pattern similar to the iris of a camera or an eye. The pattern is created on card stock; each section is numbered and cut out into individual sections to use as a pattern to indicate where to place each strip of paper.



Mosaic small pieces of colored stone, tile or glass (tesserae), arranged and affixed to a hard surface to create an image.

Polymer Clay a sculpture material made of polymer polyvinyl chloride (PVC).

Papier Maché is French for “chewed-up paper,” this technique is constructed of material that consists of pieces of paper, sometimes reinforced with textiles, stuck together. The paper is cut into strips and soaked in a paste of water and flour until saturated. The saturated pieces are then placed onto a surface, or an armature or skeleton and allowed to dry slowly until becoming solid. Once dried, the material can be cut, sanded and/or painted.

Stoneware a high-fire pottery with slight or no absorbency. It is usually gray in color but may be tan or slightly red. Stoneware is similar in many respects to porcelain; the chief difference is the color, because of iron and other impurities in the clay.

Terracotta clay that is fired. It tends to be more brittle and rough in texture.

Throwing forming pottery in clay by using a potter’s wheel.

Sculpture and 3D Work

3D Printing any of various processes in which material is joined or solidified under computer control to create a three-dimensional object, with material being added together (such as liquid molecules or powder grains being fused together).

Alabaster a fine-grained gypsum stone widely used for indoor sculpture.

Assemblage three-dimensional compositions of different media and/or selected materials, often of found objects.

Dura Stone a product made of a limestone composite base.

Leslie Zukor,
Woof Behind the Wheel

Carrie Albert *Seattle, WA*

Albert expresses her artistic visions in myriad ways, including collage, poetry, assemblage, drawing and photographs. 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 pieces 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 comes from Langston Hughes, “Perhaps the mission of an artist is to interpret beauty to people—the beauty within themselves.”



Linda Killingsworth, *Pick One*

Brandon Allebach

Albuquerque, NM

Allebach a painter for more than 13 years, uses acrylic on canvas for his creations. He has focused on abstract art and his style, Cubism. Allebach has Holt-Oram syndrome, a condition which gave him shorter limbs. He says he has never let his shorter arms get in the way of creating art. Allebach does acknowledge the technical challenges he has faced in painting (straight lines and edges, for example), but through the process of problem-solving and using his strengths, he has made his art unique in facing those challenges. “Sometimes I just paint to make beautiful things, but I also paint for catharsis and the ability to emotionally heal through art.”

Jo Allebach *Phoenix, AZ*

Allebach resides in Phoenix, Arizona, and has been painting as therapy for more than 18 years. She has used her art as a therapeutic mechanism to address her mental illness. Allebach uses acrylic paint in a similar manner as oil painters with a more impressionistic style. This gives her more latitude to create illumination, ultimately conveying calmness, peace and happiness. Her goal is to create paintings that

bring joy to the hearts and minds of the viewer. In her life, Allebach has endured deep sadness and the agony of severe anxiety. She also suffers from bipolar disorder. “As soon as I started painting, I just did not want to stop. The peacefulness and relief I felt was unimaginable. My hope is to impact, through art, those who see it, so they feel the wonder of the world.”

Constance Avery *Utica, NY*

As an artist working with vision and hearing loss, Avery has faced many limitations for the last 30 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 journeys. Creating and selling her artwork, which consists of paintings, pottery and photography, has helped Avery to feel more confident and free, despite her disabilities. The different mediums have also helped Avery to expand her artistic explorations reaching within the desires of the art community. “As I travel into my images of art, my limitations disappear...letting me feel free and safe.”

Jess Avery *Collegeville, PA*

Avery was born in 2000 and primarily worked with colored pencil until 2018. During that year



Debby Dernberger, *Yellow Hibiscus*

she was introduced to paints. Today Avery uses acrylic paint, colored pencil, and crayon in creating her artwork. Avery says that her inspiration comes from the supportive people around her regularly acknowledging her artistic talent and creativity.

Jack Beverland *San Antonio, FL*
Beverland, better known as “Mr. B.” is a self-taught Southern folk artist who finds peace of mind in creating art. Starting at the bottom of the corporate ladder, his work ethic later placed him at the top of one of America’s largest chain stores. After being forced into retirement after 32 years of loyal service, he felt betrayed and helpless and his emotions turned to anger and rage. In 1987, Beverland sustained significant injuries in an auto accident.

He was ultimately diagnosed with uncinate seizures and spina bifida. Beverland says, “The sun comes up in the east and sets in the west. You pray to God that everything will happen good in between, but sometimes it doesn’t.” Beverland conquered his “angry beast within” through his art. His works portray the simple life—the life he wants to live, the days of childhood, the dreams he once had, and most importantly, the way he would like life to be.

Shawn Bittenbender

Philadelphia, PA

Bittenbender suffers from advanced asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, which makes breathing difficult. As a result of his breathing difficulties, his hand has a tendency to tremble or shake. However, Bittenbender says that painting helps him control his hand as well as his breathing. Bittenbender believes interesting art is all around us. He likes the challenge of little details. “I am unable to paint when my symptoms flare up but always look forward to the next idea and putting it on canvas.”

Charles Blackwell

Oakland, CA
Blackwell operates on a note of serendipity, by moving colors on paper or canvas. He says that

sometimes he has an image in his mind but it all changes once he approaches the surface, “I use my blindness to execute the final image allowing for it to take on a course of its own.” Producing pieces related to jazz music enables improvisation for the artist. When Blackwell hears people say his work is inspiring, he knows that he has managed to create a synthesis between his art and his blindness and the two move together, working in harmony. “It all comes together in the end.”

Robert Bohle

Arlington, VA
Bohle uses mostly acrylics because he loves how the paint looks after it has dried. He loves the various mediums he can use with acrylics. They can add another dimension, both literally and figuratively. Bohle paints mostly abstracts because he wants the painting itself—the color, consistency, value, shapes and so on—to communicate viscerally to the viewer. Bohle says, “Representational art can rely on responses to the familiar in our world. Rather, I want to say something to the reader, sometimes in a whisper, sometimes with a slap of the face.” Bohle has suffered with Parkinson’s disease for the

past 18 years. He has had four surgeries trying to hold back the progression. Bohle has the usual tremors and stiff movement. “The jagged edges and bold colors and brushstrokes that appear in my paintings represent the interface now between me and the universe.”

Priscilla Bohlen

Bryn Mawr, 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 using



Rose Wolfe, *Summertime*

watercolor, oil, pastel, acrylic and mixed media. 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 throughout the mid-Atlantic region in galleries including Space 1026, Fleisher/Ollman, apexart, and John Lucas Gallery.

Joan Bowers

Seattle, WA
Following Bowers’ 40-year career as a nurse practitioner and educator, she launched her photography career in 2001 when she immersed herself in

film and darkroom study. In order to add more to her art, Bowers began using the lith development process. Now in her eighties, she is awaiting a move to an independent living community where she will not have space for a darkroom. Thus, while she must restrict some activities, Bowers plans to learn new approaches to creating art. “While I am finding myself acceding to my limitations, I will not be inactive. My search for beauty in nature, and in my own and others’ art continues.”

Beth Breslin

Philadelphia, PA
Breslin is a Drexel Hill native who has been at Inglis House for two years. She says art runs in her family as both her father and sister are artists. Breslin enjoys painting nature and scenery, preferring to use blue and purple hues in her work.

DoN Brewer

Philadelphia, PA
Brewer is dedicated to making art every day. This includes his passion for drawing, painting, writing, blogging, photography, video, web design and search engine optimization. Brewer sees multimedia as a means to incorporate traditional visual and communication skills, as well as drawing and writing, with computer technologies such as video, photography and internet

experience design. Whether it’s making a mark with charcoal on paper or writing computer code, both provide Brewer with an outward expression of his visions of the world. Living with Crohn’s disease has both positive and negative effects on his artwork. On the one hand, Brewer stays home on the computer a lot and has created an online persona that reaches a wide audience. On the other hand, sometimes he doesn’t feel well enough to travel to art shows and events, attend art workshops or write his art blog. “My fans don’t know me as a disabled person; they support me for who I am, as an artist.”

Shelby Brown

Hawesville, KY
Brown’s work is forged from her own technicolor daydreamed world which is then translated onto a surface. It is a compilation of featureless figures and loud vivid colors, woven together with various textures of acrylic paints, various types of cardstock, and hand-painted paper. Through mixed media collage, Brown’s work seeks to evoke the loud texture that empowers the overwhelmingly crowded environment and awakens the uneasiness that lies within each composition. Through her work she depicts

her experiences with Asperger’s syndrome and sensory-related issues. Brown uses faceless figures to convey the difficulties with her overwhelming anxiety and cognitive processing she experiences in crowded, social situations due to overstimulation by her surroundings.

Allen Bryan

Saugerties, NY
Bryan first began painting when he set up an easel next to his aunt at the age of four. Since then, Bryan has been a visual artist and his varied careers include being an art teacher, filmmaker, a partner of a fine craft gallery, a jewelry designer/goldsmith, and a photographer (since 1983). Retinitis pigmentosa has gradually narrowed his visual field, reduced color perception, caused night blindness, and slowed down adapting to bright and dim light. Bryan’s pictures continue to re-examine and reorganize his photographic life through photo assemblages that question a comfortable reality. He says “I became a better photographer after I learned that I was losing my eyesight.” Bryan’s work has been in exhibitions at The Smithsonian Institute, the Kennedy Center, Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital and numerous other museums and galleries.



Gwen Duda, *Bold Bounty*

Sonya Bryson-Kirksey

Tampa, FL
A few months before retiring from her 20-year career in the United States Air Force, Bryson-Kirksey was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. From the beginning, she used a variety of art forms such as crochet, drawing and painting to express her inner turmoil after her diagnosis. Now, Bryson-Kirksey uses that same angst to focus on the things she loves and to develop subjects that are fun and different. She primarily works with acrylics and oil on canvas, palm tree pieces, or other wood materials. “Art has had a profound effect on my outlook, and I find on the days I produce art of any kind, it is a positive day.”

Mary Ellen Cabry *Philadelphia, PA*
Cabry is a native of West Philadelphia who is inspired by art. She enjoys using bright colors in her creations and is excited to exhibit her work. She lives and takes art classes at Inglis House, a specialty nursing care facility that provides long-term, residential care for adults with physical disabilities. “Art inspires me. I enjoy our classes and I’m always learning something new. It makes me feel happy.”



Robert Flatt, *Hummingbird Flying in the Morning Sun*

Brian Cagle *Newport News, VA*
Cagle is an art educator, sculptor and craftsman. He focuses on combining a diverse range of media to create works that are both functional and beautiful. His favorite quote comes from Pablo Picasso; “Every child is an artist. The problem is how to

remain an artist once we grow up.” Cagle suffers from attention deficit hyperactivity (ADHD) and dyslexia. These disabilities make focusing on tasks to completion and rote memory retention extremely difficult. While he has always excelled at conceptual knowledge; things like names and dates are like water through a sieve to his mind. Sculpture and wood working have always been the exception. “Through sculpture and wood working I find a focus and clarity of mind unlike any other in my life and through my art I found my passion for teaching.”

Anthe Capitan-Valais *Flourtown, PA*
Capitan-Valais’ mission is to create interesting and distinctive art that spreads joy to those who admire and own it. A former dancer, she has survived several car accidents and is currently overcoming post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Capitan-Valais’ current muse is motion, from dance, music and life. “I am determined to create no matter the circumstances.”

Monica Chulewicz *Seaford, NY*
Chulewicz primarily works as a printmaker and fiber artist, often working in monotype and cyanotype. Themes she addresses in her art practice convey the

daily struggle she deals with living with several chronic and progressive illnesses, both known and undiagnosed. Chulewicz often focuses on pain, grief/loss, the unknown, ableism, and more. Her artwork has been a great outlet for her to convey what words come up short in describing. When new symptoms arise or existing ones worsen tenfold, Chulewicz often very quickly thinks of how she could convey this on paper. “In many ways, it’s my voice and how I deal with the turmoil of poor and declining health.”

Betsy Clayton *Dresher, PA*
Art has always been a part of Clayton’s life. When her eight children were young, she taught art classes, experimented in costuming and set design, and provided artwork for their school events. Since becoming blind due to macular degeneration, she has revised her focus from two-dimensional works to sculpture and paper mâché. Following her diagnosis, Clayton’s strong will and determination inspired her to continuously improve her art’s quality. As a mother, grandmother, and daycare provider for 25 years, Clayton’s love of children is apparent in her work. She has exhibited work in the National Exhibits of Blind

Artists, the Wills Eye Hospital and the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

Cathy Cobb *Shreveport, LA*
Cobb’s acrylic painting journey began in 2016 after a life-altering diagnosis of lupus nephritis. She picked up some supplies and something inside her took off. Everyday experiences became abstracted as viewed from different angles throughout her initial adjustment and recovery. Fear, determination, despair and hope were daily companions. Painting helped Cobb explore and express these emotions safely and fully. A forced slower pace gave her a greater appreciation for daily blessings, a consistent artistic theme. Cobb’s artwork helps her focus on the joy of now and the hope of the future. “Painting has opened up an exciting new chapter in my life that, despite my condition, makes me feel strong and excited about the future.”

