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Allison Merriweather, Faith & Love, Acrylic on canvas

aA Art Ability

An international juried exhibition and sale
of art and fine crafts by artists with disabilities

November 5, 2017 - January 28, 2018



proudly supports
**BRYN MAWR
REHAB HOSPITAL'S
ART ABILITY**

and congratulates them
on their 22nd year
of the exhibition!



“Encore, An emids Company, is thrilled to sponsor Art Ability again this year. We applaud Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital’s dedication to the arts as a vital part of the patient experience.”

–Tom Niehaus, President



We are healthcare IT consultants and professionals who help our clients use IT to improve the quality and cost of patient care. We do this by advising on the best way to align strategy, implement systems, apply analytics, and realize value from clinical data – value that can translate into performance improvement, care coordination, and better population management. We accelerate results and create sustainable solutions through our proven methodologies and proprietary tools. We value our people and our teams, take tremendous pride in our work, and have been named a Modern Healthcare “Best Place to Work” for six years. Finally, our client relationships are paramount. We’re not satisfied until every client is satisfied. We call that 100% reference-ability.



President's Welcome

Dear Friends:

Welcome to Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital and our annual Art Ability Exhibition and Sale. We are so pleased this year to be celebrating 22 years of Art Ability!

Beginning with the first exhibition in 1996, Art Ability has provided a platform for more than 800 artists to display their talent through their work and benefit from more than \$1 million in sales. Art Ability has grown to be one of the largest and longest-running exhibitions of its kind anywhere in the world.

Art Ability is also an integral part of our hospital and how we care for our patients. The art on the walls of the first floor of the hospital inspires our patients to reach beyond their limitations and to perceive their situation with a new perspective. When the art is not present, we hear from our staff as well as our patients that an important component of their rehabilitation is missing. Art Ability is one of the ways we seek to achieve our mission of enhancing community awareness about individuals living with disabilities and advocating on their behalf.

I congratulate each of our artists and thank them for sharing their talent and work with us. I also thank the members of our Art Ability committee and the many volunteers who help make each year's exhibition and sale possible. Many thanks also to the members of the Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital Foundation Board, our staff and our very generous sponsors, advertisers and donors for helping to make this 22nd year possible.

Enjoy! And we look forward to having you join us again next year.

Warm Regards,



About Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital, Main Line Health

Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital is a 148-bed physical medicine and rehabilitation hospital dedicated to serving patients and families whose lives can be enhanced through physical and cognitive therapy. Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital treats patients who have experienced significant injuries and illnesses, including brain injury, spinal cord injury, stroke, multiple trauma, amputation and other orthopedic and neurological disorders. The hospital's mission is to maximize the recovery of all of our patients and help them learn ways to compensate for their injury or illness so they can lead a life with purpose, dignity and quality.

Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital is one of the largest and most comprehensive rehabilitation services organizations in the region, offering a broad range of programs at every level of care.

From The Curator

Sherman Fleming



This is my favorite time of year. In one great hall, set on tables, hanging on walls, leaning against chairs are some 500 artworks, as varied and spectacular as they can be. I've been tasked with installing them in such a way so that they work together in one unified expression that calls itself Art Ability. Despite the anxiety I feel as the ever closer deadline of November 4 hurtles toward me, I am equally as excited by what surrounds me. Maybe it's my nearly daily presence throughout the hospital that may lead one to assume that I single-handedly get this exhibit off the ground but that would be a gross assumption indeed. An exhibit of this magnitude requires all hands on deck. A year-round process, the marketing team begins the task of building the exhibit as soon as the previous one ends. Were it not for a solidly committed group of interns, Kelly Parker and Rachel Decker, plus volunteers Renee Guida and Janet Rotoli, who work with us weekly, not to mention Art Ability committee members Claire Larson, Sandra Vereb, Ellie Pfautz, Amory Stedman, Linda Heiberger, Marilyn Roland, Karen Cavin, Bob and Mary Meyers, and Peggy and Brian Jones, this year's exhibition would be impossible to realize. Art Ability Coordinator Cristine Largoza seeks to ensure an exhibit of this level retains a trans-national presence online as well as in the real world. Her stewardship is working as this year we are presenting artwork from 236 artists from 35 states. Indeed, news of our exhibition is getting around: Additionally, artwork from the countries Denmark, Canada, South Korea, India, Nepal and Singapore are on display.

This year's judges are A.M. Weaver, curator and writer, from Philadelphia, Nancy Campbell, Executive Director of the Wayne Art Center, Wayne, Pa., and Amie Potsic, Executive Director & Chief Curator of Main Line Art Center in Haverford, Pa. They were handed the task of awarding 32 artworks with 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and Honorable Mention prizes, including 3 Judges Choice awards. We did something new this year. Historically, once the artwork for exhibition is established, a special category is gleaned from its assembly. This year we asked artists from the outset to consider submitting their artwork for the special category, Transformation. Our judges had 31 pieces to choose from. Lastly, there is the Best in Show award. After much consideration, the judges have awarded this prize to Cheryl Kinderknecht's *And Beneath It All*, Mixed Media.

The Art Ability Exhibition and Sale stands out as a unique forum for artists with disabilities worldwide. We provide exhibitions, community outreach and educational programs and a corporate art acquisition program through Art Ability. Moreover, Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital purchases artwork for its Permanent Art Collection Program and the artwork is incorporated into their rehabilitation programs. Art Ability supports our hospital's vision and mission and provides advocacy on behalf of artists with disabilities by advancing their artistic and financial success. All of the art on display is available for sale and artists receive 80% of the proceeds during this 12-week exhibition.

Art Ability focuses our appreciation, not on the artists' disability, but, rather, their astounding artistic abilities. I am humbled and inspired by the artwork. I hope you will be inspired as well.

The 22nd Annual

Art Ability Exhibition

A Celebration of Art by Artists with Disabilities

Preview Reception

Saturday, November 4, 2017

5:30 pm - 8:00 pm

“Art to Life”

Our speakers will share their perspective on the impact of art and Art Ability during 10 minute chats in the patient dining room.

6:30 pm, 6:50 pm, 7:10 pm

Dinner & Auction

7:30 pm - 10:00 pm

Free and Open to the Public

November 5, 2017 – January 28, 2018

9:00 am - 9:00 pm, daily

Contact

Art Ability

Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital

414 Paoli Pike Malvern, PA 19355

484.596.5607

artability@mlhs.org

mainlinehealth.org/artability

Online Sales Gallery: art-ability.org

*The contributions and lists shown in the Program Book reflect the information received at the time of printing.
We apologize for any omissions or errors herein.*

Corporate Art Acquisition Program

Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital has expanded its outreach of Art Ability to serve as a resource in helping corporations meet their need for art for their corporate art collections. Whether one piece, or dozens, Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital is pleased to partner with businesses to achieve a mutual goal of support for individuals with disabilities.



Carol Foerster, *Draft Horses*, Graphite on Paper

Art Ability not only represents artists who were patients at Bryn Mawr Rehab, but artists with disabilities from all over the United States and world. The selection of original artwork available is gallery quality and represents many different mediums including

photography, watercolor, oil, pastel, etc.

Since the onset of this program, the following organizations have made purchases of art for their corporate art collections:

- Bryn Mawr Hospital Nursing Administration
- Comcast Corporation
- Deloitte & Touche
- Endo Pharmaceuticals
- Kirby Bates Associates
- Main Line Health Corporate Administration
- Main Line Health Center - Newtown Square
- Morgan Stanley
- Riddle Hospital's Health Center
- Shannondell at Valley Forge

If you would like to learn more about our Corporate Art Acquisition Program, please contact Cristine Largoza, Art Ability Program Coordinator at 484-596-5607, ArtAbility@mlhs.org.

Permanent Collection

Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital's Art Ability relies on the generosity of donors and volunteers to continue the mission of the program. While monetary donations are always welcomed and appreciated, many friends of the program choose to purchase works of art from the exhibition and donate these back to the hospital's permanent collection. These donations allow us to extend the collection to more locations throughout the organization, providing greater exposure for and appreciation of the talents of our artists. Please contact us to discuss the potential benefits of donations of art purchased from the exhibition.

Group Tours

Bring your group out to have a private tour of the show. If you are looking for a unique and interesting place to hold a special event, we can arrange private tours along with catering. Contact the Art Ability Office at 484.596.5607 to schedule a date and time.

Online Sales Gallery

Through the generous support of The William Penn Foundation, Art Ability is now able to offer an online sales gallery that provides the opportunity to view and purchase works for sale from our 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.

Enjoy, share and purchase art at art-ability.org.

Satellite Exhibitions

Traveling satellite exhibitions from Art Ability are a key component of the program and help generate sales and build awareness of the talent and skills of our artists. Art Ability work is featured in satellite exhibits throughout the region and state.

Art Ability Committee

Cristine Largoza, *Art Ability Program Coordinator*

Sherman Fleming, *Curator*

Melinda Breecker

Judith Garvey

Katie Kolcun

Ellie Pfautz

Maria Bruno

Doris & Bill Gorden

Jean Kozicki

Ruth Porritt

Milly Butler

Lynda Hamm

Paul Laincz

Theresa Renninger

Karen Cavin

Linda Heiberger

Claire Larson

Marilyn & Bob Roland

Audrey del Grosso

Pat Henriques

Karen Meyers

Janet Rotoli

Sandy Duli

Doug Hess

Mary & Bob Meyers

Tad Sperry

Jeanne Fisher

Peggy & Brian Jones

Yvonne Navarro-Brewer

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Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital gives special thanks to these friends and donors for their major support of Art Ability. Without their involvement, this event would not be possible.

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William Penn Foundation

We also would like to express our gratitude to the other supporters of Art Ability, including friends from the community and Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital employees.

Securing the Future

Campaign Goal Achieved!

Art Ability plays a vital role in the daily mission of Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital. While Art Ability program costs are supported through event ticket sales and revenue, a small percentage of proceeds from art sales, and annual contributions, the best opportunity for securing the long term growth and success of Art Ability is through an endowment. We are pleased to share the successful completion of the Hospital's \$2,000,000 endowment campaign to benefit Art Ability. These funds will provide a reliable, permanent source of income, further enhancing the prestige of Art Ability. Bryn Mawr Rehab gratefully acknowledges the many friends and donors who have partnered with us through their Art Ability Endowment Campaign support, including the following Leadership Donors of \$25,000 and above:

Thomas and Suzanne Reider Beach

The Chappell Culpeper Family Foundation

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Mr. Thomas P. Nerney

Salvatore and Linda Panasci

Mr. and Mrs. John K. Runnette

Mr. and Mrs. William G. Warden IV

2017 Art Ability Judges

A. M. Weaver

A.M. Weaver is a curator and writer dedicated to promoting cutting-edge visual, performance and literary arts. She has an extensive background in the history of American contemporary art and culture. Weaver has curated innumerable exhibitions, including a multimedia series featuring art by women, *Whose Vanguard*, which culminated in a Lesbian Film Festival (1998); *Convergence* (2002); a photo based project *Screenings: Public and Private* (2004) and a city-wide interactive photo project *CoDM Ceremonies of Dark Men* mounted in Washington, DC (2014). Through the years, she has presented and documented internationally acclaimed artists from North America, Latin America, Europe, Africa and Asia. As a journalist, A. M. Weaver continues to examine the work of diverse groups of artists. Her articles and reviews have appeared in *Art in America*, *Frieze Magazine*, *Artvoices*, *Art South Africa*, *Art Papers*, *Surface Design Journal*, *Sculpture Magazine* and *Bomb*.



Cristine Largoza, Nancy Campbell, Sherman Fleming, A.M. Weaver, Amie Potsic

Nancy Campbell

Nancy Campbell is Executive Director of Wayne Art Center and has an extensive background in art education, special education and arts administration. The Center's Executive Director since 1987, Nancy has led the Wayne Art Center through two major capital campaigns and significant expansion programs resulting in the development of one of the largest regional art centers in our region. Campbell has created a diverse range of visual and performing arts programs and curated an extensive array of exhibitions that have gained national attention and broadened the Center's reach to over 30,000 participants annually.

Amie Potsic

Amie Potsic is an established photographer and installation artist and serves as the Executive Director & Chief Curator of Main Line Art Center in Haverford, PA and Chair of the Art In City Hall Artistic Advisory Board to the Office of Arts and Culture of the City of Philadelphia. Potsic has exhibited her own artwork internationally with 13 solo exhibitions and over 85 group exhibitions. In 2015, she won Best in Show for her work on view at the Delaware Contemporary through in *New Eyes: Experimental Photography Today*. Curatorial projects include exhibitions for the Philadelphia International Festival of the Arts, *Philagrafika 2010*, Moore College of Art & Design, Main Line Art Center, and The Philadelphia Museum of Art.

Awards

Selected by Judges: A.M. Weaver; Nancy Campbell; Amie Potsic

Best In Show

**Charles W. Hennessy Artist Award
with proceeds from the Charles W. Hennessy
Art Ability Endowment Fund**

Cheryl Kinderknecht

And Beneath It All



Cheryl Kinderknecht, *And Beneath It All*, Mixed Media

Judge's Choice

Craig Fisher

Mysterium Cosmographicum

Selected by Amie Potsi

The Doris B. Gorden Award with
proceeds from the Doris B. Gorden
Art Ability Endowment Fund

Priscilla Bohlen

Fenced Garden

Selected by A.M. Weaver

John Schwartz Family Memorial Award
Presented by Sal and Linda Panasci

Bernice Paul

Green Bay 2

Selected by Nancy Campbell

The Lillian, Paul and Martha Eckard
Memorial Award
Presented by the Eckard Family

Awards

Fine Crafts and Jewelry

First Prize

Sarah McDaniel – *Nervous System*
Presented by Stephano Slack, LLC

Second Prize

Carmen Smith – *The Final Frontier*
Margaret Skillman Memorial Award
Presented by Sal and Linda Panasci

Third Prize

Ronel Tascione – *White Tree of Gandar*
Presented by Ruth Porritt

Honorable Mention

Dr. Linda Lake – *Infinity*
In Honor of CJC
Presented by Janet Rotoli

Mixed Media

First Prize

Cynthia Miller – *Fiery Ocean in Nine Panels*
In Memory of Jacqueline Van Handel
Presented by Jeanne B. Fisher

Second Prize

Beth Gotfried – *Dervish Poetry*
In Memory of Pennie Marx-Bellard
Presented by Jeanne B. Fisher

Third Prize

Linnie Greenberg – *Buoy Boy*
In Appreciation of the BMRH Staff
Presented by Linda W. Heiberger

Honorable Mention

Virginia Conover – *The Gang*
In Memory of Sheila Vint
Presented by Linda & Michael Ridpath

Photography

First Prize

Patricia Ridenour – *When I Was Little*
In Memory of Elaine Helm
Presented by Susan Christie

Second Prize

Joan Bowers – *Brandon Beach Surf Aglow*
In Memory of Fred Stern
Presented by Brian and Peggy Jones

Third Prize

Jacqueline Young – *Ole' Crusty Sea Dog*
The Stephen J. DiOrio, CLU, ChFC Agency, State Farm Award
Presented by Mr. and Mrs. Stephen J. DiOrio

Honorable Mention

Shelia Nelson – *Figure in Stone*
Presented by Stephano Slack, LLC

3 Dimensional Work

First Prize

Meri Adelman – *Phoenix at the Sink*
Presented by Stephano Slack, LLC

Second Prize

Kathleen McSherry – *Erasing the Mistakes of the World*
In Memory of Graham and Barry Boose
Presented by Brian and Peggy Jones

Third Prize

Rosary Solimanto – *Weight*
In honor of Jeanne Fisher
Presented by Brian and Peggy Jones

Awards

Honorable Mention

David Gerbstadt – *Rhino*

In Memory of Robert L. Rotoli
Presented by Janet Rotoli

Special Category - Transformation

First Prize

**Allen Bryan –
*2 Seagulls at the Door***
James and Carmela Panasci Memorial Award
Presented by Sal and Linda Panasci

Second Prize

**Linda Fry Goschke –
*Carnation***
In Honor of Claire Larson
Presented by Brian and Peggy Jones

Third Prize

Lindsay Halleckson – *Duende*
The Kozicki Family Award
Presented by Jean Kozicki

Honorable Mention

**Rebecca Perkins –
*Transformation***
Anna Serrapica Memorial Award
Presented by Sal and Linda Panasci

Works on Canvas, Linen, and Board

First Prize

Max Tzinman – *First Man*
The Elliott T. Settle Memorial Award
Presented by The Settle Family

Second Prize

**Ginger Gehres –
*Laissez Le Bon Temps Rouler!***
In Memory of Ralph and
Carmen Terrazas
Presented by Brian and Peggy Jones

Third Prize

**John Creagh –
*Wild Colors***
Presented by Ruth Porritt

Honorable Mention

**Ramalingam Muthukrishnan –
*Beautiful Hairs in Brown***
Presented by Stephano Slack, LLC

Works on Paper

First Prize

**Craig Fisher –
*The Transit of Venue***
The Thomas and Harriet Blank Award
Presented by Jeanne B. Fisher

Second Prize

**Sheila Pitt –
*Obsession***
In Honor of Lauren McGowan
Presented by Brian and Peggy Jones

Third Prize

**Stephen Gibson –
*Youth Unburdened***
The Evans Family Award
Presented by Scott and Lara Evans

Honorable Mention

**Monica Chulewicz –
*The Day the Universe Fell***
The McTear Family Award
Presented by Brian and Allyson McTear

Artist Profiles

Meri Adelman

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Adelman has been drawing since age 11 and attended the Maryland Institute College of Art. Before being diagnosed with a benign brain tumor, she used to only create life-sized portraits in black and white. After the tumor was successfully removed, she decided to start drawing in color. Adelman notes her fascination with early Italian painting and Cezanne. She has an extensive career in the art industry that includes a position at the Woodmere Art Museum, exhibitions at the Main Line Art Center and many others across the Philadelphia area.

Janet Ahrens

Grinnell, Iowa

Ahrens is a professional paper artist who combines eastern and western papermaking methods with industrial materials to create books, sculptures and assemblages. As a deaf artist, she has a strong awareness of her surroundings which allows her to create inner-worlds and transform hidden spaces that people often overlook. Most of her work presents a stylized view of nature and attempts to represent the various textures and visual planes of Iowa's rural landscape. Ahrens earned her Master of Fine Arts in design from the University of Iowa. She is a Yamagata Fellow at the Corcoran Gallery in Washington, D.C. and has presented work in the Winter Wonderland exhibition at the White House. Her work has been exhibited both nationally and internationally.

Alex Albert

Baltimore, Maryland

Albert is in his early 20's and has been gradually increasing his attendance at Make Studio over the past year. He is working towards coming to the studio every week to focus on his painting after having drawn for many years. Albert enjoys depicting family members, friends, and favorite places in his drawings that are usually in sharpie and densely layered.

Ann Marie Alfano

Dallas, Pennsylvania

Alfano attends Verve Vertu Art Studio, where she has been able to evolve as an artist by experimenting with new techniques and media. She enjoys creating her artwork with felt, paint, paper, clay and



Carol Auld, Joy, Acrylic and Pastel

batik. Most recently, she has been creating detailed batiks on muslin. Alfano loves sharing her artwork with others and has participated in shows held in Wilkes Barre, Scranton, Harford, and other locations in Pennsylvania. She has sold many of her pieces, which gives her a great sense of pride.

Jo Allebach

Phoenix, Arizona

When Allebach's doctor suggested art therapy, she was hesitant to give it a try. Nevertheless, she attended a session at Art Awakenings, a new art program being offered in Phoenix. As soon as she began to paint, she fell in love and began to practice all day, everyday. Allebach recognizes the contributions of several variables in maintaining her bipolar disorder, anxiety and depression on a day-to-day basis, but her introduction to painting is what she believes truly saved her life. She has taught painting classes at Art Awakenings and the Arizona Art Alliance and her work has been exhibited all over Arizona.

Brooke Allen

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Allen is a 21 year old artist who is currently finishing her Art degree at the Community College of Allegheny County. Her focus is on ceramics, paintings, drawings, printmakings, and craftings which are adorned with wispy, flowing lines and a quirky signature touch. To Allen, art is limitless, enthralling and a way to ease her mind as she loses track of time while

letting her hands navigate the artistic plane. Her artwork is created in the hopes of finding herself and spreading positivity to those who need healing from their mental or physical illnesses.

Nancy Alter

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Alter re-entered the art world in 2004 after a long, successful career in information technology. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in art education from Glassboro State College (now Rowan University). Alter has multiple sclerosis (MS) and her art provides her with a respite from the difficulties of her condition. She is an award-winning painter and printmaker who explores the organic and clinical structures of MS and her personal response to them. Alter uses a variety of techniques including dry point etching, monotypes and collage. She is a member of the Cheltenham Printmakers Guild and the American Color Print Society. Her work has been shown in Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

Rashmi Amatya

Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

Since 1990, Amatya has been painting to raise awareness for the deaf community in hopes of improving their standard of living as well as their rights. Growing up as a deaf child in Nepal, Amatya constantly battled with receiving a proper education as she switched in and out of regular schools and schools for the deaf. While traveling home from school one day, she noticed an artist painting a sign and logo, which inspired

her to create her own artwork on paper. This hobby soon changed her life for the better as it enhanced her relationships, self-confidence and personal identity. Today, her appreciation of the arts has extended into acting, fine arts education, partnerships with charitable organizations like Save The Children, yoga, salsa, and ballet dancing. As for her recent artwork, she prefers painting with acrylic color on canvas while contrasting warm and cool colors.

Dana Anderson

Huntsville, Alabama

Anderson is a 24 year-old artist at the Inside Out Studio in Huntsville, Alabama. She has Down syndrome and autism and is low-functioning. She cannot bathe or dress herself, brush her hair or teeth, read, write, or speak, but she can paint! Creating art has offered her a chance at complete self-expression and high self-esteem. Anderson understands the art that she creates and is genuinely proud of the end result. She is an intuitive painter whose paintings on canvas or board use the visual languages of shape, form, color, and line to create an alternative visual experience from visible reality. Unlike a professional artist, Anderson's work is her only voice as she was denied access to the arts through the public school system in grades 6-12. Her year spent at the studio so far has facilitated improvement in her enthusiasm, self-awareness and willingness to try new things.

Carol Auld

Toronto, Ontario, Canada

When Auld began to study and work at the Atelier Pochinko Theatre Resource Center in the 1980's, she knew she was creatively called to art. This inspired her decision to study at the Ontario College of Art and Design in which she double majored in Intermediary/ New Media. She then went on to receive a Masters of Media Arts at Concordia University in Montreal, Quebec. Her work is heavily community-based creative projects, in which she explores the meaning of visual communication by combining different art and design techniques. Auld's intense feelings for texture, color, line and form are channeled through her passions for dream states, abstract expressionism, surrealism, feminism and graphic art. Through these subjects, Auld has been able to instruct art and media classes and workshops at art centers and college level classes. Her

*“As I travel into
my paintings,
my limitations
disappear.... letting
me feel free and safe.”*

- Constance Avery

work has been exhibited across the United States, Canada, and on an international level. Recently, her focus shifted to New Mexico, in which she was an Artist-In-Residence at the Starry Nights Residence in 2015. A year later, she returned to photograph the northern part of the state to focus on environmental issues.

Constance Avery

Utica, New York

As an artist working with vision loss, hearing loss, and cataracts, Avery has faced many limitations in the last 30 years. Instead of seeing her disabilities in a negative light, she praises her restrictions for allowing her to take a different and interesting path in her artistic journey. Avery uses “keyhole vision” to study the areas on canvas and maximize the effects of brush marks, colors, shapes, and the overall flow of the painting. Painting and selling artwork has helped Avery to feel more confident and free, despite her disability. She has said, “As I travel into my paintings, my limitations disappear... letting me feel free and safe.”

Gregory Bannister

Baltimore, Maryland

Bannister is a prolific painter, who began pursuing his craft as a young man. He is so devoted to art that despite having two jobs (including a night shift at BWI airport), he is constantly painting at home. He is excited to be now working in a community of creative peers at Make Studio, and to try new materials and techniques.

Beth Barsky

Wynnewood, Pennsylvania

Barsky works at the Center for Creative Works in Wynnewood, Pennsylvania. Her quest for creating new pieces encourages her love of artwork as she looks forward to her days spent at the art studio. Recently, her favorite technique involves paper shredding.

Zak Bazzel

Franklin, North Carolina

Because of classic autism, Zak Bazzel cannot initiate creativity, but that does not mean he can't create art once assisted. His mother, Joan Bazzel, helps her son as they work in mixed media together creating dimensional assemblages for wall spaces and jewelry with metal and vitreous enameling. They use found objects, metal working techniques, and custom-made wooden substrates. Art is the number one way in which Bazzel is able to disconnect from autism as he gains self-esteem and nurtures his mind which functions on a 5-7 year old level. Their studio is equipped with easy to use tools and Bazzel has a liking for the hydraulic press as he fires pieces in the kiln. Much of their work is created hand in hand, but Joan allows Zak to have times of independence as long as she is there to guide him. Art therapy brings great enthusiasm to Zak although he is not able to verbalize his reaction into words.

Megan Bent

Seattle, Washington

Bent is an artist living in Seattle, Washington. She received her Master of Fine Arts from the University of Hawaii at Manoa in 2012. Her work focuses on how the movement of the body influences conceptions of disability and identity. Bent's work has been exhibited widely across the United States in exhibitions at the Rayko Photo Center in San Francisco, The Dairy Center for the Arts in Boulder, Colorado, The Arts at Marks Garage in Honolulu, Hawaii, The Mighty Tieton Warehouse in Tieton, Washington, and the Piedmont Council for the Arts & The Bridge PAI in Charlottesville, Virginia. Bent has been an artist in residence at the Honolulu Museum of Art and McGuffey Art Center in Virginia, and she has been a featured community exhibitor in the Look 3 Festival of the Photograph in Charlottesville.

Jacob Berger*Wynnewood, Pennsylvania*

Berger doesn't start his drawings with a set plan; instead, he makes things up in his mind as he goes along. Objects that appear on paper often include red, black, and blue squares and circles. He attempts to make his viewers feel like they are flying outside with his distinctive, abstract shapes and complex inner-workings like machines or spaceships. His compositions continue to evolve daily in the studio as his patterns and geometric shapes become more detailed. Berger loves incorporating references from his favorite movies and television shows into his work and proclaims that he makes art for his friends and girlfriend.

Steven Bertsch*Wayne, Pennsylvania*

Bertsch is a multimedia painter with a focus on oils and a background in watercolors, acrylics, palette knives, and brushes. Art has ignited Bertsch's creative side which has proved to be therapeutic while suffering from a mental/depressive disorder. Focusing on the beauty of life, nature, and people while expressing it to others ignites positive thoughts within himself and the viewers of his artwork. Bertsch enjoys painting contemporary yet raw beauty such as landscapes and wildlife and even incorporates unique canvases, such as wood, tiles and rocks.

Jack Beverland*San Antonio, Florida*

Beverland is a self-taught Southern folk artist who has been painting professionally for 17 years. His unique creative process and style of artwork helps him find peace of mind by "living within each painting by painting myself into them." First, he imagines a picture in his mind that takes him back to the early 1900's and then continues to draw what he sees. After surviving an automobile accident in 1987, Beverland's life was forever changed when he was diagnosed with uncinat seizures and spina bifida. A few years later, he was laid off from his corporate job and his wife was diagnosed with Alzheimer's at just 52 years old. He decided to mask his feelings of anger, frustration, and rejection by painting the simpler times when his life was carefree. With the help of art, his loving family, and his strong determination, he was able to conquer his inner beasts and chose to carry on in life despite being chronically ill and losing his wife. Beverland lives by the same quote

every day; "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."

Charles Blackwell*Oakland, California*

Blackwell was just a 19 year-old art student when a fall left him legally blind due to limited peripheral vision. Despite his injuries, he continued to study art at Sacramento City College and received his Bachelor of Arts in sociology from California State University in 1975. Blackwell's life-long love of jazz music serves as the inspiration for his energetic paintings. His work has been included in exhibitions across the United States. He is also a poet and playwright. His published plays and poems include: *Is*, *The Color of Mississippi Mud*, and *The Fiery Response to Love's Callings*, among other works. In collaboration with jazz drummer, Billy Toliver, Blackwell has produced 3 spoken-word CDs. Currently, he resides in the San Francisco area where he is very active in the artistic community; he organizes writers' workshops and community cultural arts events for the Faithful Fools Agency and The Hospitality Community Arts program in San Francisco's Tenderloin neighborhood.

Chantal Bobo-Peden*Philadelphia, Pennsylvania*

Bobo-Peden was born and raised in Philadelphia with a passion and love for the fashion world. She is heavily rooted in her community and enjoys dancing, singing and creating art. Her art is inspired by current fashion trends and female celebrities that she looks up to. The influential decision to start creating art was made when she began sewing to create her own clothes. Now, she has expanded her skillset to include printmaking and drawing. The drawings that she creates are transferred onto silkscreens and printed onto t-shirts, tank-tops, tote bags, and fabric for scarves. Bobo-Peden's membership to Second State Press, a WordPress site, allows her to have access to various types of printing processes to create her products. Creating art has allowed her to show the world what she loves while connecting her with many likeminded people.

Robert Bohle*Banner Elk, North Carolina*

Bohle paints mostly non-representationally because he wants the painting's color,



Ronny Bruce, *Koi*, Acrylic on Paper

consistency, value and shapes to communicate visually to the viewer. Rather than creating representational art, he aims for his works to visually reward viewers from both close up and afar. His battle with Parkinson's disease for the last 17 years impacts his brushstrokes and edge work due to tremors and stiff movements. The disease's impact on his coordination means that he cannot create fine, detailed work. This is a major reason why he chooses to paint abstracts with large brushes and distinctive marks on the canvas. When Bohle was forced to retire from teaching due to his disease, he thought his life was over. Art has gifted him with a new found confidence in his ability to still be a contributing member of society as well as a respected creator.

Priscilla Bohlen*Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania*

Bohlen is a professional visual artist who has been painting for 40 years. She received a Bachelor's degree in Fine Arts from Moore College of Art, and went on to work as a designer for Fieldcrest Cannon in New York City. Later, she studied fine art at the graduate level with renowned professor, Bob Yasuda at CW Post College. After moving to the Philadelphia area, she began to paint images of the Schuylkill River in oil. More recently, Bohlen has focused on abstract painting with acrylic. She describes her process: "I like to apply resist to an active, colorful background. Then, with a palette knife, I cover it with a complementary color of paint. When the resist is removed, taking part of the top layer with it, the underneath activity is revealed. From there, I enjoy the challenge

of resolving the painting. It often requires many layers of paint and resist until I am satisfied. I love the 'happy accidents' and the surprise element of this method of working." Bohlen is a juried member of the Delaware Valley Art League, ARTsisters, and Artists Equity.

Anna Maria Bonanni

King of Prussia, Pennsylvania

Bonanni was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1969 and raised in King of Prussia. She is a 1993 graduate of Pennsylvania State University, where she majored in leisure studies. Though most of her career has been in pharmaceutical marketing, Bonanni's interest in art began in high school. In 2001, at the age of 31, Bonanni was diagnosed with Neurological Hereditary Spastic Paraplegia which left her unable to walk without assistance and unable to work. Taking classes at the Wayne Art Center in Wayne, Pennsylvania brought her back to the days when she took regular art classes in school. Her artwork, mainly prints and collages, has been exhibited in previous Art Ability shows as well as in the Wayne Art Center and Main Line Art Center in Haverford, Pennsylvania.

Lynne Bowden

Vancouver, Washington

After a long career in law enforcement, Bowden turned to her love of art to remind herself that life is a gift. Art allows Bowden to concentrate on creation and distracts her from the vertigo and other complications of her hearing impairment. Working as an encaustic artist, Bowden is inspired by what she sees, feels and researches. Her fascination with other cultures inspires her to combine old world techniques, such as Batik on silk, and to incorporate them into her wax paintings. Bowden was trained in the ancient art of combining layers of molten beeswax, color pigment and tree resin by encaustic artist, Debra Van Tuinen of Van Tuinen Fine Art. Bowden's work can be seen in galleries in New York, Florida, Pennsylvania, Hawaii and other locations across the U.S. as well as in private collections.

Joan Bowers

Seattle, Washington

Bowers' early years were spent in Mount Carmel, Pennsylvania where she was born and attended school. She holds a Bachelor of Science and Master of Science in nursing from the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia and a Doctorate of Education

in nursing from Teachers College Columbia University in New York. Courses in photography at a community college opened her heart and mind to a focus in art. She did not begin photographing seriously until after she retired and her hearing impairment required her to use hearing aids. In addition to loss of hearing, Bowers suffers from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and osteoarthritis. The latter two affect her breathing and mobility, somewhat limiting her photography. Through photography, she attempts to communicate her willingness to see beauty in even the smallest elements: naked trees in winter, water that lies still in ponds or moves through channels cut into the land. Bowers' work has been in solo and group exhibits throughout Washington.

Don Brewer

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

After 25 years with AT&T, Brewer retired in 1998 at the age of 45 to fulfill his life-long dream of returning to art school. While attending Philadelphia's University of the Arts, he was diagnosed with Crohn's disease. Studying art gave him strength, and he graduated in 2002 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in multimedia and communications, despite many hospital stays. Brewer was also diagnosed with bladder cancer but has been in intermittent remission for twelve years. He is a multimedia designer who sees many connections between painting, drawing and digital mediums. His painting style is atmospheric naturalism, while his photography is more abstract. Brewer is inspired by old world styles and finds incorporating modern technology to be particularly exciting. He manages a platform of art blogs and social media outlets collectively titled DoNArTNeWs Philadelphia Art News Blog. Brewer's work has also been showcased at the Creative Voices exhibit at Philadelphia City Hall.

Victoria Brown

Dallas, Pennsylvania

Brown's Irish heritage is an important source of inspiration for her art. She has Down syndrome and is a member of the Verve Vertu Art Studio, an arts apprenticeship studio that encourages people with special needs to explore their creative energies. Her preferred mediums are batik, felt and watercolor. When she is not in the studio, Brown enjoys Celtic dancing, which she has studied for 15 years.

Brown is also a member of The Order of the Eastern Star, the largest charity and fraternal organization for men and women in the world. Her work has been exhibited at local venues, including the Clarks Summit Earth Day Festival in Clarks Summit, Pennsylvania. Brown is also a member of the Wyoming Christian Church.

Ronny Bruce

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

After a suggestion to take up art, Bruce found his true calling and gift as an intuitive painter. He brings forth beautiful imagery within brief, trance-like sessions called auras from his temporal lobe epilepsy. Although these auras can be negative and frightening, he chooses to describe them as "pure moments of oneness" because of the impulse to create that he receives. He uses only his hand and fingers during these moments to swipe across the canvas with no set ideas or outcomes. The striking artwork that results is usually mystical, religious or abstract.

Allen Bryan

Saugerties, New York

When Bryan was diagnosed with a genetic eye disease in 1988, he took a trip to the southwestern United States to experience the vast, panoramic landscapes before his vision became too limited. This trip inspired his interest in landscape photography. After graduating from the State University of New York with a degree in Art Education, he taught art and filmmaking in public schools and owned a fine craft gallery. In both the 2011 and the 2015 Art Ability exhibitions, Bryan's photographs won the Best in Show award.

Judith Burns

Eddystone, Pennsylvania

Born in Northampton, Massachusetts in 1954, Burns spent her early years living in various areas of New England. Multiple accidents have resulted in a traumatic brain injury and partial paralysis on her right side. She struggles with facial recognition and memory and has difficulty identifying the faces of people she knows. Her interest in portraiture allows her to look at faces in a different way, and she paints all of her watercolor portraits on commission. One of the reasons Burns is so drawn to painting is that the process allows her to focus longer than she is normally able to due to her brain injury. She finds peace and relaxation in the process of creating artwork and enjoys pushing herself to new levels and experimenting

with other media. She says, “I try to paint every moment that I can because since I can’t remember my past, I feel that I need to leave something behind when I am gone to show I was here.”

Tammy Byerly

Wynnewood, Pennsylvania

Byerly is a 47 year-old artist who lives with a developmental disability. She grew up in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania and has attended the Center for Creative Works in Wynnewood for over five years. She feels that art is very important and prides herself on her cute, colorful drawings. Byerly’s work revolves around a clear and focused mark-making technique. Using thin pens and markers, she creates a network of dots, lines, or shapes that populate her compositions in high density.

Emma Carnell

Kalamazoo, Michigan

Carnell is a 20 year-old woman with partial trisomy of chromosome 16p. This causes her to have developmental disabilities and trouble concentrating. She has been learning life skills and working different kinds of jobs at a young adult program since graduating high school. Carnell professes, “Art is everything to me, it is what I love.” Currently, she loves working with clay and ceramic sculpture while learning new techniques. She builds with clay slabs, pinching clay, and uses the potter’s wheel at the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts. Her love of art means that she has a way to express herself despite her genetic condition.

Sister Kathy Cairone

Watchung, New Jersey

Though she has suffered from multiple sclerosis (MS) since the age of 27, Carione has been mouth painting with watercolor for 22 years. She began her journey as an artist at the age of 50 despite never painting before and credits her motivation to her art teacher, Lisa Brown. Her main inspiration for her paintings comes from scenes from cards that she has received throughout her life. Although she only paints once a week, it is vital to her livelihood and provides her with a sense of accomplishment. In 2007, she placed third in the first-ever art contest hosted by the Multiple Sclerosis Association of America. She often gives her work as gifts to those who have cared for her and supported her in her artistic endeavors including her nurses, family members, and her art teacher. Sister Carione is able to

*“I try to paint every
moment that I can
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I was here.”*

- Judith Burns

independently move by using a motorized wheelchair that is controlled by her chin and is a 5 year participant in Art Ability at Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital.

Carson Case

Richardson, Texas

Case creates multisensory choreography with accumulative layers of glass, metal, and nature enhanced by light, sound, and textures. Her work is described as a “saturation of emotional energy” that is “full of juxtapositions and contrasts.” Case’s life-long interests in mathematics, chemistry, mythology, history, culture and politics greatly influence her subject matter. A congenital heart condition has often disrupted the creation of her artwork, but it encouraged her to adapt to the digital realm which she sees as a blessing in disguise. Sometimes Case wishes that she wasn’t ill, but then she realizes that she might not have become the dynamic, adventurous, and optimistic artist that she is today if she was meant to take the “safe” path.

Adam Chambers

New Haven, Connecticut

Chambers explores the notion that “art is magic delivered from the lie of being truth” through themes of juxtaposition, humor and contradiction. Working primarily as an oil painter, his imagery is drawn from deeply personal experiences, absurdities of pop culture, and his experience as both an artist with a narrow field visual disability and as a survivor of childhood sexual trauma. He creates art to explore the themes of the irrational vs. the rational, image vs. language, clarity vs. confusion, and everyday life vs. popular culture. Chambers received a Bachelor of Arts in arts and aesthetics from Bard College at Simon’s Rock and a Master of Fine Arts in creative writing from Sarah Lawrence College. He lives with his family in New Haven, Connecticut and works from Erector Square Studios while creating.