Debra Hope Colligan *West Harwich, MA*
Colligan says her artwork is her “dialogue with the world,” where each element a sentence, and each stroke on canvas a paragraph. It’s the language of creating oil paintings that connects her to the world and has done so throughout her life. The subjects, objects, seascapes

“Sometimes I just paint to make beautiful things, but I also paint for catharsis and the ability to emotionally heal through art.” —Brandon Allebach

and landscapes she is touched by, are her means of artistic communication to identify the content. When eyes of an animal reach out to her, or a musician’s music inspires her, Colligan responds with artwork to express her feelings. She sustained a traumatic brain injury (TBI) from a horseback riding accident that significantly changed her life. Colligan believes that art has expanded her life and that healing is essentially a creative process. “Through my art I have created a new state of health for myself, pursuing an artist’s life.”

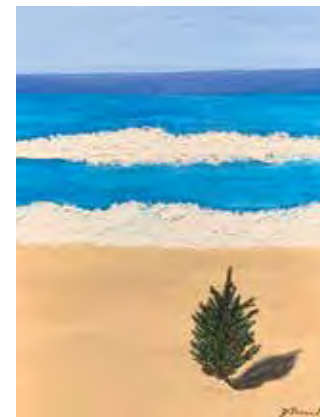
Maureen Collins *Wilmington, DE*
Collins received her first camera as a gift when she was eight years old. This began a lifelong passion for the visual arts and changed the way she saw the world. Collins’ journey is woven through photography, painting, collage, ceramics, mosaics, silver work and fabric design. It’s through this journey that the images in one medium often inspire and flow through others. Guillain-Barré syndrome slowed life into a much lower speed and allowed her the

grace of dimensionally changing her creative perspectives and abilities. Hope became the path of each day through many years. Collins is so grateful for the arts, their healing qualities and for the creative process. It allows her to express the individuality of each day, to share its beauty and unique imprint, and to appreciate its expression in others.

Malcolm Corley *Lancaster, PA*
Corley, born in 1999, was diagnosed with autism at the age of three. He has had three solo art shows, and his drawings and paintings have been published in Hot Metal Bridge, Up the Staircase, Fusion, and The Penn Review. Corley says he wants his art to make people happy.

Nicole Cote *Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada*
Cote is a painter and embroiderer who focuses on mental health themes. She started doing art as therapy and has continued its practice as a type of advocacy.

Mike Coury *Fort Bragg, CA*
Coury likes to draw animals and people. He also enjoys painting



John Ohman, *Pine Tree On The Beach*

the ocean and the sunsets. Coury says he loves his sisters very much and he loves making art and selling it!

Paul Cox *Coatesville, PA*
Cox was a patient at Bryn Mawr Rehabilitation Hospital after suffering a tragic motorcycle accident. Even with significant brain and spinal injuries, he resumed his photography as soon as possible while still a patient at Bryn Mawr Rehab. His first photographs after his accident were on the hospital grounds. Cox chose the Canadian Geese as his first subjects and continued photographing them through his outpatient therapy as well. Cox’s art continues to play a significant role in helping him manage this life-changing experience.

Communication with other people continues to be a large challenge for Cox. His photography has given him a way to communicate and share emotions with family and friends.

Jen Dacota *Conshohocken, PA*
Art was always a part of Dacota’s life but more as a hobby than a career. Following a traumatic closed head injury, art took center stage and she began to paint as a therapeutic means to stimulate brain activity. Many of her works were created using her fingers and hands rather than brushes. She prefers this method when the subject matter and medium allow it. It is very instinctual and “free.” Her paintings contain brilliant vivid color, and expressive form and movement. “I paint the way I see things, and how I feel regarding various personal as well as global events. Since mainly her vision was affected by her stroke, she no longer has normal vision, and would not be able to reproduce an image as it actually exists. I feel that this “disability” has served me well as it allows me to be truly self-expressive.”

Monique Dennis *Dallas, PA*
Dennis attends the Verve Vertu Art Studio in Dallas, Pennsylvania. Having cerebral palsy, she has limited dexterity and mobility

in her arms and hands. Dennis does not let any limitations get in her way of creating unique, fun and whimsical creations. She enjoys creating and wiring button sculptures such as angels, trees and more. She also creates beautiful earrings, bracelets and necklaces utilizing a variety of beads and buttons. Dennis also enjoys creating with gutta or wax batiks on muslin where she uses fabric dyes in bright colors. Her imagination is limitless, as she comes up with very unique ideas and inspirations. Dennis is very generous and loves to create gifts for others. She gets fulfillment and joy from creating and it enhances her life.

Debby Dernberger

San Francisco, CA

Dernberger is an accomplished professional artist who studied in California. With more than 25 years of fine art showings, a mural and sign painting business, and teaching art to seniors and developmentally disabled adults, she shares her passion for the arts with her local community. Dernberger has completed most of her paintings in the last few years and her inspiration seems limitless. She paints vibrant images that capture the essence of life itself with a sincere and

inimitable vision in every paint stroke. She finds truth to always be stranger than fiction. Although Dernberger has been creating art all her life, it is the therapy that has saved her life over the years when she was unable to get to a doctor's office. She celebrates 20+ years of sobriety and makes time to paint almost every day.

Samuel Dietze *Altoona, PA*

Dietze is a legally blind artist who paints in oils and acrylics. He works on large oil paintings at home and smaller acrylic paintings outside. The oil paintings are mainly abstract or impressionist. The acrylic paintings are mainly impressionist or realist. Dietze likes nature subjects such as

landscapes, sunsets, trees, the night sky, astronomy and the ocean. He says he's been a serious artist since about 1990. Words that motivate Dietze artistically, "As a man thinketh so shall it be." With limited mobility due to his blindness, Dietze's art allows him to be doing things outside so that he's not stuck in the house all the time. Dietze is involved with other artists in groups and organizations. Art has allowed him to meet new people and he enjoys getting his work out there for the public to see.

Thomas Dillon *Stroudsburg, PA*

Dillon first learned the basics of painting from his mother. He uses acrylic, pencil, pen and

watercolor. Sketches, with a combination of paint and colored pencils, often germinate ideas for larger paintings. Dillon's subject matter varies from contemporary, surreal, and figurative work. Dillon has completed portraits of his children and colleagues as well as surreal nudes and landscapes. His work has been published in books and newspapers, and they have been used by for-profit and nonprofit businesses including art galleries. In 2007, Dillon was seriously injured in a motorcycle accident where he sustained many injuries including head trauma. After multiple hospitalizations and corrective surgeries, Dillon was later diagnosed with a mental illness. "Art has saved my life. It helps me cope with the symptoms of mental illness. It also gives me a sense of accomplishment and a way to communicate what I feel and experience."

Allison Doatch *Edison, NJ*

Doatch is a formally trained artist living in Edison, New Jersey. She uses a variety of media, including colored pencils and acrylics, and her favorite subject matter is flowers. Doatch likes to create photorealistic artwork. When she looks at a photograph, she is able to create a composition that is

very close to the original picture. Doatch also works at a local hospital as a medical information specialist, and is currently working on a mural project at the facility. Art has played a major role in her life, especially living with an autistic spectrum disorder. "There are days where my disability can affect me, but when I draw or paint, I feel very confident in myself that I am doing something special."

Gwen Duda

Toronto, Ontario, Canada

With a firm foundation in realism, Duda's work is now best described as abstract expressionism. She uses primarily acrylics, watercolors, charcoal, and oils to create nature-inspired paintings. Her artwork strives to communicate the power, intense beauty, and healing magic of nature, in all of its seasons and moods. Duda finds solace and strength in nature, from the night skies to the day's sunlight, the birds, the wind, all of it. It has helped her keep her sanity through some very difficult times. She says when she paints, "Time suspends itself and allows that which can never truly be defined, but buoys my spirit, to continue and endure till joy is finally released from the effort." Duda

lives for color and she considers herself a colorist.

Clara Edmon *Oklahoma City, OK*

Edmon says that art is the main source of her identity and self-esteem. She has clinical depression, a learning disability, COPD and chronic pain from rheumatoid arthritis. She believes she has gained much relief by expressing herself through her artwork. Edmon works mostly in oil and starts by sketching, then drawing on canvas, followed by painting the background, and then the foreground and finally the highlights. Sometimes it is hard for her to feel well enough to create due to her illness and disability but she strives to continue when she can. Edmon feels that the visual artist takes her audience to a new and exciting level of consciousness, into her mind and soul. "When I create a painting, I feel challenged to get my audience's attention and to discover effective ways to share my ideas with them."

Herbert Eilertsen *Coatesville, PA*

After being diagnosed with ankylosing spondylitis, Eilertsen was no longer able to run his framing and art supply business. After many months of regaining strength and finding his new rhythm of function, he was able



Michael Heitler, *The Temple Bar*

to focus on his inner passion—painting. Eilertsen feels it is not always strength and stamina that gives rise to a sure success in anything, but weakness or trial that births the comprehension that life is but a short breath, and every day we can celebrate life through what we can create. His current focus is on river paintings where he believes he has developed his own unique style. Eilertsen believes that painful period of his life still helps him in his painting as he reaches out to express the beauty and wonder of this world.

Nancy Eilertsen *Coatesville, PA*

After starting a family and living on a farm for 10 years, Eilertsen had a successful career as an artist. She developed a series of pen and ink designs and had them printed, Eilertsen would hand-paint each design with acrylics in different color motifs. Though she had already stopped creating her paintings due to a variety of circumstances, Eilertsen

developed macular degeneration in 2000. Her disease progressed to the point where she decided to live with her son. It was Eilertsen's son who convinced her that with a magnifying glass and a drafting table, she could resurrect her art and she began painting again in 2016. Eilertsen said, "When watching TV is no longer possible, and hearing aids cannot fully supplement my hearing loss, to have something I can return to that I totally enjoy is incredible."

Matt Emerson *Youngstown, OH*

Emerson began painting in his teens while watching *The Magic of Oil Painting*, an instructional television show hosted by PBS. He saved money from various jobs to purchase paint and drawing supplies. Art was always pushed to the back burner until he was forced to retire after his diagnosis with muscular dystrophy in 2013. His arms and legs were affected, and he realized he might lose his ability to paint. Emerson faced depression but realized the key to overcoming his feelings was to push himself to create new art. After identifying a new perspective, he says colors were different and he found himself looking at simple things, studying different light sources and finding the colors buried in shadows



George Kossivas, *Energy—Underground*

hidden in bright light. Emerson doesn't know how much longer he'll be able to hold a brush, but for now, will continue to create artwork.

Gen Farrell *Burleson, TX*

Farrell is currently retired from a 25-year teaching career in high school art. Pursuing her artwork full time, she works in a traditional method, primarily in oil paint. Her images are of the life that she lives and with the people and the horses that she knows. Farrell has a benign essential tremor, which she has lived with since she was 20 years old. Her work has always given her a sense of self-worth and achievement. Farrell says that people are always amazed that she can do what she does with a tremor. Her handwriting is terrible, but for some reason she can paint. Farrell is inspired by the words spoken in the movie Inception, "You mustn't be afraid to dream a little bigger, darling."

Robert Flatt *Houston, TX*

Flatt started his crazy 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."

"Through my art I have created a new state of health for myself, pursuing an artist's life."

—Debra Hope Colligan

Gail Foley *Royersford, 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 in Royersford. This allowed her love for photography, an early passion of Foley's, to return to her life. She now spends 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."

Emily Forbes *Hopkins, MN*

Forbes is an abstract, intuitive artist working in a variety of mediums such as acrylic, alcohol ink, and mixed media. She loves to explore new techniques with anything she can get her hands on. Forbes says she is influenced by nature and modern life, color, movement, hope, and kindness. It is her goal that these themes come through in her finished works, blended-up with wonder. Art has become a huge source of healing for Forbes following an accident resulting in a traumatic brain injury. She says it helps her uncover emotions and be more mindful, which has yielded some interesting creations and a better understanding of self. "Those who don't believe in magic will never find it." —Roald Dahl

Robert Gallagher *Berwyn, PA*

Gallagher only started painting regularly since the retirement from his law practice in 2001 due to his disability. He is entirely self-taught and he finds it cathartic

to paint. Gallagher's paintings, acrylic on canvas, are full of vivid color. "I paint what is there, not what I see," is his explanation of the many abstract paintings he has completed in the last several years. Gallagher says that because his disability severely limits the use of his hands, he has had to adapt over the years and innovate, in order to create the images he envisions. He says it takes time and patience for him to finish a painting, but fortunately Gallagher has plenty of both. "I recognize the therapeutic power of art. It helps me transcend daily life and reach into the creative side of my brain."

Ginger Gehres *Chocowinity, NC*

Art is Gehres' passion. It was once her vocation in life and when her health changed dramatically, it became her therapy. Today, it is Gehres' joy to create visual stories and share them with others. Her favorite medium, scratchboard art, is a reductive process where ink is removed from a substrate to produce a positive image. How it is taken off, typically with a knife, can vary and create wonderful textures and tones. She also adds colored inks to her work. Gehres struggles with grand mal seizures, chronic migraines and interstitial cystitis but she takes advantage

of the days she feels well enough to work on her art. Her favorite life quote is, "Keep your face to the sunshine and you will not see the shadows."—Helen Keller

Ann Marie Geiger *Ambler, PA*

Geiger believes that hobbies have been both her salvation and great passion in life. She was born with a rare bone condition, osteogenesis imperfecta, also known as brittle bones. This condition caused her to rely on the use of a wheelchair for mobility. While growing up, Geiger had a birdfeeder outside her window. Watching the birds along with having pets to nurture, opened Geiger's eyes to a world of

unbelievable beauty and brought her peace, regardless of what she might be going through. Later on, a camera motivated her to show other people what she was seeing. Photography has become Geiger's creative way to capture the beauty of animals and nature. "It is a great challenge for me to get unique photographs that inspire the viewer!"