Alice Chen

Campbell, California

Inspired by the timeless nature of storytelling, Chen creates highly detailed pen drawings. Though legally blind as a result of Cone-Rod Dystrophy, she is able to create her pieces with the assistance of a powerful electronic magnifier known as a CCTV. Her attraction to the fantastical imagery of dragons and birds arose from childhood stories of Greek mythology and Chinese folk tales. For Chen, the stories that are part of a culture’s heritage actively shape the way people frame the world around them. She says, “I seek to capture the life and beauty of these tales in my work in the hopes that I cannot only preserve but share them.” Living with a visual disability has taught Chen to appreciate the reality that everyone sees the world differently. Her art allows her to show the unique factors that shape her as an individual.

Monica Chulewicz

Seaford, New York

Chulewicz’s prints, paper cuts, fiber art, and vintage photographs are collected memories that she uses to create dialogues between history, memory, and time. Her work addresses themes of existence, fragility, mortality, loss of life, memory and disability. Chulewicz mainly uses photographs of women in order to retell their stories as her own. The focus of her work greatly stems from her experience living with memory loss and several painful diseases. Due to her disabilities, she often has to take hiatuses as her disease



Carson Case, *The Soul Whisperer*, Metal, bronze, resin

affects her hands and arms and makes it excruciating to create work. She earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Adelphi University and was awarded The Peter Paone Award for Excellence in Works on Paper in 2013. Chlulewicz frequently exhibits in New York, as well as throughout the country.

Betsy Clayton

Dresher, Pennsylvania

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. She has also exhibited in Art Ability every year since 1997. In 2008, she won third place in the sculpture category for her piece, Totem.

Patrick Cleary

Dallas, Pennsylvania

Cleary, a 37 year-old artist with Down syndrome, has recently found his creative side thanks to an arts apprenticeship at Verve Vertu Studio. His shoelace collection quickly turned into a popular selling piece at the studio as he dyes laces and arranges them into landscapes. One of his most popular pieces, titled God Bless USA, paid homage to his deceased brother, Sergeant Michael Cleary, who lost his life in Iraq in 2005. Aside from his unique shoelace work, Cleary enjoys taking landscape photos, felting, acrylic painting, dancing, drama, and working at his job at Misericordia University where he is employed in the sports department. He loves art "because it's fun and entertaining and it makes me

feel good inside. I enjoy meeting new friends. I also feel how beautiful art is in my heart and it takes my breath away."

Barbara Cobb

Trumbull, Connecticut

Cobb is a 61 year-old woman from Bridgeport, Connecticut who enjoys creating art a few times a week. Her paintings are expressive and colorful as she uses bright colors and outlines to create graphic design patterns. She draws inspiration from her surroundings and her style is organic and decorative. Cobb's work often resembles tapestries and textile art due to her use of repetitive patterns. She is employed at Stop & Shop in Fairfield, Connecticut where she enjoys greeting customers as she bags groceries during her workday. Cobb is very friendly, outgoing, and always willing to go the extra mile for her peers, staff and co-workers.

Debra Hope Colligan

West Harwich, Massachusetts

Colligan's source of inspiration comes from many years spent at Cape Cod, Nantucket, and Martha's Vineyard. Her roots on the Cape and the Islands give her a "soulful impression" of texture and color, which can be seen in her seascapes, landscapes, and portraits of animals and people. In 2004, Colligan was involved in a severe accident while horseback riding and suffered a traumatic brain injury. She

recovered at Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital, and now firmly believes that art and music have healing properties due to their ability to capture positive energy. Rather than a desire to capture a single moment or experience, Colligan paints to respond to the world around her. She says, "My brushstroke is a new word in my dialogue with the world. Each element is a sentence, each stroke on canvas a paragraph. So it is the language of paint that connects me to the world and has done so throughout my life." Colligan exhibits her work extensively in the Massachusetts area and has organized two New England Alumni exhibitions with the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts.

Maureen Collins

Wilmington, Delaware

Collins finds creative inspiration in the textures, colors, sounds, and phrases that she observes every day. By interpreting what she experiences into photography, painting, ceramics, jewelry, and collage, she offers the world something uniquely her own. A life-changing illness, Guillain-Barre syndrome, left her paralyzed for seven months and required many years of physical therapy to regain strength. Learning to walk again and recovering her motor skills challenged Collins to develop alternative ways of doing what she loved. In particular, she recalls that relearning to work with porcelain was excellent physical therapy for her hands. Collins says of this process, "All of the images, sensory deficits, pent up feelings of being immobilized for so long gifted me with an unfailing sense of gratitude for the abilities that I do have; for those I was able to recover."

Brittany Comunale

San Diego, California

An aspiring artist from San Diego, Comunale expresses her perspective of the world through the use of photography. She prefers to display her photographs on non-traditional surfaces like acrylic material or aluminum because she finds them more captivating than paper. Three years ago, she was forced to put her photography on hold after being injured in an accident. Her right arm and hand were immobilized and needed extensive physical therapy in order to move again. Shortly after regaining some movement through therapy, she was diagnosed with Chronic Pain syndrome and rheumatoid arthritis. Comunale recalls that prior to her accident, she would spend hours at a time shooting photos. Now, she experiences intense pain after holding

her camera for more than a few minutes. Though her limitations are frustrating, she feels that they have helped her to become more appreciative of the subjects she is able to photograph. She says, "I have found a new driving force to stay optimistic and to relish in the small victories of executing routine daily activities," and hopes that each bit of progress will bring her closer to her goal of sharing the beauty she sees in the world.

Ginny Conover

Wynnewood, Pennsylvania

Making mixed media artwork is a recent endeavor for Conover, whose diverse career experience includes high school English teacher, licensed Couple and Family Therapist, and professional puppeteer. However, art has always been present in one form or another throughout Conover's life. She credits her mother for fostering her interest in art by sending her to art lessons and taking her to "all the art venues that NYC offered." After a nine-day inpatient hospital stay, Conover was diagnosed with Bipolar disorder. She was able to draw on both her love of art and her experience working in the mental health field to help her maintain stability. She says, "To this day, when I find myself experiencing the onset of symptoms, I am usually able to go up to my studio and 'play/paint/create' and I make it through." Her interest in art allows her to create a network of fellow artists and friends who have become integral to her life.

Elizabeth Core

Sewanee, Tennessee

Art was Core's first love and remains the driving force in her life as she battles her disabilities. She is a mixed media artist who has suffered from seizures since early childhood. During her senior year of high school, she experienced an extended seizure that resulted in a head injury and severe memory loss. Though she has undergone multiple procedures and tried many medications in an attempt to control her seizures, Core continues to share her passion for art through teaching. She says of her own art, "My work celebrates creativity as natural medicine. I remember by looking hard at what I see." Core has a Bachelor's degree in studio art and a Master's degree in English writing from Hollins College as well as a Master's degree in painting and printmaking from the University of North Carolina. She also holds a Professional Certificate of Art Education from Acadia University.

John Creagh

Chester, New York

The stark landscape and square buildings of the Bronx where Creagh was raised had a profound influence on his art. He holds a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Fine Arts from Herbert H. Lehman College. After an accident left him paralyzed, Creagh moved upstate. It was during rehabilitation that he discovered his signature style of art: painting directly from nature. Inspired by the works of Edward Hopper, he studied at the Art Students League in New York City. He has taught at the Pelham Art Center and the Rockland Center for the Arts and is currently an adjunct professor at West Chester Community College. Creagh replicates nature through watercolors, oils, acrylics, pastels and linoprints.

April Cross

Dallas, Pennsylvania

Cross is an artist at Verve Vertu Art Studio, an arts apprenticeship for artists with special needs. Despite her intellectual disability, she is filled with talent, innovative ideas, and a quickly expanding artistic skillset. Cross has a love of sunflowers which has developed into a series of detailed silk batiks with beautiful fabric weaves and a unique touch on each hand-dyed fabric. These pieces have found a following and now she is taking commissions for this work. She also has created a line of hand-designed fabric and paper clay mermaids with stories for each doll. Cross exclaims that "art is my life!" and finds constant self growth within each of her creations.

Ryan Curl

Trumbull, Connecticut

Curl is a 32 year-old diagnosed with a mild intellectual disability, autism, and obsessive compulsive disorder. He has been a participant of The Kennedy Center since September 2006 and resides with his parents in Bridgeport, Connecticut. Curl paints in a spontaneous manner and often depicts imagery from his imagination or from fantasy movie scenes. He combines linear line work with fluid brush work.

Jean-Pierre de Chadarevian

Wynnewood, Pennsylvania

de Chadarevian is a retired Pediatric Pathologist who was the Director of Pathology at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children for 25 years. In 2012, he suffered a stroke during emergency heart surgery which caused him to develop aphasia and the inability to read or write.

Devastated by his new illnesses which prevented him from his favorite pastime of writing mystery novels, he turned to acrylic painting and found happiness again. de Chadarevian's artwork is inspired by what he sees outside of his window at home or what he can bring to life from his imagination. According to him, painting has saved his life.

Christine Degyansky

Los Angeles, California

Degyansky is a multimedia artist focused on ink and colored pencil drawings, photography, and digital paint. Despite being visually impaired since birth, she has always been naturally drawn to art. Her formal training began while taking drawing, painting, and sculpting classes at Hunter College in New York City. Today, her artwork focuses on her fondness for nature, country life and travel. Her disability has not hindered her from creating and capturing landscapes and seascapes, found objects in nature, and figures both along the countryside and in city life. According to Degyansky, art has strengthened her visual perspective of color and dimension, while helping her gain a better focus on her visual surroundings.

Dereck Dew

St. Joseph, Missouri

Dew is a philosophical painter and spoken word performer who focuses on the subjects of semiology, sign, and symbol studies. He believes that more interesting questions solicit more interesting reactions and has an "open door policy" to spur dialogue from other engaged creatives. His creative process is a mix of metaphorically existing and not existing at the same time. Recently, Dew received a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Missouri Western State University and has been featured in multiple galleries across the state of Missouri.

Gerard Di Falco

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Di Falco has been artistically inclined for over 40 years and has a Bachelor of Arts from Rutgers University and a Master of Science from Drexel University in fine visual arts. Despite suffering through chronic pain from degenerative disk disease and RSDS for over 50 years, his work as an etching artist has only been positively impacted. To him, the darkness and immobility found in his illness are overshadowed by the creativity and healing benefits that making art entails. Di Falco

describes his etchings as “poetic narratives” inspired by subjects such as archaeology, mythology, and art history. His prints are hand-pulled and use different cultural techniques such as intaglio, aquatint, drypoint, and Chinese collè. Di Falco has been recognized for his outstanding artwork multiple times, including by the City of Philadelphia, the Pollock-Krasner Foundation, and the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts.

Jon Diehl

Quakertown, Pennsylvania

At just the age of 4, Diehl was struck by a car and sustained a Traumatic Brain Injury. Now 35, he has “maintained a positive outlook and his love for art through his support network.” His support group of family, friends and rehabilitation at Success Rehab at Rock Ridge have helped him recover from his disability. Though he sometimes has difficulty holding his paintbrush, he pushes through to express his thoughts and memories on canvas. He recently started specializing in animal portraits and has brought joy to many owners with his representations of their pets. Diehl has achieved recognition at Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital’s Art Ability Exhibition, Good Shepherd, the Conrad W. Raker silent auction and other locations.

Samuel Dietze

Altoona, Pennsylvania

Dietze likes painting outdoors surrounded by nature. He fits all of his supplies in a backpack and then travels by foot or bicycle and paints within the wildlife. Painting keeps him busy and ensures that his thoughts are light and cheerful. The majority of his subjects include landscapes, nightscapes, outer space, trees, the moon, sunsets, the ocean, and the stars. Dietze works with oil paint when he is home, but prefers acrylic when he is outdoors. Being legally blind affects his visual perception and the way he paints, but he claims that he “just paints things the way I see them.”

Thomas Dillon

Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania

Dillon was born in Bay Shore, New York and was taught the basics of painting by his mother at just 7 years old. His artwork has given him a therapeutic escape from the harsh realities that his mental illness has brought with it, including inner voices that cause disruption. His mediums vary and include acrylic paint, watercolors, colored pencil, epoxy enamel and wood framing to create contemporary, surreal, and figurative

pieces. His many hospital stays over the years, including one at Bryn Mawr Rehab, have helped him better himself and focus on his artwork that has been both published and displayed in galleries.

Allison Doatch

Edison, New Jersey

A photorealistic artist, Doatch works with colored pencils and acrylics to create highly detailed images of animals and flowers. She feels that having autistic spectrum disorder has given her the patience to create such detail-oriented pieces. Turning to art gave her confidence when facing the difficulties and challenges of her disability. Doatch graduated from Centenary College with a Bachelor of Fine Arts and now works as a patient intake representative. She has exhibited her work in the New Jersey area and won a Judge’s Choice award in the 2011 Art Ability exhibition.

Eric Dodson

Dallas, Pennsylvania

Dodson attends the Verve Vertu Art Studio, an arts apprenticeship that inspires creativity for people with special needs. He is a 32 year-old artist with Down syndrome who loves painting cats, dogs and horses and often gives names to the animals in his pieces. Part of his inspiration comes from watching the television show, Animal Planet. Dodson also loves sports and has participated in swimming, basketball, and bowling at the Special Olympics. He lives with his mother, grandmother and dog, named “Lady”.

Gwen Duda

Toronto, Canada

Duda is a professional artist specializing in nature-inspired abstract expressionistic paintings on canvas, paper and wood panel. She has experienced system exertion intolerance disease for the past 25 years, so she works very quickly to ensure that she has enough energy to finish. Rather than allow her illness to define her career, Duda’s work is fueled by it. The unpredictability of her symptoms have fostered a keen awareness of the sights, sounds, and smells of her surroundings and a sharp memory that can cling to small



Craig Fisher, *Mysterium Cosmographicum*, Aquatint Intaglio

details until the next opportunity Duda has to return to her studio. Duda has exhibited work in solo shows in Canada and the U.S. She has taught private art lessons for both children and adults and received multiple awards, including the Bell Ringer Award for outstanding service in hosting and instructing a children’s art workshop and judging artwork entries.

Bobby Edmon

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Edmon is a husband, father, military veteran and self-taught artist whose favored medium is acrylic paint on canvas. He enjoys incorporating his favorite subjects of landscapes, buildings, and animals into his paintings. After having a stroke in 2003, art is the only thing that Edmon can still excel at which provides him with a strong sense of accomplishment and a boosted self-esteem. He proudly admits that his artistic ability was untouched even though the stroke took his speech and balance. Before his disability, he was once in a band, called The Bluegrass Four, in which he enjoyed singing and playing the banjo, guitar, oboe and piano. Edmon’s disability allows him to have more time to paint, as he is no longer able to work. He is a regular participant of the Art Ability program at Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital, and he finds great joy drawing and painting in preparation for the event.

Clara Edmon*Oklahoma City, Oklahoma*

Art has given Edmon identity and self-esteem throughout her whole life as a person suffering from a learning disability and clinical depression. She prefers working with oil paint, and she starts off most of her paintings by sketching and drawing the background of subjects that vary from animals, landscapes and still life. As a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, traditional Native American themes are a favorite subject as it allows her to share and explore her tribal heritage. She frequently uses traditional dress and emblems of Potawatomi tribal costumes in her work. As a young adult, abuse, poverty, medical issues and family obligations delayed her pursuit of an art career. She received her first artistic training by winning an art contest in school that offered free art lessons at the public library as a prize. Edmon has also completed a series of paintings dealing with the subject of mental health, which reflect her struggle with depression. Her series of works concerning mental illness are part of the permanent collection at Hope Community Services in Oklahoma City, a mental health facility.

Beverly Erkskine*Swarthmore, Pennsylvania*

At the age of 50, Erkskine's life was turned upside down when she was forced to retire on full-time disability due to a rare neurological disorder known as spinal cerebellar degeneration. Constantly experiencing a loss of balance, trembling hands, slurred speech, cognitive problems and depression have not made it easy for her to pursue art. Yet, she still sees beauty in the world and tries to express that beauty through her creations. Erkskine began creating iris folding greeting cards as a hobby and a way to fill her time to offset her emotional depression. When she was labeled as "disabled", she struggled with self-esteem, confidence, and a sense of purpose. Becoming an artist has restored those key characteristics needed for a happy life. Because of the symptoms of the disease and her decreasing motor skills, she uses a small pair of surgical scissors when cutting the designs for her cards. Erkskine never thought of herself as an artist, but her new outlook on life has inspired her to confidently refer to herself as "an artist and craftswoman, who found my way there because of my disability."

“My brushstroke is a new word in my dialogue with the world. Each element is a sentence, each stroke on canvas a paragraph. So it is the language of paint that connects me to the world and has done so throughout my life.”

*- Debra Hope Colligan***Patricia Farrell***Montross, Virginia*

Suffering from leg, back and neck problems and vision impairments, Farrell has realized that art does not have to be perfect to make a statement. To her, it is more important to hear what art is saying than to judge it on its visual characteristics. Her professional career started when she graduated with honors from Drexel University with a Bachelor of Science in design and marketing. Besides painting, she has been a realtor for over 25 years in the D.C. area, a buyer for specialty stores in Philadelphia and a Regional Manager for Perfumers Workshop Fragrances and Princess Borghese Cosmetics. She now paints with acrylics and watercolor and focuses on portraits with seascapes. In addition, Farrell sits on the Board of the Vienna Arts Society, and in winter, teaches basic art to elementary and high school students in the Bahamas.

Craig Fisher*Toledo, Ohio*

Originally from Holland, Ohio, Fisher is a 1976 graduate of the University of Toledo.

Except for a year of study in Europe, he has lived most of his life in Northwest Ohio. He is a mid-career artist who is unapologetic about being a "local kid." Fisher's commercial career spans over three decades as a graphic designer, art director and commercial illustrator. He had the privilege of studying painting with local watercolor artist, Walter Chapman, while still in high school. Also, he was a student under Diana Attie, Peter Elloine, and John Botts at The University of Toledo. He credits the University and its teachers for his love of printmaking and a natural curiosity for the potential of line and form. Fisher currently works out of his studio, Ibis Press, in his home where he joins the traditional with the contemporary.

Robert Flatt*Houston, Texas*

After discovering that he had Parkinson's disease in 1999, Flatt began pursuing his "crazy passion to become a photographer." He says, "Parkinson's disease 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." Flatt loves highly saturated pictures that are full of color and feature vibrant, surrealistic backgrounds. He enjoys using his camera and Photoshop to paint pictures of birds flying, bees buzzing, and dragonflies basking in the sun. Flatt's photography is in the permanent collection of the Museum of Fine Arts Houston, and has been on display in a variety of venues, including the Jones Graduate School of Business Administration and Rice University, where he is an adjunct professor. Flatt received both his Bachelor's degree and his Master's degree in electrical engineering from Rice University, as well as a Master's in Business Administration from Harvard University in 1973. He and his wife, Nancy, live in Houston, Texas.

Ami Fleischman*Huntington Beach, California*

After growing tired of living a life of sickness and fatigue from multiple illnesses such as Addison's disease and connective tissue disorder, Fleischman decided to return to college at the age of 43. As a current fourth semester student at Golden West College in Huntington Beach, California, she has fallen in love with the art of thrown ceramics. She hopes to use her new found passion to express her love of function and form and to prove that functional isn't always predictable.



Ginger Gehres, *Can You See Me Now?*, Scratchboard

Working with clay has helped Fleischman temporarily escape from the pains of her chronic health issues while providing happiness and purpose.

Carol Foerster

Littlestown, Pennsylvania

Foerster was born in Pennsylvania but grew up in Frederick, Maryland. She attended McDaniel College in Westminster, Maryland and earned her Bachelor's degree in Studio Art. In the mid 1990's, while working as a Customer Service Representative for a mail order company, she developed Radial Tunnel Syndrome in her right arm and was forced to quit her job. Foerster was cautioned by her doctors to avoid work that required repetitive use of her arm or heavy lifting. Though she attempted to continue working for several years, the pain of regular use caused her arm to worsen. Fortunately for her, the gentle movements of pencil drawing do not cause enough pain to prevent her from creating artwork. She can only work for short periods of time, but she is grateful to be able to draw and for the expressive outlet it offers her.

Gail Foley

Royersford, Pennsylvania

Foley studied photography in the early 1980s before going back to school and pursuing Radiologic Technology and Radiation Therapy. When she badly injured her neck during work as a Radiation Therapist, her days became filled with painful neck issues, fibromyalgia and migraines. Life took a turn for the better and her love for photography returned when she and her husband purchased a farm in Royersford, Pennsylvania a few years back. Foley now spends her time

running the social media accounts for her farm; including Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. She enjoys capturing the nature and wildlife around her property and sharing it online for others to enjoy. Photography has given her purpose, strength, control, peace and escape during times of chronic pain.

she had a severe stroke-like episode which gravely affected the left side of her body. Gehres spent two years in speech, physical and occupational therapy and another two years relearning how to hold a paintbrush and to coordinate her movement. She now paints, draws on the computer and does scratchboard art. She claims, "My life as I knew it may have ended years ago, but a shot at a new life began, and I am making the most of whatever life I have." Gehres has won multiple awards for her artwork. She is a member of the International Society of Scratchboard Artists and an associate member of American Women Artists.

Maria Genovese

Drexel Hill, Pennsylvania

Born in a small town in southern Italy, Genovese recalls a childhood spent drawing little animals and faces on her school books. Teachers who saw her work were impressed at her natural talent which only progressed over the years. After immigrating to the United States in the 1990s, she took an art course in San Diego and later began painting at the Surrey Services Senior Center in Havertown, PA. In 2015, Genovese's cataract surgery which was expected to be routine turned dangerous when the cataract broke inside her eye and left her vision permanently fogged. Despite having to constantly stop painting and drawing because of her puffy and irritated eye, she is determined to recover and driven to never stop creating art. Genovese is currently learning watercolor aside from her lifelong passion of sketching.

David Gerbstadt

Berwyn, Pennsylvania

Gerbstadt first discovered art as an undergraduate at Millersville University. He graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in 1993 and began selling art in Old City Philadelphia every first Friday of the month. A following soon emerged, and he began to leave his work on street corners in Philadelphia, New York, and San Francisco. A documentary, titled *David Was Here*, describes his unique method of producing and disseminating his art. On December 28, 2007, Gerbstadt was run over by a tractor-trailer and was pronounced dead in the ambulance. Over a period of nine hours, he received CPR and 40 units of blood and was brought back to life. Since his accident, Gerbstadt has lived with post-traumatic stress disorder and constant

Vimala Gade

Kendall Park, New Jersey

Gade is a self-taught artist who has been drawn to art since childhood. Inspired by other disabled artists, she varies her subjects by medium. Each piece holds a different emotion visible through style and hue. Gade has exhibited locally in New Jersey and Pennsylvania. With limited mobility, she believes that painting is the best therapy because it dramatically changed her outlook and gave her joy, love and inner peace.

Robert Gallagher

Berwyn, Pennsylvania

Gallagher received rehabilitation services at Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital after he was temporarily paralyzed from psoriatic arthritis. Since his rehabilitation, he finds catharsis through the making of art. He describes his acrylic-on-canvas paintings as "post-modern abstract" and strives to emphasize color, mood and light. His subject matter includes voyeurism, cities and architecture. In addition to painting, he also practices Bonsai and helped sponsor a Bonsai show at Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital's horticultural therapy center. Gallagher also suffers from Parkinson's disease and psoriasis.

Ginger Gehres

Chocowinity, North Carolina

Gehres was raised in a household where creativity thrived and has been involved in a variety of artistic pursuits throughout her life. She is a published artist, storyteller and art historian who has studied under nationally and internationally acclaimed artists. As a young adult, she suffered from episodic migraines and seizures. In 1998,

pain. In 2012, he published *One Breath at a Time*, an autobiography that details his accident and recovery. Today, Gerbstadt is a full-time artist. His work is included in private collections in over 15 countries including Italy, Germany, Poland and England. He is also a motivational speaker and has had considerable media coverage in local newspapers, magazines, and television. From January to June of 2016, he painted 4 paintings a day everyday with a total of 580 paintings completed. These paintings have been in several shows since June and a majority of them have been sold. After completing the 580 paintings, Gerbstadt began to weld sculptures.

Stephen Gibson

Oakland, California

Gibson describes his pieces as multi-layered artifacts; each layer reflects a set of specific rules regarding materials, mode of application, and rhythm or pattern for each color. As an artist with multiple disabilities and bipolar disorder, he is aware of the unique perspective his work offers. Gibson studied at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., the University of Madrid in Spain and the Massachusetts College of Art, where he received honors in painting. He relies on distortion, grids, sophisticated color theory and layered media to transmit temperature and shades of meaning.

Kathleen Giddens

Lake City, Florida

Giddens, an environmentalist and lover of the outdoors, resides in Lake City, Florida with her husband and dog. She is an oil painter and traditional photographer



Linda Fry Goschke, *Carnation*, Photography

whose work focuses mostly on landscapes from her travels. Giddens was an artist before her disabilities impacted her life. She received a Bachelor of Fine Arts from The University of Florida in 1971 and a Master of Art Education in 1979. She taught art at various colleges for more than 10 years and has been professionally published, showcased in many exhibitions and generously awarded for her work.

Patricia Goodrich

Quakertown, Pennsylvania

A multi-media artist, Goodrich works in photography, sculpture, painting and poetry. After losing her lower left leg in a motorcycle accident, she gained a heightened awareness of what it means to be both off-balance and physically “grounded.” Goodrich holds a Bachelor of Arts from Western Michigan University and a Master of Arts from the University of Northern Colorado. Her paintings, photographs, sculpture and earthworks are in collections in Haiti, Lithuania, Morocco, Russia, Romania, Slovenia and the United States. She has been awarded many grants and fellowships, including a scholarship from the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts. In addition, Goodrich received the Pennsylvania Fellowship in Poetry/Creative Nonfiction for her written work and has been nominated for Pushcart Prizes in poetry and fiction. She has published 11 works of poetry to date.

Linda Fry Goschke

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Well-versed in the arts, Goschke has career experience in set design, garment design, graphic production art, writing and teaching. She received her Master of Education and Printmaking from the Philadelphia College of Art (now University of the Arts) in 1985, and her teaching certificate for graphic arts from Temple University in 1988. Sadly, a traumatic brain injury forced her to end her professional career and re-learn how to speak and concentrate. With help from loving family and friends, Goschke was able to return to school and earn a Master of Fine Arts from the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts in 2002. She works part-time as a graphic production artist and college instructor, and focuses on digital and photo-based media. Goschke exhibits widely in the United States and has also exhibited in China. In 2009, she was the featured artist for the Art Ability exhibition and won first place in the photography category.

Beth Gotfried

Newtown Square, Pennsylvania

Gotfried received a Master of Fine Arts in book arts and printmaking from the University of the Arts in Philadelphia and later received a Bachelor of Arts in ceramic sculpture from the George Washington University in Washington, D.C. Trained as a bookbinder and rare-book-conservator, Gotfried has worked with the Brandywine River Museum, the Free Library of Philadelphia and the American Philosophical Society. She has studied art at the Haystack Mountain School of Craft in Maine and the Penland School of Craft in North Carolina. Using a variety of media including handmade paper, mixed media, ceramics, photography and glass, Gotfried brings complex narrative and visual presence to her work. She is most interested in capturing the small moments that constitute a whole life-narrative.

Kathryn Graff

Norristown, Pennsylvania

Until experiencing a traumatic brain injury in 2015, Graff had very little experience in the realm of art. She had been working as a health insurance agent and maintained her license by working as a Senior Supervisor and Trainer at a call center. She says that her “inner artist” surfaced during her recovery, and is amazed that her brain was able to find a new passion after her injury. Creating art allows Graff to find inner peace among the chaos of the world. She believes that her art is an insight into the lives of people who suffer from an illness that is invisible to the outside world, specifically traumatic brain injuries. Though this year’s Art Ability exhibition will only be her second show, she hopes there will be many more.

Linnie Greenberg

Ardmore, Pennsylvania

Greenberg is a self-taught mixed media collage artist. A decade of collecting and selling vintage children’s books influences her choice of subject matter so that her work is often described as whimsical or fun. Her pieces are made from fragments of hand painted paper and ephemera. Greenberg took her first collage workshop in 2011 as a way to cope with the death of her sister and the onset of tinnitus. According to her, “It opened up a wondrous world of sparkle, spin and creativity that brings me great joy and takes me to a quieter place.” She has won numerous awards and is a member of several professional artist groups.

Greenberg teaches collage to children and adults recovering from addiction and abuse.

Ina Greenstein

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Having always been attracted to visual art and color, Greenstein naturally attended the Philadelphia College of Art (now known as University of the Arts) while majoring in advertising art. She used these skills to open a custom designed needlepoint business aside from her widely successful career in the business world along the Main Line. Once her children were raised and she no longer needed to earn a living, she began to devote herself to art again with a focus on watercolor painting. Epiretinal membrane, an eye disease which causes blurred vision, sometimes requires Greenstein to step away from her artwork in order to avoid visual stimulation. She prides herself on leaving all physical limitations behind while painting in order to be transported into a magical world where everything is beautiful.

Dick Grodt

Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Grodt believes the objective of his artwork is to go beyond what he sees and to use his imagination to create evocative paintings. Confined to a wheelchair due to a hereditary spinal cord disorder, Grodt's life was transformed by watercolor. As he paints and teaches watercolor classes, he is able to transcend the confines of his disability and to pursue a rewarding and successful life. Grodt is a signature member of the Iowa Watercolor Society and has exhibited his work many times. One of his works was featured on the cover of *Sunshine Artist* (a show and festival publication); another piece is displayed at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.; and another piece was awarded Best Of Show at the international art exhibition at the Sister Kinney Rehabilitation Institute in Minneapolis. Grodt studied at the Kansas City Art Institute and worked for many years as an art director for CMF & Z Advertising in Cedar Rapids.

Susan Gustafson

Vancouver, Washington

The vibrant, tropical colors of the Hawaiian landscape originally inspired Gustafson to begin painting. Twelve years ago, she was forced to retire from her career in dental hygiene due to a progressive genetic blindness called retinitis pigmentosa. She

*“All of the images,
sensory deficits, pent
up feelings of being
immobilized for so
long gifted me with
an unfailing sense of
gratitude for the
abilities that I do
have; for those I was
able to recover.”*

- Maureen Collins

then decided to study watercolor painting in order to find a new passion. Gustafson taught art literacy in public schools while raising her children and now studies art and travels with her Art Adventure group. Her visual field is about the size of a 3x5 index card but her acuity is good. Pilgrim, her guide dog, enables her to move about and paint. Gustafson believes that her loss of sight “compels me to relish beauty, look intently and imprint the spirit of the object in my mind’s eye.” Blindness generates an imaginative and whimsical interest to her compositions that she hopes her audience will enjoy.

Lindsay Halleckson

Minneapolis, Minnesota

Halleckson's work has been shown in galleries across the country, including the Woman Made Gallery in Chicago, the Harwood Art Center in Albuquerque and Phipps Center for the Arts in Hudson, Wisconsin. She won a 2nd place award in painting at the Wintertide Biennial in Northeast Minneapolis in 2015, received a project grant from the Puffin Foundation

in 2014 and was awarded residencies as a Jerome Emerging Artist Fellow at Toft Lake Center in 2012 and at the New York Mills Regional Cultural Center in 2011. Halleckson has a Bachelor's degree in studio art and art history from St. Olaf College and a Master of Business Administration from the University of St. Thomas. She describes her latest work as “the intersection of two themes: mindfulness (or quiet contemplation) and connection with nature.” Her paintings are meditations on the role natural silence plays in personal well-being as she has been re-forging her connection with nature.

Bayah Ham

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Ham is a local artist living and working in Philadelphia who is inspired by movies, television shows, video games and current fashion trends. His drawings are influenced by the high fashion world which we live in and are self described as having “intense energy.” He uses a variety of mediums including paintings, drawings, prints and marker to simplify his outfits and highlight the details which he finds important. Ham's street fashion images were in a group show entitled, *Side by Side* at the Savery Gallery in 2016. His work has also been shown at the *Off The Wall* Gallery at Dirty Franks, the Black Cat Tavern and the Eyes Gallery.

Jeannie Hammerbacher

Dallas, Pennsylvania

Through Verve Vertu Art Studio, Hammerbacher discovered a talent she didn't know she had. Her art work is inspired by nature, animals and outdoor activities. Recently, she created a series of lighthouse and landscape watercolor paintings. Every summer, Hammerbacher participates in the Artists' Escape, an annual trip to Ogunquit, Maine. Engaging in the studio activities at Verve Vertu helps Hammerbacher feel happy and good about herself. She enjoys the relaxing nature of painting and batik. Hammerbacher's work has been shown in Dallas, Scranton, Wilkes-Barre and other locations in Pennsylvania as well as in Ithaca, New York.

Barbara Harman

Minneapolis, Minnesota

Harman holds a Master of Fine Arts in printmaking. Her media includes painting, printmaking, artist books, works on fabric and writing. Proudly, her art appears in

private, public and international collections such as The Museum of Modern Art in New York City and the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. Harman has taught art for over 30 years and her instruction books sell regularly to artists and art book groups all over the world. Like all artists who see art as a lifelong journey, Harman's work has deepened and become a better statement of who she is and how she sees the world.

Gregory Harvey

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Harvey moved to Philadelphia in 1979, 10 years after taking up painting as his favorite hobby. As a legally blind artist, art has helped him to realize how fragile reality really is. According to Harvey, anyone can lose their vision, but those who rely on their eyes to create art are both physically and emotionally devastated. His persistence to redefine himself and readapt his artistic style to fit his disability is inspiring. Now, he has accepted that he has lost his ability to see color and relies on his memory to see the vivid scenes that he recreates on canvas.

Jessica Hays

Bozeman, Montana

A life-long Montana native, Hays became interested in photography in her early teenage years. Today, she has evolved to also work with drawing, painting, sculpture and print processes. Her subject matter focuses on issues of human relationship and mental illness, specifically how American treatment focuses on pharmaceutical approaches. Much of her work is inspired by her personal experiences of fear, apprehension and side effects when attempting to treat her anxiety and depression with medication. Hays' work has provided an outlet for her to cope with and explore her illnesses as they affect her life. She finds that sharing her story and experiences with others creates a safe space for open discussion.

Pat Henriques

Key West, Florida

Henriques left her position in the corporate world to pursue her true passion of metalsmithing. In search of expanding her knowledge on the subject, she began to work with precious metal clay and enameling to create unique textures. From there, her focus shifted to wearable art that could be fun, functional, and never stationary. Her jewelry focuses on warming the traditionally cool colored metals with

gems, stones, crystals and oxidations and is inspired by the sun, nature and cats. Henriques distracts herself from her agonizing pain and sciatica by focusing on her jewelry making and metalsmithing. She regularly attends conferences on the subjects to stay up to date on modern techniques and is a member of the PMC Guild, the Pa. Society of Goldsmiths, the Enamellist Society and the Chester County Chapter of the Pa. Guild of Craftsmen.

Clyde Henry

Wynnewood, Pennsylvania

Henry is a multi-media artist with an intellectual/developmental disability who enjoys working with paper, ceramic, wood, music and textile. His work has been exhibited at a number of Philadelphia-area venues and galleries, including an exhibition at Haverford College. Henry uses a distinctive mark-making process that revolves around the figure, particularly images of his family. He has recently developed a passion for loom weaving by working at Ready to Hand studio in South Philadelphia. Henry has worked at the Center for Creative Works in Wynnewood, Pennsylvania for over 5 years.

Billy Hertz

Louisville, Kentucky

Hertz grew up in South Florida in the early 1950's and fondly recalls wandering the "wilds" with his dog. Fast forward to now as an abstract landscape painter, his innate feel for landscape can be tracked to those days in the Florida sun. In 1995, a trip to the Umbria region of Italy and parts of Russia triggered an epiphany for Hertz. Flying out of the different locations, he was astonished by the rich patterns of the fields that were being cultivated, and the rivers, roadways, rail lines, geometric patterns and tremendous, vibrant colors. Since that life-changing moment, he paints with a palette dominated by a range of yellow, gold, red and green hues as he depicts views of farmland and acres of plowed fields. After having a brain tumor removed that resulted in necrosis of the brain, Hertz claims that his art has saved his life.

Sandra Hosking

Paoli, Pennsylvania

Hosking suffered a traumatic brain injury in 1974 when a drunk driver hit her parked car. She has used artwork as a way to maintain her creativity and self-expression while recovering. Her artwork is impacted by the symptoms of her injury, such as the involuntary shaking of her hand. For

this reason, she often chooses to work with watercolor and oil paints. The subject matter of Hosking's artwork is often natural landscapes because she can utilize her unsteadiness to her advantage when creating the sort of soft, organic forms that typically comprise landscape paintings. She says, "Art-making allows me to successfully create something and share with others, rather than sitting around and feeling sorry for myself."

Han Huisman

Saint Croix Falls, Wisconsin

Huisman is a self-taught artist who began painting and sculpting a few years ago. Born in Holland in 1939, his hearing problems weren't recognized until he was 6 years old. Completely deaf in his left ear and partially deaf in his right, he has been using hearing aids since they were first produced. Huisman has been working in the U.S. as a neuroscientist for the past 13 years after graduating from the University of Amsterdam in Holland. He admits that he has been frustrated by his lack of skill in figurative work, though he has found his niche in abstraction. He is inspired by the work of Rauschenberg, de Kooning, Klein, Mondrian and Warhol, to name a few, and enjoys visiting galleries and museums. So far, Huisman has exhibited work in New York, Pennsylvania, California, Minnesota, and Washington.

Michael Hungarter

Dallas, Pennsylvania

Hungarter has been interested in art for as long as he can remember. He enjoys working with batik, acrylic paint, mixed media collage and tile painting. He often incorporates items that fascinate him into his work, such as wind chimes, wind socks, turbines and objects that spin. Creating and selling work gives Hungarter confidence. He enjoys fostering friendships with other artists and learning new art techniques in classes at the Verve Vertu Art Studio.

Arthur Jackson

Dallas, Pennsylvania

Jackson is a new student at Verve Vertue Art Studio and enjoys exploring the new art techniques that he is offered. His method of expertise is in painting, specifically acrylic. He focuses on nautical inspired themes in his artwork, including the ocean and sailboats. Art is therapeutic and relaxing to Jackson as he embraces this new hobby into his life.

Sabrina Jamal-Eddine

Columbus, Ohio

Five years ago, Jamal-Eddine underwent a severely painful posterior spinal fusion surgery that failed. It was later revealed that her surgeon purposely failed over 500 surgeries in order to collect more money in revision surgeries. Desperate to be able to live and breathe without excruciating pain, she found a new doctor to correct her failed surgery and woke up immediately feeling better post-op. Throughout her time recovering from countless surgeries, blood transfusions, and hospital stays, she took up drawing as a way to entertain herself while paralyzed in bed. Jamal-Eddine's drawings represent her positive outlook on life despite enduring so much pain. She believes that her health journey has led her to art by fate in order to shape her identity and provide her with wisdom and gratitude.

Mimi Barclay Johnson

Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania

Art and music have played an influential role in Johnson's life since early childhood. She recalls falling asleep at night looking at an oil painting by Chide Hassam while she listened to her mother play Chopin. She was a soloist for The Savoy Company and there began designing sets, scenery and lighting. When she retired from the Academy of Music, she began to paint; first in oil and then in watercolor. Her painting was put on hold after a car accident damaged her left hand and head, giving her severe headaches, double vision and loss of depth perception. Only months after being released from Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital with improvements in her vision, Johnson was in another car accident. Despite spinal damage, a torn hip labrum and other injuries, she continues to paint. She says, "The sheer joy of painting helps me to not feel pain, and my desire to continue sharing this world's beauty with others drives me to keep trying and keep painting."