Maria Genovese *Drexel Hill, PA*

Genovese was born in Southern Italy and began drawing as a youngster when she took a sketching course at Rome's Fine Art Institute. She is passionate about creating art and using

her God-given talent! Genovese continues to learn watercolor techniques and prefers sketching faces and human figures. In September of 2015, during a routine cataract surgery, a cataract broke inside her eye, while being extracted. Her vision is constantly foggy, her eye puffy and irritated, which prevents her from living a normal life. When Genovese sketches or paints, her eye gets blurry and irritated to the extent that she has to stop for a long time. The only way she can adjust to this is to pray, follow her doctor's advice and wait for her vision to return.

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."

Bunky Givens *Essington, PA*

Givens receives a great deal of satisfaction expressing herself artistically. Her pursuit was interrupted in 1973 from a serious automobile accident resulting in a broken femur, broken jaw, temporary left-side paralysis, eye displacement and brain trauma. She was treated at Riddle Hospital and Bryn Mawr Rehabilitation Hospital. Givens says it gives her pleasure to have the opportunity to show her artwork at the Art Ability exhibit. "They have helped me physically, mentally and emotionally!" She enjoys Paul Klee, Claude Monet, the Wyeths, Thomas Kincaid and Berthe Morisot. "After being a wife and mother, I feel genuinely fortunate to have had an art environment with mentors and having art back in my life again has given me something beautiful to work with!"

Patricia Goodrich

Richlandtown, PA

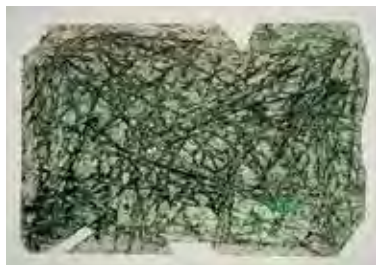
Goodrich is a visual artist and a poet. She says process is key to her work. Sometimes a piece begins with an idea, sometimes with the material itself. She enjoys both the physical work



Emily McGuigan, *Elephant* 6/6

and the mental play. Goodrich works with a variety of media, as well as creating earthworks and installations. Having lost her lower left leg in a motorcycle accident, Goodrich says those few missing inches contribute to a sense of “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. “The sense of connection and, at the same time, freedom is a gift art gives me. I hope to pass it on to those who view what I create.”

Linda Goschke *Philadelphia, PA*
Goschke is interested in our sensual experience, especially of the natural world, in other words, our expectations related to existing forms, what is considered common and uncommon, and the nature of beauty. Common objects have power to evoke



Daniel Rothenberg,
Cutting up a Plate-Green

unexpected responses. Her work allows her to examine our relationship to the environment and experiment with abstract interpretations of it. Goschke looks for revealing, unexpected, and often challenging views. 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 challenges pushed her more into the digital realm: precise methodology and multiple creative outcomes, assisting with focus, and using few hazardous chemicals. “Art is about communicating ideas, no matter the medium.”

Linnie Greenberg *Ardmore, PA*
Greenberg took her first art workshop in 2011, a short time after developing tinnitus (which resulted in 80% hearing loss) and long after her children were grown and had children of their own. 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 she says she is still exploring and learning about art. Greenberg cuts

imaginary creatures and organic shapes from hand-painted 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.”

Ina Greenstein *Philadelphia, PA*
It wasn’t until her children were grown and she didn’t have to earn a living, that Greenstein was able to rekindle her passion for art. Originally focused on oils, she took a course in watercolor painting and was smitten instantly. Greenstein says, “Capturing the light captivates me—this ability to have the light shine through the painting. It has been a rewarding and engrossing pursuit of self-expression.” She gains inspiration from the watercolor artist Richard Schmidt, “...a faint confluence of the tangible and the spiritual is where art comes from. It has no known limits.” Greenstein’s eye disease occasionally necessitates some brief artistic down times to allow her vision to come back into focus. During this interval, she is forced to stop any activity that requires sharp vision.

Dick Grodt *Cedar Rapids, IA*
Grodt believes that the objective of his art is to go beyond recording just what he sees into what he imagines. To create paintings that are not just pleasing visually but that are also richly evocative. As he describes it, he dances with a brush instead of his feet. Confined to a wheel chair due to a hereditary spinal cord disorder, Dick finds that the gracefulness of watercolor has transformed his life; both painting and teaching watercolor classes cocoons him from his disability and enables him to pursue a rewarding and successful life. Dick is a signature member of the Iowa Watercolor Society and has had many solo shows. His work has received recognitions in national as well as international exhibitions.

Susan Gustafson *Vancouver, WA*
Gustafson was diagnosed with retinitis pigmentosa more than 30 years ago. Retiring from her career in dental hygiene 20 years after her diagnosis, Gustafson’s current visual capacity is about the size of a 3x5 card. With the aid of a guide dog she is able to travel independently. Gustafson says she sees the world through this “window” and captures the image on her iPhone. Later she sits and uses dark lines to delineate the

space and adds subtle shading by using an underpainting and then layering transparent pigments. She loves the way watercolors move and mingle; the mystic mingling of pigments which she is then left to accept, and find a solution that is beautiful and representative of the image she wishes to preserve.

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 the mechanism of discerning reality is through the eyes.”

Jessica Hays *Bozeman, MT*
Hays is a conceptual photographer, alternative process printmaker, and curator from Bozeman, Montana. Her work focuses on human relationships, mental health, trauma, loss, and places of healing. She works in



Gregory Harvey, *Black Moshannon*

a variety of processes including pigment printing, historic photo processes, and handmade artist books. Hays struggles with mental illness, which serves as inspiration for her work, and drives her to create and share in order to help others with similar struggles.

Michael Heitler *Melville, NY*
Dr. Heitler works in gouache, pastel, oil pastel, acrylic and mixed media at his studio in Melville, New York. He has studied at the Brooklyn Museum School of Art, Colgate University and the New School. Dr. Heitler’s work has been widely exhibited in the New York metropolitan area. A pediatrician Dr. Heitler recently retired from working at the Child Neurology Service at Winthrop University Hospital. Diagnosed with primary

progressive aphasia, it is difficult for him to communicate, but he expresses himself by writing, drawing and painting. Dr. Heitler enjoys spending time in his sun-drenched Long Island studio.

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. Stones are used 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.”

Chris Hinchey *Philadelphia, PA*
Hinchey moved to Inglis House about one year ago and says he enjoys participating in the art program because he likes to learn new things. In addition to developing his painting skills, Hinchey is continuing to flex his artistic muscles by learning to play the piano.

Kong Ho *Bradford, PA*
Using a technique consisting of free-flowing, wave-like patterns with subtly controlled washes of glaze, Ho’s flora-spiral paintings exemplify the theme and style of her ongoing body of work, the “Luminosity Series.” She feels her polio disability strengthens her personality and sensibility in art-making. Ho’s art enables her to express her feelings about the limitation of her physical mobility through the symbolic imagery of transformation and change. Ho says that to a certain extent, her disability affects her in pursuing the spiritual freedom in her work. “The symbolic

meanings of my work go beyond the illusionary representation, but reach out for the transcendental space and eternal cycle.”

Debbie Huff *Landenberg, PA*
Huff is an emerging artist who has been painting with alcohol ink for two years, enjoying how bright and vibrant this medium is. She started to paint after an ankle injury, which stopped her from her previous hobbies of cycling and hiking. Huff has a personal interest in painting wildlife and flowers from her local area or bright-colored animals she has seen in the zoo. Born with visual impairments, she is legally blind in one eye and has limited vision in her “good” eye. Huff’s depth, peripheral and distance vision is different than full-sighted people, which causes her to focus more on the subject in her paintings versus the background. Limited to just two hours a day, she still feels art fills a creative need in her.

Han Huisman *Saint Croix Falls, WI*
Huisman is a neuroscientist and an abstract material artist. He loves working with what he finds at garage sales and thrift stores. Huisman believes that in science today there is no longer much to actually see. It takes place on a subatomic level and the outcomes are expressed in



Kong Ho, *Glowing Daaffodil Corona*

numbers. Huisman says that in his head he follows the reaction steps and visualized them into images. This is the same process he follows in his artwork. Huisman works primarily with objects with the paint being secondary, but still very important. Huisman says he is, but does not feel, disabled. He very much believes that even with his physical challenges he is still able to concentrate on his goals.

Alonzo Humphrey *Philadelphia, PA*
Humphrey is a visual artist who was born in Chattanooga, Tennessee. His mother, also an artist, shared her love of art-making with her son at a young age. Alonzo says they used to sit beside each other at the kitchen table and draw. He moved to Philadelphia in 1980 and there he continued producing his lyrical renderings of people

and landscapes. Alonzo 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.

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, with brief incursions into traditional media such as acrylic on various supports. Iverson works with shapes, colors and textures in an attempt to reach something greater than the sum of those parts. “Art makes it possible for me to share the way I see the world, both positively and negatively, and engage the larger philosophical questions of what is beauty or art, and how can it be used to communicate an inner world to the broader world.” Iverson’s physical and mental issues make it challenging to produce work of high quality, judge the quality of his own work, and open himself up for judgment.

Mimi Barclay 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 fine art. 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.”

Mark Kaufman *Wilmington, DE*
Kaufman says our humanity grants us only partial access to the truth. Much of his truth emerges from being bipolar. He works in watercolors, layering washes. The figures are explorations of mood and emotion rather than landscapes. Kaufman is a signature member of the Philadelphia, Baltimore and Delaware Watercolor societies. He has appeared in exhibitions across the country including the New Orleans National Show, Focus Point International Gallery, Gallery 311, Nude Nite in Orlando and Tampa, Florida, Au Natural in Portland Oregon and in the annual exhibitions of Works on Paper at the Philadelphia, Baltimore, Pennsylvania and Houston Watercolor Societies.

Kaufman now lives in Wilmington, Delaware, with his wife of 50 years and his cat named Cat.

Marie Kelly *Philadelphia, PA*
Living at Inglis House for more 24 years, Kelly loves to read and has a great sense of humor. She is one of the original members of the Exploring Art group and loves to paint. Kelly lives with hearing and vision impairments and is a talented artist who loves to paint flowers and work on colored pencil drawings.

Linda Killingsworth *Elverson, PA*
Killingsworth was forced to give up her active lifestyle after several surgeries. She became seriously depressed and credits her self-taught pencil art as the activity which saved her. Killingsworth chooses colored pencils because



Jace Laakso, *Under Fire Maple*

they allow her the fine details she loves. She is intrigued by the awe of ordinary objects and the artistic possibilities they offer. She is a member of the Colored Pencil Society of America, and has been an award winner in their International Exhibition. Her artwork has also been published in colored pencil magazines, and she has illustrated two books. Killingsworth also designs note cards from her work for companies in New York, Chicago and San Francisco. She is also one of the founders of the Historic Yellow Springs Art Show located in Chester Springs, Pennsylvania.

Cheryl Kinderknecht *Bradenton, FL*
Kinderknecht is a mixed media artist and former gallery owner. Regardless of the medium or subject matter, her work is influenced by the colors, patterns, and textures of the Kansas High Plains landscape where she grew up. Emotions, dreams, myths, metaphors, memories and ancestral ties from her interior landscape further anchor and inform her work. Kinderknecht says, “The creative process has always energized me and continuing to work on art, despite my compromised vision, helps me to feel connected, grounded,

and relevant, both within my own life and to the world.” Over the past 15 years, her artwork has been increasingly impacted by her failing eyesight. Her condition limits and skews how objects and colors appear and which tools and techniques remain within her realm of usable vision.

Paul Kline *Coral Gables, FL*
After abandoning his first career of painting and photography for almost 30 years, Kline returned to his passion after being diagnosed with parkinsonism. He works in many different media: encaustic (hot wax), the combination of oil and cold wax, acrylic, mixed media, and photography. Kline says he enjoys working rapidly and spontaneously, incorporating all the “accidents and mistakes” as they occur. His inspiration comes from constantly observing his surroundings and studying lines, shapes, colors, patterns, textures and shadows. His subject matter is drawn from memories of places and events, topography, historical periods of art, and sometimes purely from the visual and tactile sensations of surfaces and objects. “In the end, my goal is to create a work that is expressive, more organic than planned and often emotionally driven and serendipitous.”

Amanda Klinger*Beach Haven Gardens, NJ*

Though born with normal hearing, at age 25, Klinger began to lose this capability and was deaf within 18 months. She feels her artwork has been enhanced by her deafness. Klinger says her un-carved, “silent” pieces stand alone in a noisy world that does not listen. “Sometimes you listen better with your eyes and hands.” Using acrylics, Klinger paints heavily, with a chaos of colors to create different textures, movements and emotions throughout the canvas, which have brought her frustrations of ignorance to the surface. Klinger says that people think she’s missing something. They do not realize that she’s not sad by her deafness. “Have you ever thought what you may be missing from all the noise of ignorance? See my deaf voice within my paintings. I hear what you cannot see.”

Eamon Klinges *Dallas, PA*

Klinges attends the Verve Vertu Art Studio once a week. He enjoys painting with acrylic paint, block printing, and utilizing fabric dyes onto wax or gutta batiks, which are on fabric or rice paper. Art is very therapeutic and relaxing to Klinges. He has sold and exhibited his artwork since 2014 at various

art shows and at the Verve Vertu gallery and boutique. Klinges has created artwork with various mediums and art techniques and has created many block print greeting cards. He is always learning new techniques when creating. Klinges loves music and playing the drums, which he says helps him paint with rhythm.