Morgan Johnson

Gold Beach, Oregon

Johnson's style is derived from the 19th century Impressionist and Divisionist movements so that he can reflect the diversity of the 20th and 21st centuries. He obtained a Bachelor of Arts in psychology from the University of California, San Diego in 1974. Johnson is a professional art restorer and writer and has published multiple books, including *Trees of Other*

Colors, a book of poetry, and *Future Present*, an autobiography. In 1985, he was diagnosed with AIDS, which led to subsequent years of deteriorating physical health. He explains, "So while my hand is less steady, my vision and mathematical figuring a concern, my grasp shortening, I know I can continue my expression believing art also mastered and incorporated the affects of AIDS, and perhaps even heightened my perceptions to what's important to portray." Johnson's art has been included in exhibitions in the Oregon and California area and he has won multiple awards for his translation of poetry into visual art. He continues to publish his writing in magazines and newspapers such as *The National Library of Poetry and Who's Who in the World*.

Thea Joseph

Flushing, New York

Before her multiple sclerosis diagnosis, Joseph was a commercial artist in the mid 1980s who had moved to New York from England 20 years prior. MS left her partially paralyzed in both legs and reliant on a scooter, wheelchair, braces, or a walker to obtain mobility. Pursuing watercolor painting has allowed her to feel like her old self again, even though she is only able to paint with one hand due to limited finger flexibility. Exploring her new forms of creativity as a disabled person take her back to her work as a designer and illustrator many years ago.

David Karasow

Bristol, Pennsylvania

Karasow graduated from Temple University in 1996 with a Bachelor in Fine Arts in painting and illustration. There, his illustrations were published in *The Temple News* and the *Temple Hillel*. Since graduating, he has exhibited art at the Mayor's office of Community Empowerment and Opportunity, Manayunk Art Center, Franklin Institute, and the Bucks County Center for Independent Living. Karasow's childhood fascination with science fiction movies, television shows, and comic books have inspired his recent alien landscape subject matter. By photographing these objects and exploring their shapes through digital collage, he formulates his own answers to



Sriharsha Sukla. *Flatiron Building*. Paper collage

his questions about other worldly planets and their terrain.

Marie Kelly

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Kelly is from Philadelphia and has lived at Inglis House for 24 years. She loves to read, has a great sense of humor, and serves as the Treasurer of Resident Council. Along with participating in various workshops that Inglis House has offered over the years, she is also a weekly member of the Exploring Art Group. Kelly has cerebral palsy and is deaf, so she communicates with a small keyboard that is velcroed to her lap table. She is able to hold a brush loosely between two of her fingers that allows her to paint flowers and work on colored pencil drawings.

Owen Kent

Berkeley, California

Kent is a filmmaker, visual artist and entrepreneur. Following his passion for mathematics, he found himself studying at UC Berkeley at the age of 16. Having been diagnosed with a rare genetic mutation at the age of 2, his life and artistic vision have been dramatically influenced and inspired by the experiences he has faced. Kent is presently producing 2 feature films as well as a 4-Dimensional "self-portrait" sculpture made from repurposed medical equipment.

Linda Killingsworth*Elverson, Pennsylvania*

Killingsworth was forced to give up her active lifestyle after several surgeries. She became seriously depressed and credits her work with colored pencils as the activity that saved her. Killingsworth chooses colored pencils because they allow her to render the fine details she loves. She is intrigued by out-of-the-ordinary objects and the artistic possibilities they offer. Killingsworth has designed notecards for companies in New York, Chicago and San Francisco, and has illustrated two books. She is one of the founders of the Yellow Springs Art Show, located in Yellow Springs, Pennsylvania.



Dr. Linda Lake, *Infinity*, *Lagenaria siceraria*

Cheryl Kinderknecht*Bradenton, Florida*

A mixed media artist and former gallery owner, Kinderknecht has an art degree from Fort Hays State University. Art has always been the central defining role in her life as it has impacted her life stages, experiences, and emotions. Over the years, her retinitis pigmentosa has worsened, causing tunnel vision and changes in light and perception. The condition affects how much she can see, how objects and colors appear, and which tools and techniques are best for creating art with limited vision. While creating art, she uses bright lights, eyeglasses, and small focus points. Kinderknecht assures that her eye vision is secondary to her “mind’s eye” that gives her artwork visual memories and emotional context. Her work has been exhibited in

local galleries, juried regional and national shows, and private collections in the United States and abroad.

Ty Klug*Philadelphia, Pennsylvania*

Klug has been working as an artist since he was a young child. In his youth, he would sell portraits to his mother’s midwifery clients for a quarter or dime depending on complexity. During his high school years, he took every art class offered by Forest Hills Northern High School, including an independent study in acrylic painting. As an adult, Klug had a very successful culinary arts career managing kitchens and working as a chef until his 2005 diagnosis with primary progressive multiple sclerosis.

No longer able to work, he shifted back to his original love of art. He came to Inglis House, a center for those with disabilities, several years ago and has been a prolific painter ever since. Although his hands tremor and alter his style, he maintains a positive attitude. Art is all he thinks about and is his main focus, so he will paint by any means.

Beverly Kohn*Livingston, New Jersey*

A firm believer in artistic growth, Kohn’s artwork has evolved from colored grid designs to papermaking, basket weaving, fiber art, and painting. She graduated from Parsons School of Design in New York, and has since designed centerpieces and

taught nursery school. In 1993, Kohn was accidentally electrocuted by 6000 volts from a defective neon light sign, which resulted in head trauma, nerve damage, and post-traumatic stress disorder. Now, she uses her art as a relaxing, practical, and therapeutic activity to distract herself from mental and physical pain. Kohn believes that her work is distinctive, stating that “I know that each piece I do is unique because my disability makes it impossible for me to remember or replicate the process I followed to create the initial work.” She exhibits her work extensively in the New Jersey area.

David Kontra*Hartville, Missouri*

Born in Cleveland, Ohio, Kontra began to realize that his vision was failing when he was just a young child. Around the age of 9, he was diagnosed with a degenerative eye disease called retinitis pigmentosa. As he grew up, he discovered the prejudice and discrimination held against people with disabilities. Kontra’s blindness revealed to him the hurtful ways people victimize those who are different. Harsh experiences in his life are just part of the reason he creates artwork that mirrors society and promotes civil liberty. As a boy, he began to draw in order to escape depression, and learned to rely on his memory to create his work. He never expected that anyone would ever value his drawings, let alone want to purchase one. However, his soul mate recognized his ability as an artist after seeing some of his scrap paper sketches and was able to convince him to continue drawing. Kontra didn’t offer his artwork for sale until 2001, the same year he began to experiment with a paintbrush. Since then, he has sold over 500 of his drawings and paintings. Kontra states: “It is pleasing to know that with time, people sometimes do look beyond discrimination, differences and realize that obstacles can be overcome with determination.”

Julie Kring*Philadelphia, Pennsylvania*

Having been an art educator for over 25 years, Kring encourages her students to discover joy in the acts of creating by using color, line, texture and pattern. Her inspiration has always been the natural world as she recreates scenes of landscapes, botanical themes, the sky, water and earth onto prints. When she was diagnosed with Parkinson’s disease and left her teaching job, she discovered the Cheltenham Center for the Arts. Creating artwork adds meaning and purpose to her days and helps her understand the importance of continuing to stay engaged and active with things that are life-giving. Kring’s chosen media of late has been oil painting and printmaking, as she enjoys the discovery of the interplay between these two expressions.

Jace Laakso*Missoula, Montana*

Laakso creates digital art, prints, and sculpture made from copper and brass. Manipulating the material and forming it with hammers and anvils, he uses the

cold fastening technique of riveting pieces together. He has created several pieces that illustrate the contrasting feelings of pain and pleasure from his braces for polio and Post Polio syndrome. Since Laakso has been disabled for his entire life, it is his normality and he doesn't feel significantly affected while he works. While being disabled is not a consideration in his process of making art, it has most certainly helped in some ways. He believes that if he can't do something one way, he will figure it out another way. Subsequently, this has instilled an enhanced method of thinking, solving problems, and creating as he looks at life from a different perspective.

Daphne LaCroix

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

LaCroix began her love affair with fine art in 2004 and has since developed a penchant for painting on both paper and canvas. Her subject matter consists of oil-based figures and still lifes, which are slowly created due to her visual impairment, cataracts, and a damaged retina. LaCroix has been a breast cancer survivor for 23 years and believes that seeing and creating art is the key to enriching her life like no other.

Dr. Linda Lake

West Columbia, South Carolina

Lake is a self-taught artisan that uses an array of mediums, colors, and techniques like carving, pyro-engraving, and painting to create distinctive pieces of art. By using natural materials combined with traditional mediums, she creates one-of-a-kind, distinctive art pieces. She has won numerous awards and has donated her work to a plethora of causes. Her involvement in the art community has restored the confidence that her disability has taken away. As an instructor and artisan, she enjoys teaching workshops and demonstrating techniques to others using natural embellishments. Lake is a member of the Trenholm Artists Guild and the Art Association of Ridge Spring, South Carolina. The owner of Elegant Art Studio, her art is featured in Creative Rims and Embellishments for Creative Gourds.

Cindy Lally

Bensalem, Pennsylvania

Lally has demonstrated her love of art by mastering painting, drawing, wood burning and fine-craft making. After an accident in the summer of 2000 that resulted in a traumatic brain injury, Lally was

*“Art-making allows
me to successfully
create something
and share with
others, rather than
sitting around and
feeling sorry for
myself.”*

- Sandra Hosking

rehabilitated at Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital where art became a therapeutic tool in her recovery. Art continues to improve her attention and concentration. Lally customizes walking canes by employing the methods of decoupage and wood burning. Two of her canes are part of the permanent collection at Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital and one was included in the Art Ability exhibition hosted by the Delaware Art Museum in the spring of 2013.

Shaun Lambert

Dallas, Pennsylvania

Forty-year-old Lambert is inspired by the outdoors and has a passion for fishing, hiking and estate sales. His home remodeling skills lend themselves well to creating artwork from recycled objects. He enjoys working and creating with his hands by repurposing objects and transforming them into artwork. Lambert is evolving as an artist and is currently creating batiks that utilize iron oxide dyes derived from the Eastern Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation, an environmental agency that harvests mine waste from local streams and waterways.

He has designed a piece for the new building of the Equal Opportunity & Training Center in Scranton, Pennsylvania.

Marilyn Lavins

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Lavins is an artist specializing in jewelry and scarves. She is an alumna 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 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, including the Embassy Suites Hotel in Philadelphia and the University of Pennsylvania. Her paintings of Niagara Falls are currently exhibited in Switzerland.

Amy Lewis

Boston, Massachusetts

Lewis is a self-taught artist specializing in environmental landscapes of various childhood locations. She painted prolifically as a child but stopped after a tragic car accident when she was 13, which left her with traumatic brain injury and vision deficits. Though she is now legally blind in her right eye, she is fully recovered from a 2009 cancer diagnosis. Lewis uses art as therapy, and treats it as her healer and inspiration. She paints with watercolors, acrylics, and oils, with which she depicts scenes remembered from her childhood. She has exhibited her art in local Massachusetts exhibitions, such as the Boston Common Art Show, and is currently working on a portfolio for admission into a bachelor's degree program in Fine Arts.

Jennifer Lipman-Bartel

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Lipman-Bartel is a sculpture and glass bead artist who creates beaded tapestries, necklaces, and earrings. She has welded steel sculptural furniture at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts and created metal jewelry at Moore College of Art and Design. With a degree from Boston University, her jewelry and sculptural work has been displayed in many galleries

and galas. After a battle with spinal-cord cancer, using her hands helps to re-stimulate damaged nerves. Using pliers while beading helps her fingers and arms re-feel areas where nerves are gone. She ultimately enjoys the process of creating beautiful pieces out of found objects and beads as it creates peace of mind. As a cancer survivor, she has donated her work to many legal aid organizations and charities that help people with cancer and disabilities in the Delaware Valley.

Mark Lubich

Bremerton, Washington

A self-taught artist, Lubich fuses glass to simulate ideas of abstract movement and color. His artistic style consists of strong textures achieved by layering translucent, opaque, and dichroic glass to create a three-dimensional quality. In 1978, Lubich graduated from the University of Washington with a bachelor's degree in history and then joined the United States Army. As a captain in the army, he became medically disabled due to diagnoses of blood clotting disorders, trigeminal neuralgia resulting in facial nerve pain, and sarcoidosis, a systemic inflammatory disease that attacks the organs. After the military, he began experimenting with glass art and finds inspiration from his dreams and everyday life. Lubich says, "glass speaks to me; it sparks with life and gives me purpose. My goal is to push the envelope, find the humor, and explore the histories that impact our daily lives." Lubich has displayed his fused glasswork extensively throughout the United States and Canada, and won first place in both the Glass and the Applied Arts Mixed Media categories of the Veteran's 2013 National Arts Competition in Lakewood, Washington.

Ellen Mansfield

Frederick, Maryland

Mansfield was born deaf in Manhattan, New York and attended public school where she learned poorly without sign language and interpreters. Later, she earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts in illustration from the School of Visual Arts in New York City. Currently, Mansfield is proud to have combined her biggest passions of being a DE 'VIA (Deaf View/Image Art) artist and deaf rights advocate. Her background in drawing, painting, batik, ceramics, and other media has brought her to her current level of success. The highlight of Mansfield's career thus far has been a solo exhibition titled, "My Deaf hood Art: Traveling Through the

Darkness to the Light." It showcased 50 of her artworks at the Greater Lafayette Art Museum in Indiana for 4 months in 2015.

Valerie Mayer

Point Roberts, Washington

Mayer, an artist living with multiple sclerosis (MS), is native to the Puget Sound region and currently resides in the community of Point Roberts, Washington. She is grateful to live among the shoreline, forests, and lively culture that inspire her paintings. Creating art is a lifelong process for Mayer, who studied various art media before finding her niche in watercolor as a young girl. In 1989, she attended her first painting workshop taught by Zoltan Szabo in Cannon Beach, Oregon. Her love of the Pacific Northwest, gardening, kayaking and plein air painting while traveling with her husband strongly influence her artwork. Mayer's paintings have been selected for major exhibits and have been honored with many awards. Her work hangs in corporate and private collections throughout the United States and Canada. Presently, her artwork is represented by Blue Heron Gallery in Point Roberts, and Jansen Art Center in Lynden, Washington. She is a member of Northwest Watercolor Society and Seattle Co-Arts.

Sarah McDaniel

Newport News, Virginia

McDaniel is a rape survivor whose post traumatic stress disorder has inspired her activism as an advocate against violence. For part of an advanced sculpture class, she performed a performance piece called Breaking the Silence that expressed the violation a rape victim feels from first person perspective. After much research on sexual assault and assaults on college campuses, she learned how there is psychological outcome felt along with the physical impact. Breaking the Silence received significant publicity and local news coverage. Many fellow sexual assault victims who saw the performance were inspired to get professional treatment afterwards, which is McDaniel's biggest accomplishment personally. Aside from her advocacy, she is talented in metalsmithing, welding, woodworking and ceramics.

Jeff McNally

Rapid City, South Dakota

McNally grew up in Wayne, Pennsylvania and enjoyed working on his school newspaper and yearbook. He began to develop an interest in photography and graphic arts. Moving to South Dakota in

1987, he attended Black Hills State College and majored in Mass Communications with an emphasis in photography. After graduating, he managed a photography studio and custom darkroom and worked as a designer and photographer for an advertising agency in Rapid City. In 1991, McNally established his first design business that specialized in printing, publishing, and graphic arts. Years later, McNally was diagnosed with esophageal cancer. Following an operation, chemotherapy, and radiation treatments, the past seven years have been focused on healing. He has used his love of photography as a way to relax, stay positive and focus on healing.

Colleen McIntyre-Berenotto

Buena, New Jersey

Other than classes at a local camera shop, McIntyre-Berenotto has no formal training in photography. She is drawn to photography for its ability to communicate without the use of written or spoken word. Her work explores the effects of time and she often focuses on urban settings. Photography brings McIntyre-Berenotto back to the time before she suffered from a traumatic brain injury. She says, "photography to me is a way to communicate to others without having to struggle to find words. I have Traumatic Brain Injury, but it does not have me."

Mark McLaughlin

West Chester, Pennsylvania

McLaughlin, a 57 year old resident of West Chester, Pennsylvania, first started drawing, painting, and sculpting while at Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital in the mid 1990's. Creating art has provided an amazing escape from the chronic pain he has dealt with due to several failed back surgeries. He uses pen and ink to draw and oven-baked clay to sculpt as his intense concentration takes him into another world. With the help of art and amazing Philadelphia area doctors including Dr. Kraus from Bryn Mawr Rehab, his life has been "remade" and he starts each day without fear of the future.

Kathleen McSherry

Doylestown, Pennsylvania

As a graduate of The School of Visual Arts in New York City, McSherry has a long career in Marketing and Advertising. She has taught at The School of Visual Arts, Syracuse University, Pratt Institute, University of the Arts, Temple University and Drew University. She is also a

cartoonist and has had her work exhibited in Europe, Japan, the Middle East and South America. After being diagnosed with multiple sclerosis (MS) in 2002, McSherry stopped drawing as she no longer felt confident in the ability of her hands. However, she became inspired by the needles used to deliver her medication and began to use them in a series of sculptures she titled "The Art of Acceptance." Since then, she has continued to create found-object sculptures and has shown her work in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York.

Jeff Mendenhall

Lombard, Illinois

Mendenhall is a digital fine artist and videographer who uses computer software to create his warm and vibrant abstract artwork. Much like his warm colored pieces, art has helped him to express warm and positive emotions to the world through creative expression. Of course, he has his down days too in which depression can be portrayed through cool-toned colors. Mendenhall wants the world to experience genuine goodness and happiness because vibrant energy towards the world is infectious. Art is his version of therapy and he feels warm and together after completing a piece.

Allison Merriweather

Houston, Texas

Born in California to a family of carnival workers and performers, Merriweather had traveled most of the U.S. by the age of 14. Though interesting, her childhood was often tumultuous, so she found a sanctuary in the small California ranch owned by her grandparents. Her early experiences on the ranch manifest themselves in her paintings, which consistently center on the theme of love and respect for animals. Living with dyslexia and dyscalculia often turns everyday actions into a challenge for Merriweather, yet she believes her experiences have given her a unique advantage as an artist. In her words, Houston-based Merriweather sees her paintings as a form of spiritual meditation. When she sits down before a blank canvas, she never knows what beautiful little world will appear. Merriweather constantly creates to find a short-lived escape from reality. She claims that "Like my life, my art is completely unpredictable." She is the featured artist for the 2017-2018 Art Ability showcase.

Wanda Metcalf

North Andover, Massachusetts

Metcalf is 66 years old and has been creating art for most of those years. For a long time, she tried to make photo-realistic watercolors, but eventually began to manipulate photos to look like paintings. Her subjects are usually landscapes, still lifes, or animal portraits done with watercolor and photography. She is on the autism spectrum and claims that her disability prevents her from painting people. According to Metcalf, "Art has always been a way to escape 'real life' and is one of the few areas in which I get positive reinforcement." She wants to prove that those with disabilities are simply different, not less.

Lawrence Meyers

Paoli, Pennsylvania

Meyers is a watercolorist who is hearing and vision impaired and suffers from Tritanope color-blindness. Because of these conditions, he relies heavily on value instead of hue. Art provides him with the opportunity to develop his creativity and express his vision of the world's beauty. He has been creating landscapes, still lifes, portraits, architectural studies and cityscapes since 1982. 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. Meyers has taught multiple Art, Watercolor and Business-related courses which are well attended and broadcast live and interactively via the internet.