Carmie Klucinec *Wynnewood, PA*

In the fall of 2017, Klucinec was hit on her head by a large wooden plank. She had no idea what would lie ahead in her life. All she thought of was darkness. It was all around her. Her three beautiful children and husband could not reach her. As Klucinec went through recovery, she found the Main Line Art Center and attended classes to learn about Raku and Chinese watercolor. Each piece of artwork she creates has a special meaning about a person that inspired her and she makes these pieces hoping to bring a smile and positive energy to people. “These mediums, Raku and Chinese watercolor, help me find peace, focus and balance in life as I recover from my traumatic brain injury.”

Ty Klug *Philadelphia, PA*

Klug has always been an artist. No matter what form it took, it was always art to him. Whether

it was poetry, carpentry, cooking or painting and drawing, there was always some form of creative expression in his work. After his 2005 diagnosis with primary progressive multiple sclerosis, he rededicated himself to his original love of art in all its color, splendor and form. Klug’s main concern as an artist has always been to express his unique perspective on life. He is a firm believer that we are souls first; the afflictions

“The sense of connection and, at the same time, freedom is a gift art gives me. I hope to pass it on to those who view what I create.” —Patricia Goodrich

of the body are fleeting. Klug says he is interested in creating art that conveys this message. He attempts to capture the feeling through his use of color. He tries to communicate a feeling or sensation through the shape and form.

David Kontra *Hartville, MO*

Kontra is a self-taught expressionist artist using acrylics, pens, ink and an assortment of unusual useful tools. Having retinitis pigmentosa makes it difficult to create his work for he can only see a quarter inch of the canvas at a time. Art has made

Kontra feel more independent when he paints or draws; it is the art and himself, in his own personal world, enabling him to release emotions. This is the definition of expressionism, he says, “I open my mind and allow my memory and imagination to cut through the blindness in order to create the visions that I see.”

George Kossivas *Fort Bragg, CA*

Kossivas grew up in Los Angeles and says he had the opportunity

to visit many museums and has seen lots of art. He has been making art on-and-off since high school. Kossivas has worked in painting, sculpture, and ceramics. Right now he is drawing, using pens, and experimenting with pastels and chalk. “I make up the patterns as I go along.”

Jace Laakso *Missoula, MT*

Having contracted polio as an infant, Laakso spent a great deal of time in hospitals. He appreciated the moments when he could see more than the walls of his wardroom. He began to see

details, patterns and connections in the world. “Looking at the landscape, there are spaces between or even under the dominant features that draw my attention.” Laakso says he focuses on seeing instead of looking. He is currently producing reduction relief prints. This process uses a single linoleum block to carve away a layer at a time as each successive color ink is applied. Finally, with the last color, most of the block’s surface has disappeared.

Daphne Lacroix *Philadelphia, PA*

Lacroix’s professional training was in graphic design, but she says her heart always loved the fine art of painting. She began taking continuing education classes at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts (PAFA), and never looked back. Lacroix paints with water-soluble oils on paper and canvas, and her primary subject matter is figures in space. “They are realistically portrayed with a touch of the surreal.” Lacroix says her first art history course laid the groundwork for her intense interest in painting and all visual arts. This spurred her on to gallery and museum-hopping. In 1994, the diagnosis of stage-three breast cancer led Lacroix to making works of art her primary

goal. She says a hand-made work of art enhances her sense of well-being.

Cindy Lally *Bensalem, PA*

Lally has lived in various states due to her husband being transferred frequently in his sales career. She always landed jobs in the graphic arts field. While her two boys were young and in school, she worked for a temporary agency part-time. Lally suffered a traumatic brain injury from falling off a motorized scooter in 2001. Unfortunately she wasn’t wearing a helmet. While a patient at Bryn Mawr Rehab the art displayed left a big impact on her since she loves creating art.

Marilyn Lavins *Philadelphia, PA*

Lavins specializes in painting, jewelry and scarves. She is an alumni of Moore College of Art and received her Bachelor of Fine Arts from Tyler School of Art at Temple University in 1984. She has worked as a jewelry designer, freelance sculptor, porcelain decorator, and even a flight attendant for American Airlines. Due to a tragic automobile accident, she suffers from chronic double vision and requires prism prescription eyeglasses to see. Despite her disability, Lavins has garnered many awards for her work in mixed media, oils, batik, and silk-screening. Her commissioned paintings of

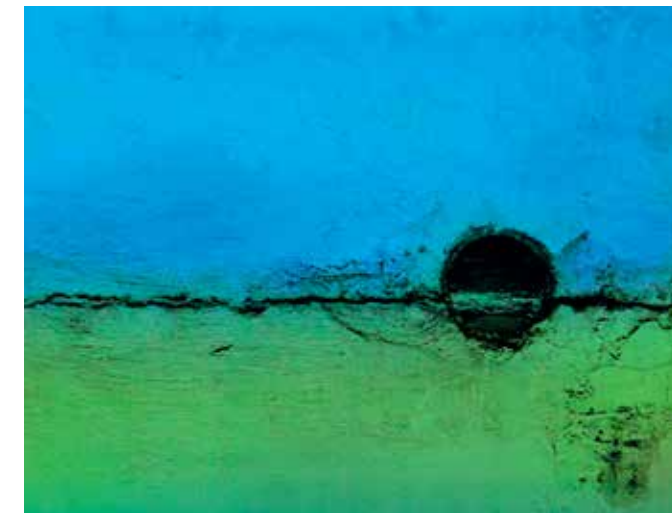
homes are located throughout Pennsylvania and New Jersey, and her work can be found in various collections worldwide.

Cherie Lee *Philadelphia, PA*

“I was afraid my disability would define me...so I let it.” Lee says her work stresses the boundaries of ordinary matter and substance, questioning, “how far” before strength must succumb to its weakness. Her art takes the form of life, asking life, “How strong are we of mind, body or spirit?” It silently poses the same question our universe shouts every day, “How far, before you break?” Lee wishes to provoke contemplative conversations of the tensions and compressions that bridge and anchor us all. Her current direction is propelled by rigorous and imminent personal struggles at hand.

Koun Lee *Los Angeles, CA*

Lee has a synesthetic response to visual stimuli. Her instructor describes her as, “responding to the color yellow by holding her nose or an electric blue makes her fan her face as if the color itself causes a physical reaction.” She has worked in a variety of mediums but she prefers painting and mixed media on paper. Her finished works are often textured and appear thick after building

Kurt Weston, *Nebula*

up many semi-transparent layers. Because Lee's primary language is Korean, she tends to listen and look more than to speak. Her work reflects her daily surroundings, an active studio, with all the people and energy infused into it.

Lindsey Lieu *Saint Louis, MO*
Lieu says she is a storyteller and her nature pushes her to tell certain stories that she can't put into words. She puts those stories into the art she makes with cast resin, paint, and other mixed mediums. She strives to invoke a sense of curiosity. "Artwork may not answer all the questions but it should prompt important conversations to begin within the viewers." Lieu believes that if people can get to an important conclusion on their own, the message will resonate for a lot longer and hopefully make more of a difference. Art helps Lieu stay sane in the midst of her illnesses and she strives to bring hope not just to herself, but to others as well.

Alice Lynch *Melbourne, FL*
Since age four, art has played a large role in Lynch's life. She vividly remembers getting so excited and inspired by visiting museums that she'd feel she couldn't make it home fast enough to start new projects. Lynch had her first hip

replacement surgery at age 17 in the late 90s, after a car accident permanently injured her back. She has mixed connective tissue disease which has gotten worse over time and has required more than 35 surgeries, with still more to come this year. Through all her pain, hospitalizations and recovery, Lynch works very hard to feel well enough to create artwork. "When I can't work," she says, "I feel as though a part of me is missing and I am no longer a complete set. I will get there again!"

Pamela Lynch *Haverford, PA*
Lynch says the earliest memories of her discovery of art expression relates to the beauty of people and nature. Experiencing the process of creating art has been a peaceful escape for her from the worldly environment. "A disability yields to the fulfillment of doing art. Art is being, energetic, and a universal sharing via spiritual communication; whatever the perception of the work. Art is Love. Art is Gratefulness. Art is Enlightenment. Art is Stopping Time." Lynch is a retiree, senior citizen who has explored art at home and by taking classes.

Jacob Mann *Brooklyn, NY*
Mann came to the U.S. from Ukraine 30 years ago, as a widower with two small kids.



Samuel Dietze, *Winter Thaw*

After spending the first years adapting to his new life, he took classes in composition and design, drawing and painting. Mann started doing landscape photography and B&W art photography. Wanting to improve his work, he began using software that allowed him to manipulate images, and change composition and colors. In 2004 Mann was diagnosed with Parkinson's. There was a point where he could no longer create but after undergoing DBS surgery, he's back to his images. Mann is inspired by the Kurdish artist Tishk Barzanji. "I have six small grandchildren now and I hope when they grow up and look at the images their granddad has created, they will look at the world through my eyes."

Zach Manuel *Baltimore, MD*
Manuel joined Make Studio in 2012. He brought with him a strong interest in comics, animation, and

science fiction. A man with many goals in fine and digital art, Manuel has diligently expanded his artistic repertoire beyond colored pencils and markers (which he still uses with great skill today), to become skilled in various media and techniques. He now draws his inspiration from animation as well as real life, and often weaves reflections about art-making, dreams, emotional states, and his personal experiences of autism into his artwork. Manuel is a graduate of the Harbor School.

Alexander Masyk *New York, NY*
Masyk has been exhibiting his artwork since 1970 and has pieces hanging in numerous museums and private collections around the world. In the late 2000s, Masyk had laser treatment due to his history of bilateral glaucoma, which caused complete loss of vision in his left eye. He has a cataract in his right eye, causing difficulty reading and focusing for long periods

of time. Masyk could not make etchings anymore nor could he find the right spot on the canvas with his brush and oil. His great love for fine art gave Masyk the strength and energy to continue to paint, to become a good artist again, and even to continue to participate in prestigious, national juried art exhibitions.

Merritt Maya *Dallas, TX*
When Maya was about 12 years old he was diagnosed with an ependymoma, a tumor inside his spinal cord. After surgery, Maya drew mazes to help regain motor control and fight nerve pain. As time passed, he developed a style of his own and moved from pen and paper to acrylics. "When I paint, I try to fulfill my own aesthetic sense and challenge myself; precise, but just shy of mechanical." Maya believes that art has become a more important factor in his life than he would have ever thought possible, and he plans to continue improving and honing his technique.

Valerie Mayer *Point Roberts, WA*
Mayer began painting watercolors more than 30 years ago, not long after she was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. Living with MS has required her to be flexible and open to the unexpected challenges her disease presents.

She finds that the variable and inconstant nature of watercolor aligns with her approach to living adaptively, and open to change. The natural wonders of the Pacific Northwest region provide Mayer with her subject matter. Her goal as a watercolor artist is to create paintings inspired by places she has visited and the life encountered along the way. She considers her lifelong passion for creativity and art to be a key element in living with MS. She says it provides a unique way to transport her focus from living with impairments and pain, to another world. "I become myself again and not my disease."

Sarah McDaniel *Newport News, VA*
McDaniel's artwork starts out as a clouded idea. She then starts to consider where this idea is coming from. Is it coming from



Cheryl Kinderknecht, *Meow Already*

her past experiences, traumas, relationships, or even her subconscious responding to her current experiences? This step is what the artwork is about and shows the story she is trying to tell. When McDaniel is making art, she uses her life experiences to bring awareness to a topic. McDaniel is currently attending Old Dominion University and plans on continuing her education at Eastern Virginia Medical School for Art Therapy. Her main goal is to spread awareness and heal the tormented. "I want to help them become the best version of themselves and help them find a path to recovery."

Emily McGuigan *West Chester, PA*
McGuigan, a recent graduate from West Chester University, will continue her education at Thomas Jefferson University to receive an MS in Community and Trauma Counseling, Art Therapy Specialization. Her career path aligns with her experiences not only as an artist, but also as someone with a disability. McGuigan's artwork has provided her with the necessary coping skills and continuous healing through her battles with post traumatic stress disorder, major depression, and anxiety. She considers her work as a looking

glass; viewers are given entryway into her state of mind and find a reflection of their own. She aims to use color and mark-making to express the powerful emotions in herself. McGuigan's travels have allowed her to constantly find new sources of inspiration and continue to evolve her subjects.

Colleen McIntyre-Berenotto *Buena, NJ*
McIntyre-Berenotto is a freelance photographer who specializes in the transformation of what is often ignored or not seen by others, to be experienced in a new light and create a new beginning. Currently McIntyre-Berenotto is drawn to the Western lifestyle (being in the company of the diverse spirit and souls of the people, the craftsman, the cowboys and cowgirls, the bulls and the broncs). While not having the traditional training, McIntyre-Berenotto's traumatic brain injury sparked the creative side of her brain. Although she does have her daily struggles, McIntyre-Berenotto says she is grateful that she is able to experience her "new world" through this lens. "With the continued support from those closest to me and the cognitive training I have received, I am able to laugh and enjoy life!"