Louis Middleton

Baltimore, Maryland

With the support of his family, over the last few years Middleton has operated his own photo restoration business with a number of satisfied customers. He has long enjoyed taking his own photographs, and now at Make Studio he is working to advance his computer skills. There, he is learning to digitally manipulate photographs and original imagery, discovering new ways to express himself. Besides being a devotee of all things retro and 50s, he often gravitates towards landscape and portraiture in his art.

Helene Milestone

Wynnewood, Pennsylvania

Milestone works at the Center for Creative Works in Wynnewood, Pennsylvania. She loves to create art with unique designs,



Mark McLaughlin, *Magma*, Marker on paper

colored pencils, and paint. Her artwork inspires her and she prefers working with bright colors like pink, yellow, blue, and orange.

Cynthia Miller

Tucson, Arizona

Miller has always been fascinated by brilliant, jewel-like color. This fascination led to her work in copper enameling, in which she captures and celebrates light, depth, and color to communicate the joy she finds in nature's natural hues. To her, creating copper enamel art is an adventure as she uses a kiln to melt glass and fuse copper. The arts have been her lifelong passion as she has received both a Bachelor of Fine Arts from The University of Illinois and a Master of Fine Arts from Northwestern University. Since moving to Tucson in 2000, she has created commissions for residential, commercial, and health institutions. Miller has proudly been featured in the Architectural Digest New York and Palm Beach Fine Art Shows as well as acting and directing professionally.

Deborah Miller

Norristown, Pennsylvania

Miller is a self-taught painter who has been practicing for over 15 years. Her brightly colored and abstract artwork is inspired by personal travels and memories. Due to cerebral palsy, Miller endures physical limitations that affect her mobility. These setbacks are portrayed in her paintings in which her motions are visualized. Viewers

of her artwork are able to experience the simulation of her bodily feelings as well as the memories attached to her paintings. Her work has been showcased across the Philadelphia area, such as at the Moss Rehab All About Art exhibit at the Abington Art Center. There, she was awarded second place in the Painting on Canvas category.

Vinetta Miller

Wynnewood, Pennsylvania

Miller is passionate about painting portraits and loves having people model for her because of their unique characteristics. She enjoys depicting different smiles, clothing and backgrounds for each new portrait. When describing what she likes about creating artwork, she says, "I can concentrate, and because I like working with my hands." Her process involves making an initial drawing in pencil, then in pen, and finally adding watercolor paint. Miller appreciates it when people know that the art they are viewing is hers, and she takes a lot of pride in her work.

Ralph Mindicino

Stamford, Connecticut

Mindicino conveys the changing landscape of his life through his work. He developed cancer at a young age and consequently had his right leg amputated at the hip. While struggling with the fact that his friends grew apart from him, he channeled his feelings of loneliness into his artwork. He studied Fine Arts at the State University of New York at Fredonia and Stonybrook where he acquired skills in bronze and steel sculpture, pottery and oil painting. Since 2005, he has worked exclusively with acrylics and Plexiglas. His abstracted cityscapes are created with delicate hand engravings that he paints over using vibrant colors. In 2012, he was selected as the featured artist for the Art Ability exhibition. Mindicino is a recipient of the Wynn Newhouse Award, a grant awarded to artists with disabilities. His work was part of a national touring exhibition, *Wounded in Action*, which travelled to the Senate Rotunda in Washington, D.C. He has exhibited at the Rome Art Center in New York City and had works included in the set designs for CBS television's *Person of Interest* and ABC's *Body of Proof* series.

Hal Moran

St. Charles, Missouri

Growing up with Tourette syndrome, ADD, and dyslexia meant that communication

was especially complicated for Moran. The visual world around him is of great importance and has shaped and nurtured his style of learning and communication. Moran expresses himself through visual metaphor using photography. While focused on the nature of light and its various properties, Moran tries to capture the hidden stories that blend into everyday life. He seeks to create images that promote the kind of wonder and excitement he experienced as a child.

Victor Mordasov

West Chester, Pennsylvania

Mordasov spent many years in Europe and Russia exploring different media and methods of painting. He follows the techniques of the Old Masters in combination with an impressionistic style. Mordasov enjoys painting a wide range of subjects, including landscapes, still life, portraits and marine venues. His artwork has been juried and accepted into many national and international exhibitions, and he has also had several solo exhibitions. Mordasov won First Prize in both the 2014 and 2015 Annual Art Ability Exhibition.

Richard Morgan

Dallas, Pennsylvania

Morgan joined the Verve Vertu Art Studio three years ago and found his unique style of creating larger-than-life paintings, using oil pastels, acrylics and markers. Recently, he has found new interest in incorporating batik into his mixed media pieces. His works have been frequently sold and can be found in both private and public collections as well as local businesses. As his artistic talents evolve, he finds a new world at his fingertips.

Frank Morrone

Coatesville, Pennsylvania

Morrone dropped out of school in the ninth grade and got a job at an automobile junk yard. He loved working with cars and having tools in his hands. He joined the Marine Corps during the Vietnam War, where he served for three years and earned his GED. Morrone returned home and was married in 1970. When his wife passed away in 2001, he took up bicycling, writing poetry and working at a neighborhood theater to help him cope with the loss. A few years later he remarried. Still interested in exploring new creative venues, he started painting in late 2012. In April 2013, he had a brain stem stroke and became a patient at Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital.

While he has lost the ability to ride his bicycle and do many of the activities he once enjoyed, Morrone has found new interests to engage in, including painting. He says, "my art has given me an interest that I can pursue in spite of my limitations."

Joyce Moseley

Wynnewood, Pennsylvania

Moseley's work explores unique imagery from her day-to-day life including churches, quilts, and plates of food. These recurring themes appear in different configurations. She works at the Center for Creative Works in Wynnewood, Pennsylvania.

Ramalingam Muthukrishnan

Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India

Muthukrishnan's attention was always focused on art, even in his days as a young school boy. Naturally, he later studied Fresco painting at Banasthli Vidyapeeth College in Rajasthan, India after attending the Government College of Arts and Crafts in Chennai, India. His works are based on the surroundings that interest him, including turning ordinary people into interesting protagonists. He prefers strong lines that complement a rich blue, red, and yellow color palette. A trip to Serrat, Spain inspired his collection in the Art Ability show after exposing him to ornate landscape, architecture, and fantasy.

George Napolitano

Salem, Massachusetts

In 1997, Napolitano suffered a debilitating stroke that left him hemiplegic and globally aphasic, taking away his ability to speak, read and write. Prior to his stroke, he was chief attorney for the Massachusetts Commission for Discrimination. Several years ago, he attended an art class at his skilled nursing home and suddenly began to sketch and paint. To this day, he draws and paints daily as his new-found talent has remarkably brought his spirit back to life. Napolitano's pieces often depict his experience of being paralyzed and institutionalized.

Shelia Nelson

St. Paul, Minnesota

Nelson discovered her love of photography during the age of film. After her Asperger's diagnosis, she leaned on her creative side to improve her strength, detail orientation and patience. Today, she mainly shoots abstract photos that often include abstract architecture. To Nelson, viewing and



Kathleen McSherry, *Erasing the Mistakes of the World*, Found Objects

creating art enhances the richness of life by opening pathways to learning and growth. Art helps her positively define herself while challenging her intellect, keeping her active and involved, and providing her with a life purpose. “Photography has given me a way to view my differences as strengths,” Nelson says.

Daniel Neufeld
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

An artist with pervasive developmental delay, Neufeld can draw, paint and photograph. Thanks to his mother who was an art teacher before retirement, Neufeld grew fond of fine art as a young boy. He finds inspiration in nearly everything, from museum exhibits to nature and architecture. Neufeld enjoys creating colorful pieces in pencil, charcoal, pastel, pen and ink, watercolor, acrylic and oil paint. He believes art “has helped me express myself by producing pictures to show that I can be understood when it comes to subjects I’m not clear or familiar with” because of his disability. He studied Fine Arts at Bucks County Community College, and has exhibited work in Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

Kallie Nielsen
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Nielsen has always turned to art as a therapeutic way to uplift her spirits in times of depression and anxiety. As a

lifelong sufferer of many physical illnesses and disabilities, she searched for a way to incorporate her pain and struggles into something beautiful. The mission behind Nielsen’s artwork aims to find harmony in the disharmony of sickness. She prefers encaustics and oil paints because of their resemblance to skin and organs and keeps her pieces small to preserve authentic sizes. Recently, she has begun to focus on the chemical and medical organic side of art and has created her own organic shaped boards to use as canvases. Although Nielsen’s work may be graphic to some, she encourages viewers to see the beauty behind her ability to create art despite her pain.

Kathryn Noska
Phoenixville, Pennsylvania

Noska is an artist who paints still lifes, set in mythical landscapes using magical realism, symbolic imagery and philosophic whimsy. Her artistic journey began at age 12 with private oil painting lessons, and continued with a focus on art in high school. After receiving an Associate’s degree in Fine Arts from Montgomery County Community College, she studied 17th century still life painting at Chester County Art Association under Bill Ewing. She has a strong passion for the use of safe art materials after becoming sensitive to the solvents used for oil-painting while in college. After having to stop painting for a short time to protect her health, she tried acrylic paint but saw no difference as it gave her multiple chemical sensitivity. This greatly impacted her artistic journey, direction, and choice of media. After much research and experimentation, Noska now uses solvent-free painting techniques, cold-pressed walnut oil paint, and eco-friendly panels. She has won several awards in the local Philadelphia suburban area including: The Board of Directors’ Award from Cheltenham Art Center and The Carolyn Alber Memorial Award from the Philadelphia Tri/State Artist Equity.

Andrew Novis
Melford, Massachusetts

Aside from being a self-taught artist and an accomplished athlete, Novis’ attraction

to Fauvism, Latin American art, Paul Gauguin and Romero Britto are the largest influences in his creations. His colorful and unique style comes from his overall belief in the act of simply creating art for art’s sake and not having to make any kind of grand statement. Similar to some of the early 20th century Fauve painters, he applies flat, unmixed color in his palette and frames it by black outlining which separates and enhances the color. His typical variations of reds, oranges, yellows and blues allow light to illuminate while giving his paintings a mystical quality. Being an artist with Asperger’s, Novis tends to create imagery through the left brain while focusing on detail, order, separation and purity of color. This reflects his general need for simplicity, clarity and structure in real life.

Philomena O’Dea
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

O’Dea is drawn to nature photography for its ability to slow the senses, showcase what is present without distractions, provide accounts of change and promote healing. Prior to becoming a photographer, she worked in maternal and child health projects in Sudan, Cambodia, Kenya, and Peru. After having witnessed the brutal and cruel consequences of war, she was compelled to document the ongoing peace movements in Pittsburgh. Following several tropical diseases including Dengue Fever and Malaria and antibiotic resistance, she was diagnosed with Fibromyalgia, Chronic Fatigue Syndrome, and Chronic Immune Deficiency. Photography and digital software became therapeutic tools that enabled her to transition to another perspective of her life: a slower, more contemplative way of being in the world.

Timothy O’Donovan
Wynnewood, Pennsylvania

O’Donovan was born in Cardiff, Wales in 1964. Since then, he has lived in South Africa, New Zealand, New Orleans, Colorado, and Pennsylvania. He has lived and worked in Philadelphia for over 20 years. O’Donovan has been creating artwork at the Center for Creative Works in Wynnewood, Pennsylvania, since its establishment in 2012. He tackles both geometric figures and realism in pencil, watercolor, colored pencil and ink. Inspired by the many places he’s lived, O’Donovan’s work continues to develop in scale, scope and media.

Jon Ohman*Dennis, Massachusetts*

Ohman was born in Worcester, Massachusetts and is an enthusiastic young man with autism. His main form of self-expression is through creating art, but he grew up with an extreme passion for horses and has ridden since age 4. In the summer of 2016, he gained interest in creating artwork and joined an art class taught by Debra Hope Colligan. While attending Colligan's art classes, he started to draw horses and gradually developed a skill in acrylic painting. His journey into the art world has inspired him to draw illustrations for children's books that he intends to write and publish. Ohman sees his work as an inspiring feat in life that brings him joy, accomplishment and passion. His work as an artist has inspired his younger brother, Patrick, (who also has autism) to begin creating art.

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.

Michael Opredek*Trumbull, Connecticut*

Opredek creates art that is naturally repetitive. He typically uses flowers and fruits as motifs and attends open art studio several times a week at the Kennedy Center in Connecticut. Opredek works in various mediums, but he prefers drawing and painting the most. He lives with his sister in Trumbull, Connecticut and works at Juliska, a tableware store for homes.

Joanne Orth*Chester Springs, Pennsylvania*

Orth has always loved art and spent much of her time drawing. Choosing to pursue a career in science and medical education, Orth had little time to devote to her love of painting. Later in life when her physical limitations began to increase, she began painting again as a way to relax and find fulfillment. Painting has given

“The sheer joy of painting helps me to not feel pain, and my desire to continue sharing this world’s beauty with others drives me to keep trying and keep painting.”

- Mimi Barclay Johnson

her a “new lease on life” and helped her overcome many challenges. Over the past 25 years, she has developed a love of subjects with strong, contrasting values, selecting both local sights in Pennsylvania and scenes she recalls from her travels as her subjects. Orth uses a variety of media including watercolor, acrylic and pastel. She is a member of the Flying Colors Artists' Group and the Delaware County Art League and routinely exhibits her work in their group shows. She has taken part in the Yellow Springs, Daylesford Abbey and Immaculata Art Show along with other local and regional exhibits. Her work has been featured in one-man shows at the Darlington Fine Arts Center, the Hardcastle Gallery in Centreville, Delaware and the Gallery at 5 East in Media, Pennsylvania.

Sal Panasci*Devon, Pennsylvania*

Panasci graduated from the Philadelphia College of Art (now the University of the Arts) with a degree in Graphic Design in 1971. Post-graduation, he undertook an exciting and successful career in the advertising field for 25 years. After a devastating taxicab accident in which

he was the passenger, he was diagnosed with a mild traumatic brain injury and blindness in one eye. Panasci was a patient at Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital when he saw the 1996 Art Ability exhibition and was inspired to begin painting. He chose watercolor during his initial rehabilitation and has since studied at the Chester Springs Studio, the Chester County Art Association, the Main Line Art Center, and in Nantucket with American Impressionist Master, William Welch. Panasci now paints in a variety of media and his works are in numerous corporate and private collections.

Lisa Parsons*Malvern, Pennsylvania*

In October of 1983, Parsons was struck by a car and thrown against a nearby vehicle before hitting the pavement. Her accident resulted in a traumatic brain injury. She recalls that after her recovery, she was hesitant to explain her brain injury to others and that art provided an outlet for her desire for creativity. Parsons is particularly motivated during holidays and special events and often draws inspiration from her experiences in California and Hawaii. Due to vision impairment, she usually works with abstract subject matter.

Bernice Paul*Philadelphia, Pennsylvania*

As a young girl in Moscow, Paul loved to draw and paint. Even after immigrating to the United States in the 1930's and settling in Philadelphia, she continued to create art. She studied at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, Fleisher Art Memorial, and the Philadelphia College of Art. She currently creates work with oil paint, watercolor, printing inks, clay, pastel and metal and frequently finds inspiration in the natural beauty of nearby rivers and parks. In her 100th year of life, she still derives immense joy from painting, even though she now does so with the handicap of macular degeneration. Paul's vibrant style has earned many awards, including a gold medal from the Philadelphia Sketch Club, gold and silver medals from the Plastic Club, first prizes at the Upper Merion Cultural Center, and Best in Show at the Main Line Center for the Arts. Her work has been shown in galleries throughout the area including the Woodmere, the Plastic Club, the Philadelphia Sketch Club, Villanova University, and the Philadelphia Art Alliance. She has exhibited at the

Philadelphia Art Museum, The Philip and Muriel Berman Art Museum in Erwinna, and the William Penn Museum in Harrisburg.

Treavor Pence

El Paso, Texas

Pence graduated from the University of Texas at El Paso and maintained an Art Education certification. He has been an art teacher at a variety of high schools and currently teaches at an early college in El Paso, Texas. Also, he has led various workshops teaching students how to paint in oils and has sold over 350 works of art to clients across The United States, Canada and Australia.

Victoria Pendragon

Paw Paw, West Virginia

Pendragon received a Bachelor of Fine Arts in fabric design from the Philadelphia College of Art in the 1960s. Despite her diagnosis of systemic sclerosis which has crippled her hands, she creates mixed media artwork that combines collage, acrylic paint and dyed silk with found, created or natural elements. Pendragon believes that art is a direct reflection of her relationship with life and with the beautiful Earth upon which she lives. Her work reflects her passion for energy and the mystery of life, and strives to evoke these feelings in the viewer. Her paintings hang in many private collections and numerous corporate collections including Moss Rehab, the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, and St. Christopher's Hospital for Children. Her work has been featured in the first year of the Bravo channel as part of their Bravo Artists and is a part of the permanent collection of art at Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital.

Christopher Pereto

Weymouth, Massachusetts

Born in Hartford, Connecticut, Pereto has lived in many places throughout New England including New Hampshire and Massachusetts. He believes that living on the East Coast has been a major influence on his work along with his Bachelor of Arts from the University of Rhode Island. Pereto began drawing before age 5 and keeps a collection of his early childhood art as a record of his artistic and personal development. Music has been a formative influence on his work as well. For 8 years, he was the drummer of the Aerosmith tribute band "Draw the Line", with whom he played over 300 shows. His artistic sensibility is influenced by a Kodak

Instamatic camera which was given to him as a gift when he was 8 years old. Pereto remains an enthusiastic photographer to this day as his work is geared toward capturing his subjects "in a moment of time when they're in the act of being who they are."

Rebecca Perkins

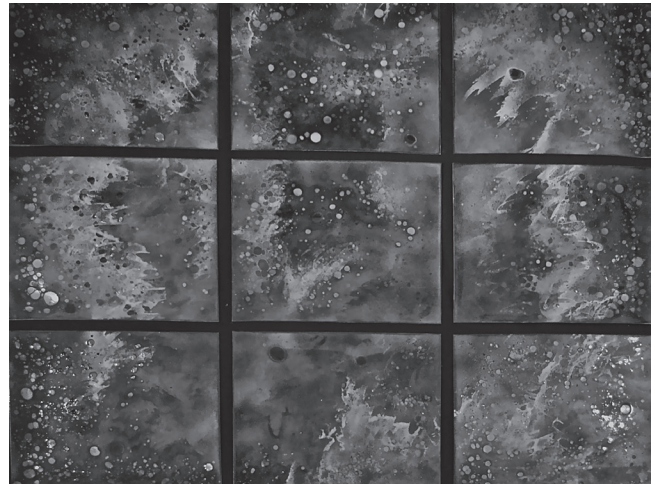
Hagerstown, Maryland

Perkins was born 3 months premature at a very low birth weight, which caused her left retina to detach. She was diagnosed with retinopathy of prematurity and left legally blind with nystagmus and strabismus. In addition to her visual disability, she also has severe, persistent major depressive disorder that is recurrent with post-traumatic stress disorder. However, she does not define herself by either of her disabilities but rather sees them as opportunities to help others in the future through art and psychology. Art was a life saver for Perkins as playing contact sports in school was not an option. She tends to be very introverted, so art allows her to express her emotions in a nonverbal way. Painting allows Perkins to continually grow, evolve, learn, express, change and feel.