Vickie McMillan-Hayes *Katy, TX*
McMillan-Hayes is a full-time artist who creates breathtaking wildlife and nature paintings that advance global conservation causes. Her award-winning paintings, large public installations and photography are exhibited in art museums and fine art galleries throughout the country and abroad. Her unique style of impasto painting was developed over time to accommodate her so-called essential tremors disability. Her disability causes aggressive tremors throughout her body and are active only when her muscles are active. To disguise her inability to paint extreme detail throughout the whole painting, she applies



Valerie Mayer, *Tidepools*

numerous layers of paint with large, loose brush strokes. These layers create a rich depth to her paintings that mimic abstract textures seen in nature. In order

to create fine brush strokes, she has to hold her breath while embracing her hand with the other for steadiness.

Kathleen McSherry *Doylestown, PA*
McSherry used to paint and draw. She kept a drawing diary every day since 1977. Since she was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in 2002, McSherry's confidence waned, and she stopped drawing and painting. However, once she discovered assemblage art, her confidence came back. One of McSherry's first pieces contained used needles from her MS medication. "As an artist, I must create." McSherry no longer compares her technique to before and after MS. She takes objects found from the past that have lost their usefulness, retaining only memory, then combines and alters them in such a way that they rise up, like a phoenix from the ashes finding a new language, new meaning and a new form. "This has become a metaphor for my work. It is also a metaphor for MS and me."

Lawrence Meyers *Paoli, PA*
Meyers is a watercolorist and says, "Art provides an opportunity to develop my creativity and express vision of the surrounding world's beauty." Meyers is hearing-

and vision-impaired and most significantly, has tritanope color-blindness, which requires him to paint by relying more heavily on value (depth/darkness of color) rather than color itself, to create his artwork. The result allows him to take the complexity of nature and reduce it to a simplicity, while expressing his wonder in the beauty that surrounds us. He is grateful that it has connected him to God's design and allows him to share it with others through his painting, teaching and the resulting social connection and experience.

Thomas Miller *Whippany, NJ*
Miller grew up in Milwaukee and served in Vietnam with the Marines. He returned from the war severely wounded and finally gained a Master of Fine Arts degree in 1974. Miller's current "Flags of Our Conflicts" series consists of drawings, paintings and ceramics and deals with different conflicts (20 wars) involving the United States. He also dabbles in butterflies and eagles. The quote that encouraged Miller is from Georgia O'Keeffe, "I decided that the only thing I could do that was nobody else's business was to paint. I could do as I chose because no one would care." Miller's disability was a

result of the war where he lost an eye, but he says that he has learned to compensate for that. Miller believes he has made the most out of his life by assisting veterans and their families.

Nicole Miritis *St-Laurent, Canada*
After spending 25 years working as a technical support specialist, a serious back injury forced Miritis to take a leave of absence. As a way of acknowledging her new physical limitations, she started sketching. Miritis is a self-taught, mixed media artist often working with found paper materials like old maps, sheet music and wallpaper as well as a variety of other mediums. She has a portfolio of varied accomplishments, including a publication, art exhibits, workshops and community projects. "Painting has been a therapeutic process. Even though sometimes it is challenging to paint, I continue to work as it helps me express my emotions. I usually say that I have a conversation with my canvas and I am often inspired by music."

Hal Moran *St. Charles, MO*
Moran grew up with and still struggles with Tourette syndrome and other co-occurring disorders. Perhaps this, along with being somewhat of an explorer, spurred his interest in photography.

Moran knew he would never travel the world like some of the photographers he admired at National Geographic, capturing exotic subjects in the wilds of Borneo. So, he decided to search out the extra in the ordinary things in his own backyard. For Moran, the extra involves more than just the aesthetic value of an image. It's the story associated with an image that allows us to connect at the emotional level. Maya Angelou said, "There is no greater agony than bearing an untold story inside you." His aim is to capture those untold stories.

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 Impressionism 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



Gail Foley, *Big Sky*

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.

Frank Morrone *Coatesville, PA*
Morrone says that the good side to his stroke was that it got him involved in art through art therapy. He is a firm believer that art therapy does work. "Art Ability gives me something to look forward to each year. It gives me a challenge to produce something new and better along with the goal of Best in Show." Morrone has a workspace dedicated to his art in the basement. Every day he can go down, put on his music, paint, and create. Morrone says it takes his mind away from the things he can no longer do such as bicycling and swimming in the ocean, or any activity requiring good

balance and stamina. Photography has also given him another way of expressing his creative self.

Nancy Nalbandian *Wynnewood, PA*
Nalbandian believes the synesthesia of the arts—music, fine art and craft, and literature—reflects a universal appeal to a deeper aesthetic longing which can be satisfied in any number of ways. Jewelry, drawn from nature, has become her creative outlet. Her work focuses on stringing nature's beauties into wearable art forms. Using freshwater pearls, semi-precious stones, preserved flowers and handmade polymer clay seed pods and flowers, Nalbandian creates pieces of art to connect us back to nature.

Daniel Neufeld *Philadelphia, PA*
As a little boy, Neufeld was diagnosed with pervasive developmental delay, but it didn't stop him from gaining and sharing as many talents as possible. Neufeld grew fond of art through his mother, who's also an artist. He likes drawing, painting, ceramics, printmaking, photography, comic books and animation. Subjects that Neufeld enjoys capturing with his pencils and paints include people, still lifes, and sites that he sees on his travels; buildings, landscapes, seascapes,

and railroads from both direct observation and photographs he takes. "Art has inspired and helped me see things in the world creatively." In addition to art, Neufeld also enjoys playing sports, singing, playing the cello, cooking, and making movies.

Thu Nguyen *Kamuela, HI*
Nguyen was born in Saigon, Vietnam. "Being very shy," she says, "I spent much of my childhood hiding away upstairs painting, instead of playing with other children." In 1975 when Saigon fell, and in the resulting confusion, she became separated from her parents. She ended up in a refugee camp near Hong Kong for a year prior to immigrating to the United States as an orphan. After one very snowy and cold winter in Pennsylvania, she went to Los Angeles to stay with some relatives. Nguyen went on to get her art degree before settling down to pursue her art career in Los Angeles, and later Seattle and finally Hawaii, "with the big excitement being adopting my first daughter from China and my second daughter from Vietnam."

Debra Noah *Soap Lake, WA*
An artist all of her life, Noah has extensive formal training in painting and glassblowing. In 2015 she became permanently

disabled with rheumatoid arthritis and for a period could no longer pursue art. She was fiercely determined to someday blow glass again and build a hot glass studio. This required relearning, working solo and smaller. Corning Glass Studio in New York accepted her for a winter intensive and the

“I open my mind and allow my memory and imagination to cut through the blindness in order to create the visions that I see.”

—David Kontra

instructors helped her work alone and utilize tools in a safe way. It was a turning point in her life and renewed her passion. Noah now creates one of a kind glass art in her own shop, applying multiple techniques. Her work is whimsical and satirical and has been shown nationally and internationally.

Tom Nordeman *Philadelphia, PA* Nordeman started painting to relieve anxiety and says he loves escaping in his art. He uses bright

colors that stand out because they're “cheerful and can brighten a mood.”

Kathryn Noska *Phoenixville, PA* A visual storyteller, Noska depicts nature scenes in geometric portals, using imaginative realism and trompe l'oeil. Her motto “Take time to find the unseen” is realized through symbolism, the language of her art. Noska explores deeper meanings of things, faithfully representing the exterior that's seen and revealing the unseen spirit of beauty and order found in nature. Her persistence to find safe art materials is due to multiple chemical sensitivity, and unusually severe allergy-like reaction to extremely low levels of many choices of media. Noska works with highly detailed, finely blended colors, using solvent-free techniques and water-washed walnut oil paint. She is thankful to the The Art Treehouse, allowing her to safely create her art.

Andrew Novis *Medford, MA* Novis believes that one should do art for art's sake and not attempt to make any kind of grand statement. His style and subject matter have been influenced by the fact that he is a mostly self-taught, and accomplished athlete, and is seriously attracted to Fauvism as well as Latin

American art. Novis applies flat, unmixed color in his palette, framed by black outlining, which both separates and enhances the color. Color more so than texture, shading, shadowing, or composition is Novis's core strength and he emphasizes color within his painting or woodcarving. Novis was diagnosed with Asperger's in the fall of 2012. Being an “Aspie” artist, he tends to create and conceive his imagery through the left brain, focusing on detail, order, separation and purity of color, and clearly defined lines.

Katherine O'Hara *Philadelphia, PA* O'Hara joined the world of art later in life. To put things into perspective, she remembers listening to “The Shadow” on the radio, in the days before television. “I remember weaving pot-holders on a 6-inch square loom and going from door to door, with my friend Judy, selling them for 25 cents each.” Many decades later, O'Hara once again finds herself working with fiber. She says she's having as much fun now as she did as a child. The only difference from her childhood is that she is no longer going from door to door to sell her work. O'Hara enjoys working with fiber and using the many colors and textures to make her designs. “I have incorporated

weaving into my life. When I weave, my spirit soars.”

Jon Ohman *Dennis, MA* Ohman is an enthusiastic young man with high-functioning autism, a condition that involves impairment of social interaction and communication, restrictions to some activities, and repetitive behaviors. Ohman feels proud when he completes a beautiful drawing or painting in acrylics, knowing that it is a significant accomplishment. It shows his talent for bringing images to life. With high-functioning autism, Ohman believes he does his best work drawing and painting in two dimensions, especially by drawing the sides of people or animals. Horses are his passion. Ohman is also an equestrian inspired to create self-expressive portraits of horses, people, and the beautiful sea/landscapes of the trails he traverses.

Olubunmi Ojo *Philadelphia, PA* Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery (NPG) 2016 portrait competition exhibition (March 12, 2016, through January 8, 2017, the show traveled to Tacoma Art Museum, Art Museum of South Texas, Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, Ackland Museum of Art, Artis—Naples The Baker Museum).



Alexander Masyk,
Energy—The Rainbow Umbrella

Susanne Dagmar Olsen *Vordingborg, Denmark* Though she has doubts about her ability to reach a professional level due to challenges in memory, learning, and concentration, Olsen knows that she has something valuable to offer the world through her artwork. Multiple disorders, including tinnitus and paresthesia, mean that Olsen is often tired and has trouble working with fine detail. However, she still draws, paints in a variety of media, prints linocuts and works with clay. She is interested in people and nature as subject matter.

Diana O'Neill *Haverford, PA* As a 70+-year-old senior citizen, O'Neill spent 25 of those 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 new medium. It freed her creative imagination and she has become passionate 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 *Chester Springs, PA* Art transcends Orth's physical limitations, making her appreciate how rich her life really is, and producing a new painting gives her a tremendous sense of accomplishment. “It reminds me that there's beauty all around us and that life is good.” Orth works mostly in acrylic, although she also enjoys pastel and other media. Retired from a full-time career in science, she's a lifelong painter who can now indulge her passion for painting nearly full time. Orth's work tends to emphasize how contrasting light and shadow define a subject and how they can create a mood. As a long-time resident of Chester

County, her focus is often on local sites, sometimes including animals in their natural surroundings, although she's always on the lookout for interesting subjects from other areas.

Sal Panasci *Devon, PA* Panasci spent 25 years in the advertising field where he received numerous awards for his design work. In 1995, Panasci's life took a dramatic turn. He was injured in an accident as a passenger in a taxi, which resulted in him being diagnosed with a mild traumatic brain injury (MTBI) and blindness in one eye. Panasci spent 16 months in rehabilitation and continues receiving treatment today. During his initial rehabilitation, he was encouraged to try painting in watercolor, a medium that was new to him. Panasci says, “I become emotionally attached to the color palette, the texture of the paint and the composition. Through this, the painting takes on a character of its own and a specific visual interest, allowing the viewer to recognize a familiar subject in a new fashion.”

Mary Paschos *Philadelphia, PA* Paschos is drawn to the process of creating and the release that follows. Her medium is typically watercolor or acrylic paint, as

she brings to life images in her head of objects or places that inspire her. Life after injury is just that—it's a new unknown state of mind. “I fluctuate between rich gratitude and appreciation for the colors of life, to a mundane irritancy at my inability to do small tasks well.” Paschos' artwork is her reflection of these extremes that meets in the middle. She feels art doesn't owe anything to anyone, and as her recovery continues, this thought keeps her sane. She can create and not compare her current self to her pre-injury self. “Drawing and painting have kept me grounded during this post-injury lifestyle.”

Bernice Paul *Philadelphia, PA* Paul has studied art at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Fleisher Art Memorial, the Barnes Foundation, and the Philadelphia College of Art. Her work has received many prizes and awards and has been exhibited throughout the Mid-Atlantic region. She works mostly in oils but has also done silkscreens, watercolors and acrylics. Paul acknowledges that her limited vision has made it more difficult to create her artwork and she's trying to paint more abstractly now. She feels

that her passion for art helps to give her a positive outlook on life. Paul just celebrated her 100th birthday and says she still gets great joy from painting and creating.

Treavor Pence *El Paso, TX*

Pence has been an educator for 20 years, teaching art at the high school and college levels. He paints oil landscapes and has sold more than 350 of his works to clients across the United States, Canada and Australia. Pence is motivated by a quote from the famous El Paso artist, Bill Racoky, “You have to paint a mile of paintings before you can call yourself a master.” As a person with scoliosis, Pence says, “I have learned to overcome the pain with art as my therapy.”

Christopher Pereto
Weymouth, MA

Pereto has been drawing since before age five. 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.”

Cassandra Petruchyk

Philadelphia, PA

Petruchyk believes that in many ways her artwork contradicts her disorder. “Obsessive compulsive disorder has the tendency to control my life; the choices I make, the actions I take, my interactions with others, the way I live my life, and the life that I am able to have. In contrast, the lines I make in my drawings are loose and wild, not rigid and restrictive.” Petruchyk uses drawing to communicate and advocate for animals, wild and domestic. She sees these creatures undervalued and abused by human society. With this intimate art form of pencil line, pen, prismacolor, and oil pastel, Petruchyk can express her intention to show the viewer that animals have feelings too and should be treated with respect and honor.



Sriharsha Sukla, *Brooklyn Bridge*

Ellie Pfautz *Glenmoore, PA*

A graduate of Pennsylvania State University with a BA in Applied Arts, Pfautz worked in the arts departments of Wanamaker’s, GE and McGraw-Hill before opening a graphic design studio. After a brain aneurysm, she turned to fine arts, which has become therapy and escape. She works in pastels and acrylics striving to capture initial reactions to landscapes, seascapes and still lifes. Pfautz also serves on the Art Ability Committee.

Bill Porter *Littleton, MA*

In his art practice, Porter engages with influential imagery from his childhood, from comic strips to illustrated bibles. This serves as an investigation into the labyrinthine narratives that influenced his formative understanding of heritage, identity and the mysteries of life. Working with house paint, book pages and reclaimed wood, Porter re-contextualizes

forms, culled from then space of memory, fostering dialogue between images, text and materials. He is legally blind and was born with an incurable, progressive retinal disorder (retinitis pigmentosa). “Despite encouragement from medical experts to give up on visual art, I instead followed my passion, which serves as both a source of therapeutic escape and is a unique avenue in which I can investigate and express complex concepts and unconventional narratives.”

Cathy Pregmon *Drexel Hill, PA*

Pregmon has had multiple careers including being a school teacher, artistic director for a touring 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 semi-precious gems but her work also incorporates seeds, horn, bone, shells, and vegetable sources such as tagua and acai nuts. She favors fair trade beads such as Kazuri porcelain beads from Kenya and paper and linen beads from Uganda. Her pieces are “jewels” of chunky and funky, with touches of whimsy and creative use of unusual materials.

Jane Quartarone *Wilmington, DE*

As long as she can remember, art has been a constant need in Quartarone’s life, a constant presence. She believes that expressing art is such an integral part of who she is, it is a normal and natural expression of her being. When Quartarone was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis, art was a lifeline to her sanity and physical well-being. “The re-grounding of my creative process, moving forward, afforded me a path towards integration and allowed me to maintain a connection to my health, my-self and the Divine.”

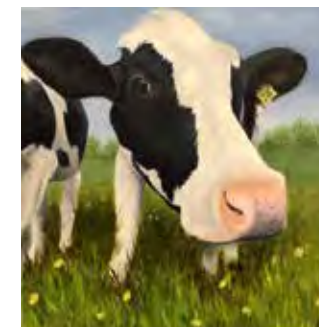
Meg Quinlisk *West Chester, PA*

Quinlisk creates her artwork using mosaic glass on top of acrylic paint. She creates the painting first, then adds the glass on top of

the dried painting. Each piece of glass is hand-cut. The cut pieces are used to create a mosaic and are adhered to the painting using a heavy gloss medium. Quinlisk says her paintings can look very different throughout the day depending on how the light hits the glass. There are times when Quinlisk is in the throes of painting and the pain of arthritis suddenly interrupts, and for a time, the potential and promise of a new picture falls prey to her disease. “My arthritis may limit the duration of time I paint but it does not compromise the beauty and joy of what I create.”

Tim Quinn *Narberth, PA*

Quinn uses markers, paint markers, pens, ink, and watercolor on paper and wood panels. He works at a studio in Philadelphia one day a week, and at the Center for Creative Works four



Rebecca Scheuer, *Curious Cow*

days a week. “On the wall of the warehouse. In my father’s office. Inside my house. I have no clue where. I start with a line that goes all around.”

Judy Quitoriano *Pacificia, CA*

Quitoriano is an award-winning artist in photography and sculpture. She completed a double major in art and humanities, and has been exhibiting all over the San Francisco Bay Area for may decades. With her two strokes, Quitoriano has modified her work in sculpture, but she still achieves recognition in her mediums. Quitoriano has been married 45 years to the same great guy and she has one adult son. Quitoriano had her first one-woman museum show in 2018 at the Heritage Gallery of the Tulare Historical Museum.

Joy Raskin *Bedford, NH*

Raskin says she has a restless soul, a need to experiment, a need to keep pushing the limits. She may be a trained silversmith/metalsmith, but she believes she’s really a wire tinkerer at heart. Raskin covers a wide range in metalsmithing, from tiny jewelry pieces, to flatware, to large-scale welded sculptures. She very much enjoys knitting and shaping wire to create unexpected metalwork such as knitted wire clothing,

metal purses, and knitted jewelry. Raskin also specializes in spoons and tableware. “I get lost in the pleasure of working with the metal, how it forms or shapes under my hands, and eventually becomes a functional piece of art.”

Desiree Reed *Dallas, PA*

Reed attends the Verve Vertu Art Studio, a community-based art studio, which focuses on tapping into the creative energy of people with diverse abilities, one day a week. She is an amazing illustrator and painter. She is very skilled at detailed artwork and is very focused when she creates. Reed is inspired by a variety of subjects, from drawing and painting animals, nature and people, to unique mandalas. Her beautiful artwork is appreciated and has been exhibited at various venues. Reed enjoys learning new techniques and experimenting with new mediums. She has evolved as an artist and also teaches others what she has learned. Art is a very important part of Reed’s life, it gives her confidence and joy.

Ginette Richard *Rochester, NY*

Richard is originally from Montreal, Quebec, and has lived in Rochester, New York, for 23 years. She has a Bachelor of Arts in Ceramics and Studio Art from

SUNY, College at Brockport. She works mainly with ceramics but also uses some mixed media. Richard says she loves creating with her hands. She observes what goes on in the world and places her own spin on what she sees. Creating art helps Richard to keep grounded and helps in easing the issues she faces from her disability. "I think life would be a little more difficult if I could not create art."

Sally Richards *Media, PA*

With a lifelong desire to be an artist, Richards undertook a four-year program at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts following a successful business career. A painter and printmaker, she has a focused daily studio practice. Richard's work explores the "nature of place," the essence and energy we feel when we experience our world in an intimate way. The places in her art are imaginary, relational or abstract expressions derived from observation and memory. She uses color, form, and structure to cause elevation and freedom in mood and thought. Richards has had a severe hearing disability for 25 years, which required enormous energy and accommodation in business. "I have found new

freedom, independence and artistic collaborations through art-making and a place to fully give my energy, spirit, and heart."

Kasey Riley *Dallas, PA*

Riley attends the Verve Vertu Art Studio, a community-based art studio, which focuses on tapping into the creative energy of people with diverse abilities in Dallas, Pennsylvania. Due to Riley having cerebral palsy, she has limited dexterity and mobility in her arms and hands. Modified art brushes are utilized. She enjoys painting with acrylic paint, watercolor and fabric dyes. Whether painting on canvas, wood, or fabric, creating brings Riley relaxation and fulfillment. She loves painting with spring-like colors of flowers and nature scenes. Riley's world is a rainbow of colors.

Maxine Rosen *Penn Valley, PA*

Though a preschool teacher throughout her career, art was always Rosen's passion. She is currently working in ceramics. Being mostly self-taught, Rosen feels this allows her a certain freedom of expression from expectation. Many of her ceramic pieces are playful with ideas coming from the "art of living." She enjoys thinking in the narrative which has a story attached to each of her sculptural

pieces. Often she will add another element combining ceramics with another material. Rosen says that art is her outlet and fills her need to be creative. With her hearing disability, it is something she can do alone and without distraction.

Daniel Rothenberg *Rochester, NY*

Rothenberg says his art is about the connection between abstraction and realism. His abstract work has elements of symbolism, while his realistic work has an abstract nature to it. He wants viewers to interpret the art for themselves while connecting it to their own lives. Rothenberg hopes every time that they look at his work, they see something new in it. He usually selects ideas that he is fascinated by and then tries to give the viewer that same feeling. The process is also important to



Joy Raskin, *Dancing Triangles pendant*

him because each stroke reflects his expressive spirit; rough and impulsive while also being contemplative. "To me art is about adventure and pushing the limit. It is saying, 'What if I can do this?' and then doing it."

Rick Ruark *Pittsburgh, PA*

Ruark is a self-taught, Pittsburgh contemporary acrylics painter who began painting 35 years ago. The scope of his work spans realism to geometrical pieces and represents over three decades of personal experimentation. His love of the arts can be best described as stated by George Bernard Shaw, "Without art, the crudeness of reality would make the world unbearable." In recent years, he was diagnosed with peripheral neuropathy on the left side of his body which continues to progress. Around the same time he was wait-listed for a dual organ transplant. Ruark believes it has been his good fortune to be able to adapt painting to new methods and techniques to continue to be creatively productive.

Maria Sammartino *Riverton, NJ*

Sammartino was born into a family of artists, and has spent many years creating art alongside her grandfather and brother. After being diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in 2009, she found

herself immersed in painting on a daily basis in order to help alleviate the physical pain that MS can cause. She has been a featured artist in local South Jersey juried exhibitions, and currently has paintings hanging in multiple venues across the Mid-Atlantic region. Sammartino has always been drawn to and intrigued by abstract art in landscape scenes and everyday life, and thus presents the viewer with a challenge in self-described "imagined landscapes" and abstract art that often defy rules of perspective and dimension. Each painting is different from the next, and not easily described.

Diane Savino *Hatfield, MA*

As a young child, Savino's Italian grandfather built small shrines in his garden as a means of protecting his crops. Small birdhouses were perched on poles like holy scarecrows, and the statuary of saints and the Virgin Mary dwelled in their interiors. This memory, along with her Italian heritage and love of the rural land, has influenced her art-making. Savino considers herself to be a visual storyteller who paints narratives and small tableaux. She has drawn inspiration from such Renaissance masters of narrative as Botticelli, Fra Angelico and

Giotto. "Living with a neurological disability has led me to find refuge in my imagination and the peaceful place of my panels."

Joseph Saxon *Philadelphia, PA*

Saxon, born in Philadelphia, is an artist who draws from points in time and conceptual themes. He showed a persistent passion for drawing as a youth and was taken to his first formal art class at a Fairmount Park arts program. His work brings to life his love of aesthetics. Watercolors, acrylics, oils, airbrushing, pastels and pencils are the tools that have canvassed Saxon's work in a wide scale of subjects. He has participated in several art shows and has sold work in galleries and to private collectors in the Tri-State area. His use of space demands and invites the viewer to respond. Joseph Saxon's work has a motif of dominant champions, that engages the viewer to welcome and receive joy into their lives.

Jeremy Schack *Arlington, TX*

Schack suffered a traumatic brain injury in a motorcycle accident when he was nine. Up until that time he had a desire to become a sports athlete. Those experiences taught him to never give up and always push himself everyday. Schack began

playing music after his injury to regain his coordination. That was his first experience with any art medium. He always had an interest in photography, and on a trip to Germany with his dad, he decided to take along an old digital camera. Schack's artistic passion allowed him to master videography as well as different genres of music. Soon after, he was in his first traveling art exhibit. Schack's artworks have been recognized nationally as well as in Switzerland and Russia.

Carla Schaeffer *Phoenixville, PA*

Schaeffer's crocheted jewelry and unique found-object floral bouquets are a visual illustration of many of the things that make her happiest in life. She was forced to leave her business career when chronic arm pain made it too painful for her to make it through the work day. Schaeffer found that losing her ability to be creative made coping with her injuries more difficult. A few years later when she suffered a debilitating brain injury; Schaeffer knew she must find a way to bring creativity back into her life. Rediscovering her love of the artistic process while finding a way to participate in it, despite her limitations, brought her joy and has allowed her to reclaim her life.

Molly Schappert *Dallas, PA*

Schappert attends the Verve Vertu Art Studio, a community-based art studio which focuses on tapping into the creative energy of people with diverse abilities. She is developing her artistic skills through drawing, painting and batiks. She is encouraged to experiment with different dyes and colors as she paints nature and flower scenes. Schappert also enjoys various subject matter such as creating mandalas. When



Ann Marie Geiger,
Staring Contest with a Fox

creating, she enjoys utilizing acrylic paint, watercolor, fabric dyes for batiks, paper, clay and more. Creating artwork brings Molly joy and pride in herself.

Rebecca Scheuer *Narvon, PA*

Scheuer is a wife, mother, and high school counselor. After a serious car accident in 2015, she started taking oil painting

lessons as part of her vision therapy. She realized early on that painting brought her joy. Learning about color, value, and composition has helped her to see the world in a different way. Scheuer says that painting has provided an opportunity for her to be creative and relieve stress. She plans to continue learning and painting and enjoying her time in the studio.

Erika Schwarz *Watertown, MA* Schwarz resides in the Boston area and is primarily committed to environmental issues in her work as opposed to any specific medium. Many environmental themes intersect with her experience of autism spectrum disorder diagnosed in later life. “Very generally speaking, for several decades now both have been misunderstood and dismissed as petty. Today these varied abilities are included and utilized the way we must honor and work with nature, not against it.”

Jacqueline Scott *Philadelphia, PA* Scott is from North Philadelphia and has lived at Inglis House for 20 years. She has always loved art and her favorite medium is pencil drawing. She says, “Being at Inglis House gives many opportunities to explore and express yourself. Once you’re able to do that,



Debbie Huff, *Eye of the Tiger*

you can relate to other people, release your inner feelings and capabilities and find other people you can share common interest with.” Scott has been involved with the Exploring Art Group for almost four years.