Brian Peterson

Lansdale, Pennsylvania

Peterson's creative reign for the past 50 years has included work as a musician, composer, photographer, curator, critic and arts administrator in the Philadelphia area. After working for 24 years as the chief curator of the Michener Art Museum in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, he retired in 2014 leaving behind a lengthy career and many original scholarly works. His Parkinson's disease diagnosis 7 years prior in 2007 devastated him and proved strenuous on both his conscious and unconscious creative practices. Despite the disease's plentiful side effects and lifestyle changes, Peterson has adjusted to life with limitations and found the many gifts that lay behind chronic illness. He now is more open to finding beauty everywhere he goes, connecting with others, and studying the mystery of creation. His work is showcased in nearly a dozen major institutions including the Philadelphia Museum of Art and the Library of Congress.



Cynthia Miller, *Rose Nebula in Nine Panels*, Enamel glass kiln fused onto burnished copper

Cassandra Petruchyk

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Petruchyk is a 46 year old artist with obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD). She is extremely anxious and unable to function in a setting where she has to follow external rules. Thankfully, drawing is the one positive thing in her life that brings her normalcy. It gives her a purpose as it relieves some of the depression that OCD creates. Her recent work is a series of animal portraits, with the objective being to seek a voice for those who need to be heard. Inspiration for this series came after Petruchyk volunteered as an adoptions hostess at the Jacksonville Humane Society in Florida. Presently, she volunteers at the Schuylkill Wildlife Rehabilitation Clinic. On her close connection to animals, Petruchyk states that she "feels the need to somehow capture these unconditional open honest beings living amongst us." Her work intends to communicate emotion from the inside as it captures the subject and gives it a voice.

Ellie Pfautz

Glenmoore, Pennsylvania

A graduate of Pennsylvania State University with a Bachelor of Arts in applied arts, Pfautz worked in the art department of Wanamaker's, General Electric, and McGraw Hill before opening her own graphic design studio. A brain aneurysm caused her to turn to fine arts, which became her therapy and escape. Pfautz is very grateful for the help, encouragement, and care provided by Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital. The artist works with pastels and acrylics, striving to capture her initial reactions to landscapes. Additionally, she is on the Art Ability Committee.

Sheila Pitt*Tucson, Arizona*

Pitt was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and graduated from Girl's High and Temple University as a Biology major. She went back to school in 1985 to earn a Master of Fine Arts in printmaking from the University of Arizona. Before a catastrophic accident in 2008 left her a quadriplegic, she was an avid equestrian, gardener, world traveler, family person and teacher. With limited use of her left hand, she was convinced that she would never create art again. Thankfully, use of a Wacom tablet, computer and Photoshop have given her the chance to draw again, just in a new way. Her studio assistant manipulates Photoshop for her as Pitt draws and works on image making. Her prints since the accident are a visual diary of her slow but steady recovery. With the support of the University of Arizona Disability Services, assistance is provided for her in the classroom and her home studio. Pitt is currently teaching for the ninth year since her accident as a full professor.

Megan Potoma*Philadelphia, Pennsylvania*

Potoma's works are intimate responses to the need to express the identity as a queer person. They strive to demonstrate what it feels like to be a member of the LGBTQ+ community and the struggle to find a place in the world. As an aspiring art therapist, one strives to incorporate healing through self-expression while creating. By focusing on personally significant topics, one finds solace in one's works. This method allows Potoma to experience catharsis and gain greater self-understanding. Potoma has struggled with learning disabilities, including dyslexia, since childhood. While in school, Potoma fought to keep up with the reading skills of peers. Although Potoma struggles with self-confidence because of dyslexia at times, the creative process has always allowed for a boost in self-confidence.

Jessica Preble*Colorado Springs, Colorado*

Preble has suffered from profound hearing loss in her right ear since birth. She works primarily in oil paint and uses her art to connect with and engage in the world outside her mind. By using vibrant colors and thick textures, she is able to express every range of emotion possible. Having partial hearing loss has helped Preble to

“My goal is to push the envelope, find the humor, and explore the histories that impact our daily lives.”

- Mark Lubich

become a very interpretive communicator. This has changed the way that she paints as she is able to create more impacting compositions and features within her subjects. Preble hopes to share her “translation of the world” with her viewers.

Cathy Pregmon*Drexel Hill, Pennsylvania*

Pregmon is legally blind in her right eye. She received her Bachelor of Arts in English history from Ursinus College, her Masters degree in speech and theater arts from the University of Pittsburgh, and another Master in Social Work from Marywood College. She worked extensively in the Pennsylvania education system, founded a theater company, and now owns Beads in the 4th Re-Invention, a jewelry design business. As a theater artist and now a jewelry artist, she believes that “the arts have an important part in the quality and fabric of our lives; creative expression, in whatever form it may take for each individual, is as important as breathing and feeling empowered and whole as a human being.” Fine jewelry has allowed her to “reconnect” with her artistic side. Pregmon has been a featured artist in the Lansdowne Arts Fair since 2010, and has participated in the Art Ability for several years. In 2012, she won second place in the Crafts category in the All About Art show at Moss Rehabilitation Hospital.

Stephen Proski*Kansas City, Missouri*

Proski's unique style of artwork includes tearing apart and recycling past paintings and reconstructing them into fresher arrangements. The inspiration behind his work comes from cartoons as he uses a needle and a thread to stitch together his pieces that reference quilt making. As a legally blind artist, he has found art as an opportunity for self-expression as he experiments with hue and pigment placement. Proski metaphorically sees painting as his vehicle as he joyrides away from the struggles that accompany his battle with vision impairment from cone-rod retinal dystrophy.

Sherry Pudim*Dallas, Pennsylvania*

Pudim attends the Verve Vertu Art Studio. There, she takes her wonderful ability for illustration and turns it into gutta batiks on muslin. She has created elephants, geckos, lizards, butterflies, and flowers with her unique style and vision. Pudim enjoys creating with all mediums and has exhibited her work throughout Pennsylvania from 2015 to 2016.

Meg Quinlisk*West Chester, Pennsylvania*

Diagnosed with juvenile rheumatoid arthritis at the age of 13, Quinlisk discovered painting as a way to keep her hands flexible while easing her pain. Her oil paintings reflect a love of nature and gardening, highlighting “the beautiful contrast between dark and light, vibrant colors and unique shapes.” Through her work, she wants to “evoke the childhood wonder buried deep within us all.” She has exhibited her work in West Chester, Pennsylvania. Quinlisk received her Bachelor of Science in computer science at Shippensburg University and worked at the DuPont Company as a computer analyst, designing computer technology for the physically disabled.

Judy Quitariano*Pacifica, California*

Quitoriano is an artist, educator, wife and mother. She has been married for 44 years and has one adult son. Her art is focused on creating beauty and transcendence as she loves to work with color. Her preferred mediums are photography, pastels, ceramics and acrylic painting. Quitariano frequently visualizes work in abstract forms and

captures it in her expressions. Art helps her to find joy and hope in life while she meets the challenges of her disabilities. It empowers her to connect and express. She says, “Art is a temple of the human spirit.”

Desiree Reed

Dallas, Pennsylvania

Reed loves to illustrate people, animals and flowers because they inspire her to create. She loves the challenge of painting details in petals and faces and is intensely focused when she creates them. New mediums are not a problem for her as she enjoys experimentation within her techniques. According to Reed, art constantly “surrounds and fulfills” her.

Ginette Richard

Rochester, New York

At the age of 19, Richard moved to Rochester, New York after being born and raised in Montreal, Quebec. Ginette has always been artistic as she has been involved with knitting, crocheting, tatting, quilting, painting, and making jewelry. She is also musically inclined, as she plays guitar well and has sung in choirs and musical opera choruses. After working in retail, hotel, and factory industries, she decided to go to school, earning an associate’s degree in Medical Assisting from Everest Institute in 2007. In 2009, she returned to school at the College at Brockport to study for a B.S. in Psychology. At the end of the fall in 2010, she took a leave of absence and did plenty of soul searching. During that time off, she came to the realization that psychology was simply not right for her. She knew that she needed to follow her passion and pursue art, concentrating in ceramics. Her art is based on the concepts of nature, the world around her, and her own imagination. She uses various materials like clay, metal, and yarn, with some pieces being mixed media. She likes to use abstraction, humor, and sometimes a play on the obvious.

Patricia Ridenour

Seattle, Washington

Ridenour is a Seattle native who grew up in a rural community and saw nature as her playground. She was friendly with a handful of artists in her community who taught her poetry, painting, weaving, print making, music, drawing, and photography. This exposure to the arts from an early age led to a scholarship to Cornish College of the Arts for Ridenour to study and perform as a violinist. After high school, she ventured into the fashion world and became a textile

designer, finally returning to photography in her twenties. Her career has been extensive, including international awards, grants, collections, publications, and exhibitions. She was on the faculty at The Photo Center North West for 21 years, during which time she developed the digital program and created curriculum for the school. Her photographic work is often mixed with other media such as encaustic, oil paint, epoxy, and writing.

Kasey Riley

Dallas, Pennsylvania

Riley is new at the Verve Vertu Art Studio, an arts apprenticeship that heightens the energy of people with special needs. She attends the Wednesday evening class and has learned to paint with acrylic and batik on fabric or rice paper. Elephants are Riley’s favorite animal and she loves to incorporate them into her pieces. She loves creating anything with bright colors, especially bubble art.

Lorna Ritz

Amherst, Massachusetts

Ritz graduated with a Bachelor’s degree in Fine Art from Pratt Institute and received her Master’s degree from the Cranbrook Academy of Art. She has taught at prestige universities like Brown University and Dartmouth College, as well as abroad at the American University in Italy, the Instituto de Belles Artes in Columbia, and the Institute for American Universities in France. Ritz identifies herself as a nonobjective landscape oil painter and her focus has always been to create a sense of space through color relationships. “Each of my paintings represents a crystallized chunk of formal experience, while being very personal at the same time,” says Ritz. Permanent nerve damage in her left leg requires her to walk and paint with a cane.

Vojko Rizvanovic

West Valley City, Utah

Rizvanovic is a simple man who celebrates life and the arts. Despite life’s shortcomings and obstacles, he knows that the sun will always rise in the morning and life will

go on. Creating art gives meaning to his existence that is otherwise tainted by his vision impairment. You may have a hard time believing that he has trouble seeing since his work is so detailed, but he insists that his determination and passion for perfection are the factors behind his success.

Barbara Romain

Los Angeles, California

A graduate of the University of the Arts and Otis College of Art and Design, Romain has received numerous awards and teaching fellowships, including Artist in Residence for the City of Los Angeles’ Department of Cultural Affairs. She co-founded Art Options, an art-based general education program for high-risk inner city students in Los Angeles. Her work has been featured in solo and group shows across the nation. Romain’s work has progressed from a realistic, figurative style to a more vivid color palette as her retinal degenerative disease progressed. Today, her work is inspired less by what she sees and more by what she hears, remembers and imagines.

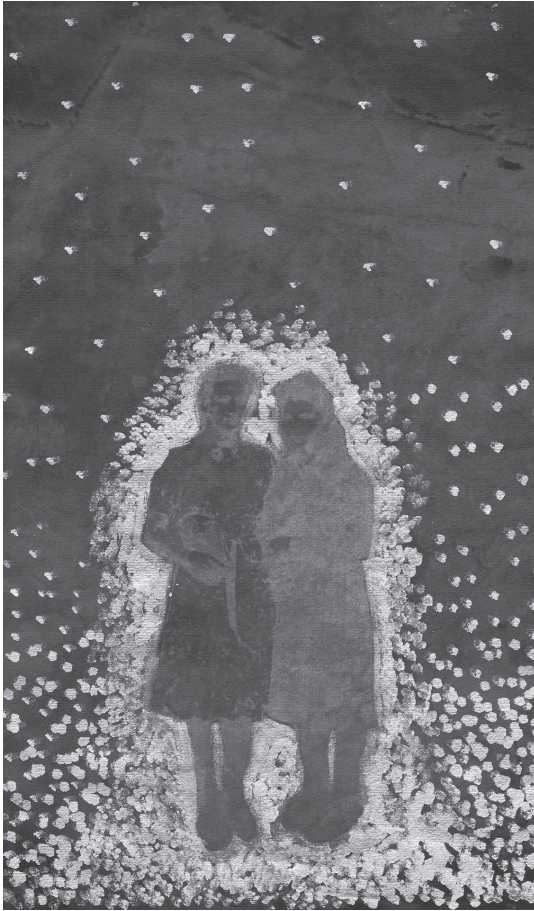
Maxine Rosen

Penn Valley, Pennsylvania

After retiring from a 30 year stint as both a pre-school and religious school teacher, Rosen began to focus on her work as a ceramic and collage artist since time finally allowed. Texture, design, and depth are the main elements of focus in many of her collage pieces. Using a variety of papers and found objects, she seeks to create a



Ramalingam Muthukrishnan, *Beautiful Hairs in Brown*, Acrylic and marker pen on canvas



Monica Chulewicz, *The Day the Universe Fell*,
Cyanotype with gold leaf on ingres paper

balance of design and color. Inspiration comes from her imagination, her travels, and nature. When the work feels composed and the mood of the piece feels balanced, she knows it is complete. Rosen had hearing loss in one ear as a child and when she tried to have it surgically corrected as an adult, she was left with no hearing. She has since received a hearing aid that has improved her sound quality, but she credits her extreme focus to her hearing loss since there are virtually no distractions as she creates.

Maria Sammartino

Riverton, New Jersey

Sammartino was born into a family of artists and has spent many years creating art as a result. After being diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in 2009, she found herself immersed in painting, writing, and editing to temporarily free herself from pain. Her pieces display self-described “imagined landscapes and abstract art” that often defy rules of perspective and dimension. Her artist catalogue is full of many different styles that make them uniquely original and can be seen as a combination of both “abstract” and “landscape.” She mixes her vibrant palette in what looks like endless

layers and textures inspired by her natural inclination towards abstract expressionism.

Karin Schacht

Charlotte, North Carolina

Schacht is an acrylic painter who occasionally works with oil and watercolor paints and tends to focus on abstract forms of life in movement. She credits drawing and painting as integral parts of her personal identity and uses them to balance the parts of her life disrupted by her temporal lobe epilepsy. In 1992, she received her Master of Fine Art from the Savannah College of Art and Design after previously receiving her undergraduate degree in Creative Art from UNC-Charlotte. Schacht was the recipient of Emerging and Individual Artist Grants from North Carolina and Georgia and has exhibited her work in North and South Carolina, Georgia, California, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Alabama and Oregon.

Jeremy Schack

Waxahacie, Texas

Schack’s first passion was his love for sports. He’s been involved

his entire life as both a player and a team videographer. After being injured from a traumatic brain injury, he began playing wheelchair basketball, wheelchair rugby, and hand cycling. Recently, Schack has focused more on his videography and worked for two teams at the University of Texas at Arlington. His artwork has been shown in galleries nationwide and in Moscow, Russia.

Carla Schaeffer

Phoenixville, Pennsylvania

As a child, Schaeffer loved “making things.” By the time she was a preteen, she was selling crafts at the local handicraft store. Adulthood brought dabbling in furniture refinishing, chair caning, decorative painting, picture framing, gardening, and creating mosaics. In 1999, she began suffering from debilitating arm pain that forced her to abandon her creative projects and business career as it became too severe. Schaeffer was dealt a further blow in 2007, when she suffered an epidural hematoma that resulted in cognitive, vestibular and visual issues. Returning to her art has brought some much needed joy back into

her life. The bright colors and bold patterns in her mosaics and handmade ceramic tiles allow her to break free from the many restrictions imposed on her by her injuries. She views mosaics as “painting with china and solving a puzzle all rolled into one very meditative process.”

Molly Schappert

Dallas, Pennsylvania

At the Verve Vertu Art Studio, Schappert develops her artistic skills through drawings, paintings, and batiks. She is encouraged to experiment with different dyes and colors in which she paints different nature and flower scenes. Schappert participated in the International Special Olympics Swim Team in Minnesota where she won a silver and bronze medal. She enjoys traveling with her friends and family and sees creating artwork as fun and joyful.

Joshua Schlegel

Dallas, Pennsylvania

A member of the Verve Vertu Art Studio for 9 years, Schlegel is able to express himself through many mediums. He has limited use of his hands but feels that it actually enhances his work as he creates unique patterns of colors and shapes. Dragonflies have always been inspirational towards his artwork, and one of his works focused on the insect, was recently commissioned in Denmark. Schlegel states that “Art makes me feel as if I’m not disabled at all. I am able to feel a part of my community through the art shows. I have also had the ability to make new friends.”

Alex Schutt

Princeton, New Jersey

Schutt is a nonverbal, autistic painter with very limited communication abilities but a high desire to paint. Every Saturday, his teacher arrives at the group home where he lives and sets up a variety of canvases and paint types. Since the very first time he started painting, he has whisked the brush across the paint puddles, creating a feathered technique that is mesmerizing to watch. He can effortlessly recreate a marbled paper look and is attentive to all edges and corners. Watching Schutt paint reminds us that the joy of creating should be within the process itself-not the sale of artwork or a ribbon prize. When a painting of his made it into a show and was sold, his mother asked him if he understood what had happened. Replying on a special type-pad that they use together, he responded, “I am very proud of myself.”

Erika Schwarz

Watertown, Massachusetts

The current ecological and environmental challenges that our world is facing serve as major inspiration and theming in Schwarz' artwork. As an adult on the autism spectrum, she has constantly been dismissed as lazy, undisciplined, and a complainer. Many other adults with cases similar to Schwarz are promising and hard working yet are written off due to their social differences. Schwarz hopes to shed light on the positive qualities of those with disabilities by combining these messages in her pieces.

Jacqueline Scott

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Scott is from North Philadelphia and has lived at Inglis House, a center for the disabled, 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, 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. Due to her multiple sclerosis (MS), she has trouble concentrating and remembering, but creating art brings her much-needed joy. She looks forward to her opportunities to create art each week and typically works on several projects at a time.

Nora Seekins

Great Falls, Montana

Seekins is a lifelong resident of Great Falls, Montana where she was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis (MS) at just 21 years old. With her diagnosis came loss of vision, mobility, and dignity as she went through lifelong studies and thought that all hope was lost. Miraculously, her MS has since become relapsing thanks to medication, biofeedback, and prayer. Seekins sees her disability as a reminder to have constant compassion for others and to open her senses to the universe around her. Her art career has been mostly influenced by her late mother, Bernice, who painted beautiful canvas despite her battle with Parkinson's disease. She prefers to use oil, acrylic, sand, and wax for the art that "swallows her anxieties and sanctions the serenity" in her life.

Christine Severson

Richmond, Virginia

Severson, a registered nurse, suffered a life-changing spinal nerve injury while transferring a quadriplegic patient. Bedridden and in constant pain, she was at a loss for how to spend her days until her mother gifted her a coloring kit. It took a while to develop confidence in her creative abilities, but trial and error resulted in the discovery that her mediums must be light weight and something she can do from a reclining position, so she chose jewelry and basket making. With the advent of the internet age and help from library books, a world of techniques has been delivered to her bed. Severson is able to cope with her chronic pain and limited mobility because of her work. It has provided an outlet to express her feelings, her "mother energies, spirit, pain, isolation and loss." She continuously learns and develops her artistic skills.

Carol Shannon

Aldan, Pennsylvania

Before being diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis in 2007, Shannon would never have considered herself an artist. Much to her delight, art has provided her with an activity that exercises her hands, wrists, and arms while providing an escape from the physical pain and limitations caused by her arthritis. Sometimes she needs to make modifications to her process, such as using extra-long paintbrushes and a hand vice to hold the brush, or using a tripod and a monopod to stabilize her camera. She is drawn to abstract paintings and designs with bold colors and textures as well as black-and-white landscape photography.