Christine Severson *Richmond, VA* Severson, a nurse, suffered a life-changing event in the late 1970s while transferring a quadriplegic patient into a wheelchair. She incurred significant damage to her spinal cord, which continues to limit her mobility and left her with chronic pain. Severson still managed to raise two daughters, and in the meantime creating became her passion, which to this day provides her with a sense of pride and purpose. Severson works on her jewelry during the day and on her baskets in the evening. Her work is done from a semi-reclining position wearing elbow and wrist splints. The

material she works with needs to be lightweight. Weaving jewelry was the perfect fit along with pine needles for her baskets. Severson believes that creating has changed her from viewing herself as a patient to viewing herself as an artisan.

Carol Shannon *Aldan, PA* Before being diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis in 2007, Shannon would have never considered herself an artist. However, art has provided her with an activity that exercises her hands, wrists and arms and provides an escape from the physical pain and limitation caused by arthritis. Sometimes she needs to make a modification to her process, such as using extra long paintbrushes, a stylus, a hand-vice to hold the brush, or a tripod or monopod to stabilize her camera. She continues to work and try new techniques. Shannon is drawn to abstract paintings and designs with bold colors and textures as well as black-and-white and landscape photography. She combines mixed mediums of photography and digital painting as well. Her artistry provides a space for spiritual renewal and peace.

Craig Sheely *Littlestown, PA* Sheely is quadriplegic attributed

to a spinal cord injury he received in a car accident. In the mid-1980s he became interested in photography and has used various techniques, including gum dichromate printing, film, and digital manipulation of original images. In recent years, Sheely has begun experimenting with a technique some call scanography. His inspiration for photographing nudes began in college, where he was exposed to the artistic aspects of this subject. Sheely enjoys photographing other subjects, but being in a wheelchair presents a challenge regarding accessibility. Art has always been a major part of his life. “Before my accident I was a musician. My disability left me unable to perform, but it also presented a new and more gratifying means of creating art.”

Yoland Skeete *Newark, NJ* Skeete has made art and taken photographs since she was a child. Coming from a time and country where there were no ready-made clothes, prayers, sewing and embroidering were what she learned at school. As a child, Skeete lost her hearing and then later developed alopecia. Being different made her mother keep her near, and Skeete focused on art. “Because of the silence inside me, visible as well as

invisible forms and textures, made up feelings. These are delicately entwined to a memory I seek to reproduce in my mixed media works, where memory and tactile forms commune.” Skeete says her work is a spiritual communion that allows her to experience her surroundings as a dance, in and out of a place that has no name, form or presence.

Amy Smith *North Wales, PA* Smith began her career as a marketing writer and editor. In 2015 she began taking art lessons while also teaching herself to paint. She left corporate life in 2016 and now focuses entirely on writing fiction and painting. Smith paints using water-soluble oils on stretched canvas because she loves to experiment with color and texture. In 2009, she was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. Smith was 28 at the time and the diagnosis forever changed her life. In the ensuing 10 years, she suffered several relapses that left permanent disabilities impacting her vision and hand strength. Painting provides a creative outlet that helps Smith when she needs it most: navigating difficult emotions due to living with MS.

Ken Smith *Riverside, WA* Smith's creative life began as a freelance writer as well

as commercial and editorial photographer. Since 1991, he has been concentrating on limited-edition fine art, primarily in the still life genre. He also works with landscape and the female form. Smith prints his work in black-and-white as well as color, using traditional photographic processes and archival pigment ink, printed on fine cotton printmaking papers. He also works in mixed media. “My role as an artist is to be open, curious, and available to experience beauty, and then to interpret that beauty into my work so the viewer may be moved by the feeling within it.” Smith says his work reflects on his walking disability, encouraging patience, and the understanding of how to find beauty in the commonplace.



Joanne Orth, *Secret Garden*

Nancy Smith *Santa Monica, CA* Smith started sewing when she was 10 years old. She didn't have the same means of communication as the other kids, so through the creation of something physical, the visual became her voice. She had an innate affinity to the tactile nature of things and a great sense of color. Smith wants materials to be appreciated, as they come with a history and traits of their own. She will combine anything that works. Store-bought fabric or alley trash, it doesn't make a difference to her. In the end, she sees them all as threads and she will use their character to make her world. Ann Bancroft told her, “Talk in a deep voice...they will listen.”

Carol Spiker *Wilmington, DE* Spiker's early career was in graphic arts. While raising children, she dove into volunteer projects and took up running. Those lonely, long-distance runs brought her clarity and in the late '80s she returned to school to study painting. She fell in love with 1950s Bay Area figurative painting—expressionistic and anonymous. Her figures come from memory and she loves the smell and the serendipitous discovery that comes with painting with oils. In 1998, Spiker

was thrown into a creek when her car was hit on I-95. She realized immediately that she was paralyzed but thought, “Thank God, I have my hands.” Art had become a driving force in her life before her accident. The accident sharpened this focus and through her painting, she found courage.

William Spiker *Wilmington, DE* Spiker has been a bilateral, below-the-knee amputee since 2011. While recovering from surgery and before mastering prosthetics, he was consumed with a desire to return to making art, specifically welded steel sculpture. Spiker soon discovered that working with power tools and welding equipment, while confined to a wheelchair, proved to be quite challenging. He worked on small pieces that later became parts of larger pieces. Spiker says, “The process demonstrated for me that making art was an important part of recovering an enjoyable life in the face of considerable loss.” Producing welded sculpture for more than 15 years, Spiker has shown his work widely in both Pennsylvania and Delaware.

Susan Stahlsmith *Philadelphia, PA* Stahlsmith never practiced art until she came to live at Inglis House, a specialty nursing care facility providing long-term,

Elizabeth Sullivan, *Watching You*

residential care for adults with physical disabilities. She has multiple sclerosis and chooses to use a manual wheelchair to maintain her fine motor skills, exercise her arms, and keep her independence. She now loves all the arts including writing, reading about history, and listening to classical music. Stahlsmith was born in Aberdeen, Washington, and graduated from Pennsylvania State University with a music education degree. She enjoys working collaboratively and helps to make discarded art distinctive and bring it back to life, using bright colors in cheerful scenes.

Craig Stephens *Philadelphia, PA*
Stephens is from South Philadelphia and has lived at Inglis House, a specialty nursing

care facility providing long-term, residential care for adults with physical disabilities, since 2011. He loves to stay busy and enjoys participating in programs. Stephens is married to fellow Inglis House resident Mindy Orth-Stephens. He loves to create abstracts and landscapes in pastels and paint. Stephens gives his father credit for originally getting him interested in art and says he appreciates art and what it has given to him and added to his life.

Sal Strom *Newport, OR*
Strom says he is the person who jumps in first and calls the work to action. He is the alchemist artist experimenting. He pours incompatible mediums and luscious colors, inviting chemical reactions. He tears, cuts, glues, staples and pins old work into the new work. The materials and Strom begin a debate as they experiment. Every layer reveals a part of the previous layer. The energy of his work comes from the sheer joy of discovery. Due to being on disability, Strom moves between friends' houses and he needs his work to be easy to store and transport. He continually recreates his last series into new work. "Having FUN while making art is the most important activity in my life."

Oni Strother *East Orange, NJ*
Strother is a photographer with a diagnosis as being on the autism spectrum. She does not see this as a disability, rather that it is more of a challenge with advantages and disadvantages. Strother has always been very aware of the sights and sounds around her, often noticing things that others may not. She frequently notices something beautiful and is moved to take a picture of it. She enjoys modifying images with Photoshop or Topaz. These programs help her create powerful images.

Siddhartha Sankar Sukla *Cuttack, India*
Siddhartha Sankar Sukla is a formally trained Indian artist who was born with hearing impairment. He chooses to think of himself as not disabled at all but rather, as he describes it, "differently abled." His work has been recognized both nationally and internationally and he very much sees this recognition as a blessing to be cherished. Sukla is skilled in computer graphics and has also worked in both oil and watercolors. His focus now is producing collage works and he hopes the people who view his artwork find it engaging.

Sriharsha Sukla *Cuttack, India*
Sriharsha Sukla was born with hearing impairment. He says he has not let his disability dampen his desire for a full life. Sukla credits his mother for her encouragement and inspiration to pursue his artwork. He also feels he has received a tremendous amount of support from his community and patrons, both nationally and internationally. Sukla works in both oil and watercolors but his specialty is in collage work. His hope is that his work creates enjoyment for all who view it.

Billy Sukus *Dallas, PA*
Sukus is an artist with autism, who attends the Verve Vertu Art Studio a community-based art studio which focuses on tapping into the creative energy of people with diverse abilities. He enjoys painting and utilizes acrylic paint, watercolor, fabric dyes, batik, block printing and felting. Geometric shapes appear in much of Billy's creations. He loves the creative outlet art gives him. His artwork "Squares" is part of the permanent collection at Misericordia University in the Speech Pathology Building. Billy enjoys every aspect of being an artist from creating to selling his artwork.

"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." —Mimi Barclay Johnson

Elizabeth Sullivan *Elgin, TX*
Sullivan gets inspiration from many things around her, but the styles of art that have most influenced her are primitive cave and rock paintings as well as a style of oriental painting executed quickly, where you express the subject with a few strokes. She often paints in watercolors, because she enjoys the natural flow. The paint contributes to the motion in the painting. "I love to paint motion—the graceful and powerful motion of running horses, the stealth of a cat, the curious pecking of chickens trying to decide if that speck on the ground is edible." Sullivan specializes in watercolors and murals. She's painted 18 public art murals, plus many more for private patrons. Her disability exists and she takes care of it, but her life is the joy of creating. It surpasses all.

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 wintery 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 23K 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."

Tracy Tribendis *Dallas, PA*
Tribendis attends the Verve Vertu Art Studio, a community-based studio, which focuses on tapping into the creative energy of people with diverse abilities. She enjoys painting utilizing fabric dyes, inks, acrylic paint and watercolor. Tribendis creates bright-colored gutta batiks on muslin with fabric

dyes. She is open to creating a variety of unique themed artwork. Creating art is relaxing for her and she takes pride in her completed pieces. Tribendis participates in local exhibits and her work can be found in private collections as well as public venues. She enjoys learning the use of new mediums and techniques.

Leo Tujak *Floral Park, NY*
Tujak thinks that photography is a great thing. 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 did in taking them.

Jerry Turner *Fort Bragg, CA*
Turner has been making art for more than 20 years. He creates drawings with colored pencils or he makes prints. He says art helps him to escape to other places. "Art makes me feel that I'm going into another world. Sometimes it's tough in this life."

Morgan Johnson, *Windrift*

Lynne Walding *Philadelphia, PA*
Walding loves to paint using digital media with adapted devices because it is difficult for her to use art tools in a traditional manner. She uses different mediums and enjoys blending them. Walding lives at Inglis House, a specialty nursing care facility providing long-term, residential care for adults with physical disabilities. She says, “I get an idea in my head and try to make it on the canvas. I’m always learning something new.” Art has allowed her to express herself when it is hard to find a voice. It brings Walding relaxation, decreases pain and allows her to escape stress. She doesn’t let her disability limit her from expressing herself.

Joyce Washington *Philadelphia, PA*
Washington came to Inglis House in 2012. She enjoys many activities



Sal Panasci, *Water Lilies 22*

at Inglis House including the Exploring Art group, trivia, music and theater. Washington loves all forms of art but admits that painting is her favorite. She is a wonderful artist and enjoys the use of bright vibrant colors.

Shoaib Wazir *Fairfield, CT*
Transcending pain and beauty through his art, Wazir creates art with a unique technique that is particularly empowering because it enables him to not only recreate but assign new life and meaning to a traumatic surface. Wazir’s art practice is inspired by the upheaval and displacement he experienced as a member of a minority population while growing up. His work relates to the migrants and refugees around the world, who must flee war and upheaval, and seek new lands to pursue peace and stability. Wazir uses art to try to communicate the plight, and hopes to demonstrate how a traumatized soul emerging from a burned and wounded past, is still able to seek new hope and new life.

Joseph Weber *Berwyn, PA*
Weber is a former banking professional and now self-taught artist who began painting acrylic on canvas in 2016, when he realized he no longer had control over his life. This led

to an emotional and spiritual breakdown/awakening, which led him to seek therapy for anxiety and post-traumatic stress disorder, among other mental health conditions. As a child, artistic expression was not encouraged. Painting finally allowed Weber to express himself. Now with 400+ canvases and 3500 textile designs created from his art, Weber’s dream is to bring people together through his art, share his experiences and knowledge with people, and help them be who they were meant to be—not who someone else wanted them to be. Weber’s art tells a story—an unfolding, and the origin of a new beginning.

Christopher Welgosh *Dallas, PA*
Welgosh attends the Verve Vertu Art Studio one day a week. He is extremely focused and skilled at utilizing gutta resist on ricepaper or fabric. He creates intricate symbols and images on these batiks, which then are transformed into framed artwork or wall hangings, or sewed into decorative pillows. The finished pieces look very ancient and mysterious. Welgosh enjoys creating and it makes him happy and proud to create such beautiful work. He also creates beautiful handmade fabrics,

which turn into dream catchers and whimsical mobile artwork. Welgosh loves music, and this is a theme that has inspired him to create many beautiful guitar batiks and greeting cards. Creating art is fulfilling for him.

Kurt Weston *Mission Viejo, CA*
Weston, a world-class photographer-turned-blind-visionary earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Columbia College, Chicago and an Master of Fine Arts degree from California State University, Fullerton. As a legally blind artist, Weston offers alternative views and perspectives—interpreting the world as he perceives it. Currently, he has been creating stunning micro-textural landscapes inspired by string theory, dark matter, and black holes. His photographic silkscreen prints are a glimpse of outer space phenomenon as well as inner space reflections. In 2010 Weston was recognized by Arts Orange County with the Outstanding Artist Achievement Award and in 2012 he appeared on CNN’s Fredricka Whitfield show, highlighting his art and advocacy. Weston’s work has been exhibited nationally and internationally and is in private and public collections.



Nancy Nalbandian, *We are the music makers, we are the dreamers of dreams*

Jed Williams *Philadelphia, PA*
Williams is a professional artist who grew up in Paris but studied art mostly in the U.S. Since 2010, he has owned and operated a studio gallery showing his own art as well as that of others. His specialty is oil, acrylic, and ink/mixed media painting. Williams finds inspiration in his daily feelings. The desire to stay occupied, together with the fascination and energy of the creative process itself, often is the start of projects. Art has played a great role in helping him deal with autism and Asperger’s. Williams says, “It helps to have a passion I can pursue and something to help me focus outward.”

Mark Wittig *North Little Rock, AR*
Wittig creates a photographic

timeline of the history of education in the United States of America. The lived experience of learning disabilities is the primary subject matter for his creative research. As a youth, Wittig attended the Child Study Center for three years, a school in a teaching hospital, where he became intrigued with disabilities research. “I am inspired by the larger learning-disabled community, to create artworks that comment on the learning disabled experience with language, and question the prevailing systems of education (and culture) which devalue fluencies and skills outside prevailing norms.” With these visual representations, Wittig is studying and highlighting the solutions of historical educational-built environments.

Rose Wolfe *Lawton, MI*
Although myotonic dystrophy may define Wolfe’s physical limitations, it does not define her. She believes the struggles integral to life in a wheelchair have helped her to discover her passions: encouraging others to live with hope, expressing herself through the magic of painting and writing about her experiences. Wolfe’s subjects include all genres with the goal of expressing underlying

emotions. She believes art is therapeutic; the key to finding a way to express and heal tangled emotions that are part of life. Wolfe wants to share her art with others, to have them say, “I recognize that feeling.” She says, “When I paint, I am no longer disabled, no longer limited; I enter a magical place, a time outside of time.”

Robin Wyatt *Winston-Salem, NC*
Wyatt was a 20-year-old art student when she was thrown from a car, crushing her right arm and shoulder. Because of this accident, she developed a chronic pain disorder called CRPS. She thought she could no longer paint in any traditional way. She eventually realized she could still create and her secret weapon became collage. Through collage Wyatt could put together small pieces and create large finished works. She says it’s frustratingly slow and there are times when she worries that the pain will make it her last piece, but then she finishes and all that’s left is joy. Over time Wyatt has regained some painting skills but still employs the collage techniques by cutting out the small images she creates. Her favorite quote is from Shakespeare, “I love the stars too fondly to fear the night.”

Peraporn (Rhys) Wynne *Lake Elsinore, CA*
Wynne is a child of two cultures. He was born in Thailand and studied there with Khun Odai, a well-known Thai cartoonist. He is currently attending Riverside City and Moreno Valley Colleges in California, pursuing a vocational goal of storyboard writing. He also studies at American Ceramic Museum in Pomona, California. Wynne is autistic and has a visual handicap. He considers his autism an advantage as he can concentrate better than most people. Like many others on the spectrum, Wynne is very gifted in the arts. He has published five books and has won national writing and international art competitions. He writes children’s books, paints, and sculpts in a contemporary style, and creates ceramic critters. Wynne says he loves and lives the life of an artist.

Richard Wynne *Lake Elsinore, CA*
Wynne is an artist who has lived and painted in many countries for more than 30 years. He returned to the U.S. so his autistic son could receive special education that was not available in his homeland of Thailand. Wynne lectured and taught art in Thailand. He has had exhibitions in the USA, Middle

and Far East, and collections of his work reside in many countries. He is a recipient of the “Golden Bear Award” from the State of California. Wynne uses colors, textures, and different mediums to convey moods. Old age, arthritis, and an ongoing battle with cancer have forced Wynne to reduce production and spend most of his time preparing his son for the future.

Sheryl Yeager *Pittsburgh, PA*
Yeager is an autistic artist who has been creating art for more than 15 years. She struggled through her teens and twenties trying to find self-worth. In her early thirties, Yeager was

enlightened to take an art class. She found it gave great meaning to her life. Working in many different mediums at first, Yeager settled on pastels because of their bright colors. She believes that art has allowed her to be one with God and nature, so she can express herself freely. Her primary subject matter is animals because she feels they are humble and meek and not judgmental. Yeager extracts and enhances patterns and colors in her work. Her marks are immediate and fresh. She believes that art has taken away the emotional pain of her childhood and allows her to cope with everyday stresses.

“When I paint, I am no longer disabled, no longer limited; I enter a magical place, a time outside of time.”

—Rose Wolfe

Jacquie O. Young *Lewes, DE*
Formally a portrait photographer, a speed bump better known as multiple sclerosis changed Young’s life. When she returned to photography, she took a few classes as her professional training was in film. Technology has given Young a path of therapy, creating with graphics. Capturing images in the unseen infrared light spectrum displays the sense of surrealism, a feeling as surreal as a diagnosis of MS. Using other in-camera techniques, such as specialized art lenses, also lends to her creative visions.

Anthony Zaremba *Whiting, NJ*
Zaremba’s art and finished watercolors appear not as finely detailed but are loose and free. He feels he has created a new style of painting that has an abstract look. His subject matter reflects the things he loves in life, people, music, sports and

dance. Living with multiple sclerosis for more than 30 years, Zaremba has constantly learned to adapt to change. Naturally right-handed, he was able to train his left hand to take over the primary duties when his multiple sclerosis progression significantly limited his right hand’s functionality. Zaremba says, “What makes me come alive and forget my disability is challenging my creative ability, and thanks to art, I really like who I am today.”

Leslie Zukor *Mercer Island, WA*
Zukor has been a photographer since 2005, when she received her first digital camera for the winter holidays. Since then, she has become an avowed photography addict, someone who is attracted to fast motion, street photography, and animal and human portraiture. Zukor pursues these passions through the medium of her lens, and the creative process helps form her identity as a disabled person, someone who sees the world in her own unique way. Zukor was born without depth perception and with multiple visual disabilities. Her depth perception inability is referred to as a spatial processing disorder. She continues to seek treatment.



Mark Wittig, *Pleasant Valley School*

“Art has saved my life. It helps me cope with the symptoms of mental illness. It also gives me a sense of accomplishment and a way to communicate what I feel and experience.”

—Thomas Dillon

“The jagged edges and bold colors and brushstrokes that appear in my paintings represent the interface now between me and the universe.”

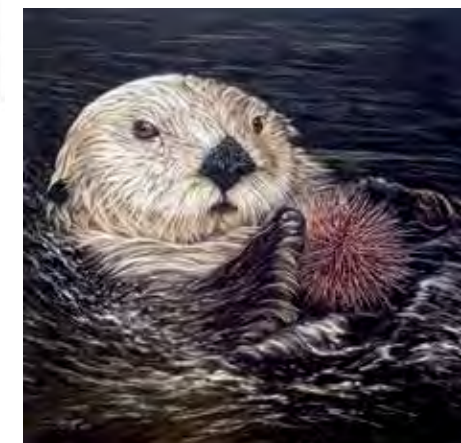
—Robert Bohle



Linnie Greenberg, *Prestige*

“I am determined to create no matter the circumstances.”

—Anthe Capitan-Valais



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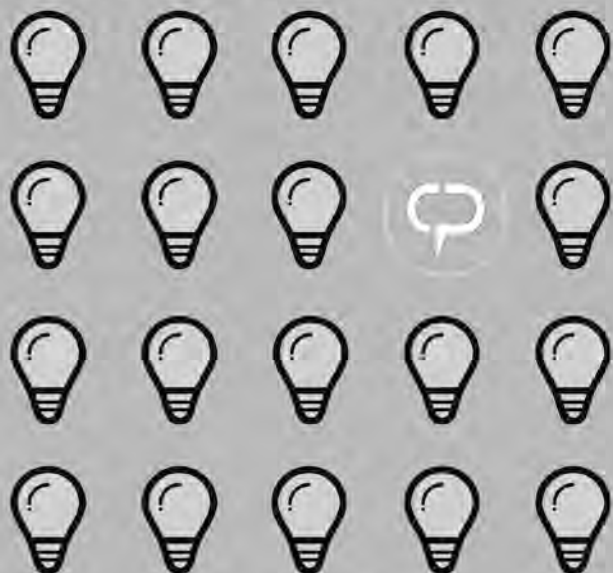
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Joni learned to draw when she was a little girl sitting at the feet of her father, watching him while he worked at his easel. She enjoyed experimenting with paints all the way through high school. After a driving accident when she was 17, her therapist encouraged her to keep painting by learning how to hold the paintbrushes between her teeth. She's been painting ever since!

Painting featured in the Raynes Lawn Hehmeyer lobby





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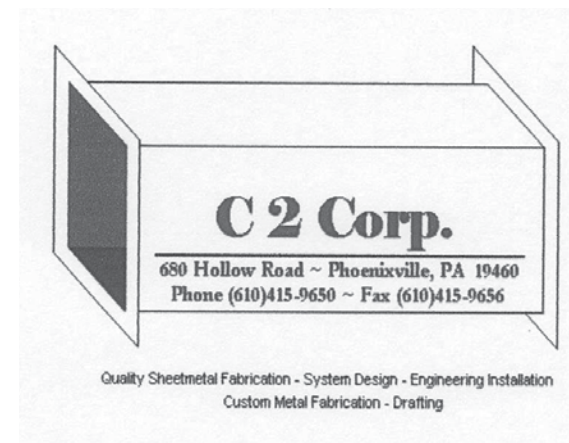


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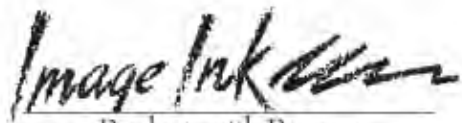
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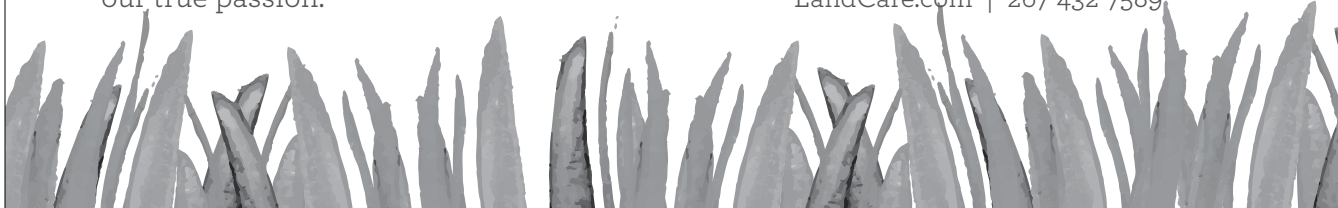
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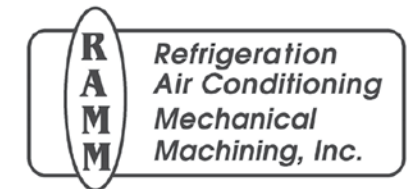
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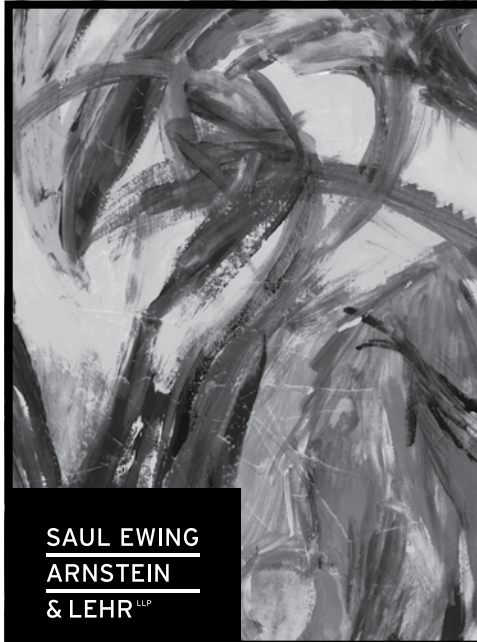


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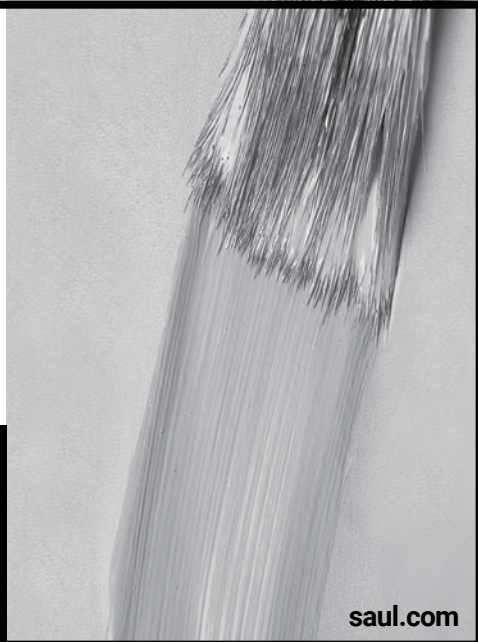
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