Diana Simon

Burbank, California

Simon is a mother, psychologist, and artist living in southern California. A self-trained artist, she has developed an interest in psychological subject matter and non-traditional painting techniques. Her work has been influenced by her physical disability after being diagnosed with multiple autoimmune diseases in 2011. Also, while battling depression, anxiety, and OCD, art has acted as both a conduit and a soothing balm on days when her physical mobility is severely limited. Her artwork can take a critical view of social, psychological, and cultural issues, and often involves combining soothing patterns and jarring imagery to provoke an emotional response. While the subject matter of each piece ultimately determines

the materials and the forms of the work, she gravitates largely toward watercolor and pencil. "If we accept the idea that art doesn't have to be perfect to be beautiful; that the imperfections are in fact what make a piece of art beautiful, how could this change the way we view other people; the way we view ourselves?".

William Skrobot

Easton, Pennsylvania

Skrobot was born in Brooklyn, New York and earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts and a Master of Library Science in Manhattan. He financially supported himself through work at the Wall Street corporate library while creatively pursuing street photography. His photographs from that time were a representation of the fast paced, big city life as he manually processed film in his apartment. Today, he works with mixed media material and photographs. Making art is Skrobot's "attempt to be normal" as he battles multiple sclerosis, or MS. He wisely professes that "There are two things I do every day. One is to learn something, and the other is to make something."

Margie Smeller

Baltimore, Maryland

Smeller is a seasoned visual artist, having honed her craft over many years. She has worked on commissions at home, exhibited her work in solo shows and at the Artists' Gallery in Frederick, MD, has worked with the Scott Key Center in Frederick, MD and Art Enables in Washington, DC. She is also a talented athlete and has competed in various sports including skiing and kayaking.

Amy Smith

North Wales, Pennsylvania

Smith was just 28 years old when she heard the words, "You have multiple sclerosis," sitting in a neurologist's office in shock. Over the past 8 years, she has suffered unpredictable relapses that cause weakness, tingling, and blurred vision. Smith recounts the sadness, grief, loss, and fear that come with living with a chronic illness. As she lives with constant uncertainty waiting for the next relapse to occur, art helps to make sense of her struggles. Painting helps her to navigate a multitude of emotions while creating something beautiful, even on days haunted by negativity. Art inspires her when she's sad, while helping her to channel peace and joy into her artwork. Smith realizes the extensive amount of beauty in nature and

hopes to express it through her artwork and writings.

Carmen Smith

Toledo, Ohio

Smith sees her work with beaded embroidery, fibers, and soft sculpture as an escape and healing process for her chronic migraines and fibromyalgia. Despite her joints and eyes becoming strained throughout the years, she has adapted by embracing larger beads and still finds it just as enjoyable and relaxing. She is professionally trained with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in jewelry and small metal sculpture from Bowling Green State University and a Master of Fine Arts and teaching certification from Columbus College of Art and Design. After finishing school, she moved to Toledo, Ohio with her husband and dogs and opened her own store called Beads and Books in which she also teaches jewelry classes. Smith has been showcased in almost 20 east coast exhibits and is a current member of 3 craftsmen societies.

Donna Smith

Colchester, Connecticut

Smith's interest and passion for art took root early on in her life, and she began taking art classes while in high school. After being injured in a diving accident in 1990 that left her a quadriplegic, she had to approach creating art with a different technique. She resumed painting by holding a paintbrush in her mouth, and although difficult, she still enjoys working in acrylics, oils, watercolor, and pastels. Art is a valued part of her life, and gives her a sense of accomplishment, expression, and enjoyment that otherwise would be missing.

Eli Smith

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Smith works with oil paints to create opaque imagery that connects with his viewers. Diagnosed with obsessive compulsive disorder and Tourette's syndrome in his school years, he struggles with excessive control of his body and mind. Smith manages the struggles that come with his disorders through therapy and friendships. His goal as a painter is to elicit emotion through his work as he studies the human ability to express emotion. Ideally, he hopes that his paintings can become a source of therapy through recognition and empathy.

Ken Smith

Riverside, Washington

Smith's artistic journey is centered around discovery. He craves knowledge about each piece of artwork; its journey, subject and power. As a teacher, he encourages his students to turn their life experiences into art. To Smith, artists take on the "observer and recorder" roles in life. After a serious aircraft accident resulted in a spinal cord injury, he was no longer able to work and his focus turned to making fine art photography. His work reflects his disability, patience and the understanding of how to find beauty in the commonplace. Smith's main influence is Asian aesthetics and philosophy. When he takes photographs, he slows down and tries to become the subject.

Eugene Soh

Singapore

At just 15 years old, Soh had to undergo a major operation to remove blockage in his spinal cord. Thereafter, he has relied on a wheelchair to maintain mobility and independence. Soh wants to prove that disabled does not mean unable and has completed his Bachelor's degree in mathematics from the National University of Singapore. He is married and enjoys painting images inspired by his idea that "art is everywhere". Soh's memories of travel with his wife and expression of his deep faith in God are his main artistic focus. He was one of 13 Very Special Arts (VSA) artists selected for the 1999 Maybank-VSA Pair with An Artist Programme. His recent works have been exhibited at the Maybank Gallery in Malaysia and the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts Gallery in Singapore.

Rosary Solimanto

West New York, New Jersey

Solimanto is best known for her interdisciplinary activist based work in which she explores the objectification and stigmatization she faces with multiple sclerosis (MS). She encourages discourse on disability to empower the disabled as she feels that art on this subject is long overdue. Solimanto believes that speaking out through a visual language and social platform advocates for disability pride and awareness. "Objectification and perfectibility of the human body will continue to prevail, until art explores the oppressive stigmatizations associated with disability identity", Solimanto states. She has exhibited in New York, New Jersey, North Carolina, Seattle, Pittsburgh, Connecticut, Minnesota, Toronto, Germany and Spain. Aside from creating physical art,

she has also performed in the O + Festival in Kingston, NY, The International Human Rights Art Festival In New York City, the Itinerant Festival at the Bronx Museum and Socrates Sculpture Park, the Nuit Blanche Festival in Toronto, and has exhibited and performed at nine international museums.

Christopher Stacy

Owasso, Oklahoma

Stacy professes that he "makes art to tell stories." He uses watercolor, pencils, acrylics, printmaking techniques or whatever he can get his hands on to create his pieces. Growing up with vision problems, he was often teased for his glasses that make his eyes look large. Art has helped him to be more than "just the guy with big eyes." Without his glasses, his eyes cross and he must rely on his dominant eye to see. Working two dimensionally is something he must do often, both on and off the canvas. Although his eyes are deteriorating, his passion for art is not.

Susan Stahlsmith

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Stahlsmith is 70 years old and never practiced art until she came to live at Inglis House. She has MS 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 music, photography, writing and sculpting. Also, she loves to read about history and classical music. Stahlsmith was born in Aberdeen, Washington; however, she graduated from Penn State University with a Music Education degree. She has lived all over the Northern United States.

Jane Strauss

Minneapolis, Minnesota

Strauss is a photographer who has operated all her life on the autism spectrum. About 50 years ago, she was first introduced to photography through a youth program in her town. As she reached adulthood, she stopped taking photographs and dabbled between jobs as a parent, laboratory research assistant, community activist, attorney, grant writer, teacher, and a thespian. After finding herself unemployed at 50 years old, she was reintroduced to photography and discovered new digital equipment and techniques. Strauss' creative methods are unique to her disability as she rarely sees faces or people first, but instead finds otherwise hidden patterns in the world. She commits them to electronic format via digital SLR equipment and printers. She focuses on capturing images

reflecting a specific place and time. In addition to landscapes, she enjoys photographing architecture, natural images and classic auto details.

Kit Sugrue

Siletz, Oregon

Sugrue has never been one to easily accept limitations. In 1984 while studying at West Virginia University with a major in fine art and art history, she fell ill and was no longer able to attend classes. After recovering, she found a job caring for a friend's children which created the environment that she needed for her health. She continued to work on her art when time and energy allowed. When she discovered that oil paints and acrylics increased the symptoms of her multiple chemical sensitivity, she switched to pen, ink and colored pencil. They coincided perfectly with Sugrue's love of fine detail and she was able to make a small income with her art. Though she gave up her dream of becoming a professional artist once her family grew (and time, energy, and money became more scarce) she never stopped creating. Sugrue's favorite subject of portraits have become a fulfilling niche for her after having experienced significant loss over the years.

Siddhartha Sukla

Cuttack, India

The Sukla brothers work in a variety of media, including paper collage, photography and oil paint. Both are hearing impaired and both are involved with VSA India and have received awards in its national competitions. Each earned a degree in Fine Arts from Utkal University in India, and they credit their mother on inspiring them to be artists. The Suklas are frequent participants in the Art Ability exhibition, where their work has developed a following. Their work is also featured in exhibitions at the Rehabilitation Institute of Kansas City, the Burke Rehabilitation Hospital in New York and the India International Centre Annexe Gallery in New Delhi.

Sriharsha Sukla

Cuttack, India

The Sukla brothers work in a variety of media, including paper collage, photography and oil paint. Both are hearing impaired and both are involved with VSA India and have received awards in its national competitions. Each earned a degree in Fine Arts from Utkal University in India, and they credit their mother on

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Billy Sukus

Dallas, Pennsylvania

Sukus is an artist with autism who attends Verve Vertu Art Studio. He enjoys painting in acrylic, felting, block-printing and batik. Geometric shapes commonly appear in his work. Sukus' piece, "Squares", is a part of the permanent collection at Misericordia University in the Speech Pathology Building, where he receives speech therapy. He loves the creative outlet art offers him. Sukus has excelled in athletics and has competed in the Special Olympics for over 10 years. He has participated in aquatics, long distance running, bowling and track. He has earned over 100 gold, silver and bronze medals at both Regional and State competitions. Sukus has been honored as a finalist for Male Athlete of the Year in the Pennsylvania Special Olympics.

Ronel Tascione

Parkesburg, Pennsylvania

Tascione is from Parkesburg, Pennsylvania and is a survivor of a motor vehicle accident and 2 strokes. This is his first year showcasing his artwork in any art exhibit. He creates intricate, unique trees out of craft wire in all colors and sizes. Tascione is currently working on a website, an Etsy shop, in which he hopes to give the public access to his special works of art.

David Terrar

Gaithersburg, Maryland

As a young student, Terrar received a scholarship to study art in Paris. There, he studied Impressionist art at the Jeu de Paume Museum. He obtained a Bachelors of Arts degree from the Benedictine St. Leo University and a Master of Business Administration from Thunderbird Graduate School of International Management. After developing an international career working in Human Resources, he was eventually forced to quit after a heart attack and illness. From then on, he devoted himself entirely to painting. Terrar incorporates gold leaf and other hues into his work based on visions and experiences from when he was ill. Terrar's

ideas for paintings come from observing rural Maryland and the Chesapeake Bay



Ginny Conover, *The Gang*, Mixed Media

region, particularly late in the day as the sun is about to go down. He has now been painting for over 45 years and works from a small studio in his home or on location near the Chesapeake Bay.

Ron Thompson

Wynnewood, Pennsylvania

At just 3 years old, art came into Thompson's life as a healing medicine. He worked with coloring books and learned how to mix paint with every color imaginable. Thompson knew from an extremely young age that he had a hidden talent and was destined to be a great artist. Born and raised in Philadelphia, he faced plenty of challenges and obstacles. Despite having a troubled family, he believes that every family eventually rises above the darkness that they face. Thompson's most well-known created characters include Super Zeus, Super Zeus Girl, Mr. Wax, and Blue Boy.

Tom Trindle

Sequim, Washington

Born legally blind due to a vision condition linked to premature birth, Trindle has always used his limited vision in a unique way to study the chaos found in nature. A graduate of Central Washington State University in 1974 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts, he primarily focused on sculpture and 3 dimensional design. He considered himself a cowboy at that time, in part due to his work with sharp tools and hot metals. Consistent visits to painting studios began to attract him with their clean and quiet ambience and the intimate dialogue between artists and their work. Enticed, he began to explore different colors and textures using a variety of pigments to create his own paintings. His curiosity from his younger days turned painting into a staple of life as he dearly cherishes the creative process and finds great joy in his reflections about art. Trindle wholesomely remarks that he loves to paint because "it is a celebration of what he can see."

Gary Turchin

Berkeley, California

Turchin began as a strictly black and white photographer until he began working with found images and instant media (Polaroid, Xerox, etc.). He also explored writing words and poetry on his images, and has performed his poems and stories as a spoken word artist. After being diagnosed with Parkinson's disease in 2004, Turchin thought his career in the arts was over. However, he soon entered a new period of creativity. Art proves to Turchin that he is still vital, still relevant and still alive. As his Parkinson's advances, he explores new techniques on the computer that require less dexterity. His adaptability and determination to survive have helped Turchin overcome his disability and continue to create.

Michael Turrell

Dallas, Pennsylvania

Turrell is a new artist at the Verve Vertu Art Studio. He particularly enjoys painting class, where he has learned to paint in acrylic. He creates layers of vivid color with paint that transforms his artwork into something unique and vibrant. Turrell is a focused artist who has just begun exhibiting his artwork in shows in 2016. So far, his work has been displayed in two shows.

"The arts have an important part in the quality and fabric of our lives; creative expression, in whatever form it may take for each individual, is as important as breathing and feeling empowered and whole as a human being."

- Cathy Pregmon

Anthony Tusler

Penngrove, California

Confined to a power wheelchair, Tusler has been involved with the disability community for over 40 years. His goal is to improve the lives of people with disabilities and encourage disabled self-determination and culture. After an absence for decades, Tusler has returned to regularly taking photographs, though now he uses a digital camera rather than film. He is drawn to images that are unexpected, have a measure of humor and comment on disability. Tusler has a Bachelor of Arts in psychology from California State University at Pomona and a Master's degree in rehabilitation administration from the University of San Francisco McLaren School of Business.

Max Tzinman

New York, New York

Tzinman was born in Romania but has lived in Israel, Canada, and the United States, immersing himself in a multitude

of cultures that influence his artistic and philosophical concepts. Born with a severe hearing impairment, photography has allowed him to consistently tell his story in a continuously moving world. Tzinman merges painting, photography, collage and assemblage to produce a series of deep and mysterious images. His work often shows the isolation and invisibility of his early childhood experience dealing with his impairment. Tzinman was Art Ability's 2015 Featured Artist, his second time chosen for this distinction.

Alyson Vega

New York, New York

Born in New York City, Vega is a fiber artist who taught herself to sew and quilt at a young age. She received a Bachelor of Arts in Japanese Folklore and Mythology from Harvard University. After a left-hemisphere stroke ended her 22 year teaching career, she experienced a burst of creativity that brought her artistic ability to light. Vega sews fabric pieces addressing themes of decay, transience, childhood, and dreams. She employs various techniques in her pieces, including printing, painting, surface embellishment, and sewing. She utilizes all types of fabric, fiber, photographs, and found objects to express the beauty she perceives in a harsh and chaotic world.

Joyce Washington

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Washington has lived in the Philadelphia area most of her life. She has come to enjoy drawing ever since she practiced it at the Inglis House, a center for the disabled. To pass time, she enjoys drawing on large sheets of paper, using bright vibrant colors, making fun designs, and drawing colorful objects. Washington loves all forms of art but admits that painting is her favorite. Her drawings and paintings help to keep her world colorful and beautiful. She would love to one day become a professional artist.

Gerald Watson

Seattle, Washington

Watson is a decorated Vietnam Veteran and former combat medic who earned the Combat Medic Badge, Purple Heart, Bronze Star, and the Air Medal for his service and heroism under fire. Watson suffered significant trauma during the war, and to this day continues to struggle with post traumatic stress disorder and other health complications stemming from his service in Vietnam. He is a completely self-taught artist who has been painting

for ten years. Though he enjoys painting “old rusting hulks, muscle cars and antique cars,” his subject matter always returns to his experiences in Vietnam. Watson says, “My writings, drawings, and paintings are of what I see in my dreams. The images are always of combat, and of daily life in the jungle, day after day.”

Andrew Weatherly

Closter, New Jersey

For Weatherly, art is a tool for personal and social growth. He has always preferred to express himself through artistic venues. Capturing the world through the lens of his camera and examining life through the blending of paint colors play an important role in his journey of self-expression. Mixing words and thoughts while writing poetry is therapeutic to Weatherly. Born with Down syndrome, he is adamant about enlightening others with his artwork.

J. Marcus Weekley

Gulfport, Mississippi

Weekley has been deaf in his right ear since birth due to a cholesteotoma. Art has provided him with a safe venue to explore, discover, understand, and communicate as a person with a life-long hearing disability. Rather than relying on his spoken, verbal voice, he uses his art to share himself with the world and others. Weekley describes himself as a “maker” as he creates works that celebrate, transform, and beautify the world around him. He uses fiber, thread, quilting and art history, and various aspects of U.S. cultures to create his works that explore self representations. Weekley insists that his disability affects all of his world, not just how he creates art. To him, “Art is listening, not merely hearing, and art is also speaking with the intent to be heard, not merely droning on.”

Christopher Welgosh

Dallas, Pennsylvania

Welgosh attends the Verve Vertu Art Studio, which is an arts apprenticeship for those with special needs. There, he enjoys creating batiks and mixed media pieces. His style is not limited as he enjoys learning new techniques and experimenting with new mediums. Welgosh loves Elvis and music which inspires him to create guitars out of various mediums. He has a wonderful sense of humor and loves to dance.

Kurt Weston

Mission Viejo, California

As a legally blind photographer, Weston has overcome many obstacles while creating and

exhibiting his work. His current pieces focus on the unique perspectives of the natural environment and its impact on physical and emotional wellness. His portraits of nature emphasize luminous, color-saturated spring and summer garden flowers while bypassing conventional ideas of nature photography. Weston confronts the viewer with singular instances of transformative beauty and has been exhibited both internationally and across The United States. With an extensive art education and 15 years of experience as a fashion photographer, his other battles with AIDS and intestinal cancer did not stop him from creating art work. Weston’s work has been exhibited at The Kennedy Center of The Arts in Washington, D.C. and has been published in The New York Times.

Rose Wolfe

Lawton, Michigan

As an artist living with a disability, Wolfe has found the hidden beauty of art. To her, it is more than a painting, a sculpture, or a story told well. Wolfe’s idea of treasure is found in the heart of the artist and the viewer as they meet. Oil painting provides an outlet for her to forget about her condition while keeping active. She calls art her own special type of occupational therapy. Wolfe is forced to paint from a wheelchair and her energy levels only allow for her to paint for a short period of time. Everything about her myotonic muscular dystrophy is challenging, but painting is her freedom.

Sheryl Yeager

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Yeager’s watercolor, pastel and acrylic works are on exhibit throughout western Pennsylvania. Yeager is autistic and has found great meaning in life through art. She developed an affinity for pastels because of their bright colors. Her work combines animals, human expressions, and vibrant colors to reflect her inner emotions and expressions. Yeager believes that “through art I feel a part of God’s beauty in nature.” Her artwork was the prize winner in the Works on Paper category in the 2001 Art Ability exhibition.

Jacqueline Young

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

A love of artistic expression started early for Young as she took a variety of scholastic and extracurricular art classes. She graduated from Kutztown University as an Art major where her passion for photography developed with her first SLR camera. Later

attending the Antonelli Institute of Art and Photography in Flourtown, Pennsylvania, she graduated 5th in her class in 1988. In the late 90’s, the physical demands of photography became unsustainable due to medical issues. While attending a Botanical Orchid show, the inspiration to capture their tranquility drew her back to her passion for photography. She became drawn to the serenity of orchids after an official diagnosis of Multiple Sclerosis (MS). Recently married at the GoggleWorks Center for the Arts in Reading, Pennsylvania, Young seized the chance to display her photographs as the decor. Young’s orchid photography made its debut last summer at a juried exhibition and was displayed in GoggleWorks Café Gallery.

Anthony Zaremba

Whiting, New Jersey

A graduate of the School of Visual Arts in New York City, Zaremba trained himself to paint with his left hand after being diagnosed with multiple sclerosis (MS) in 1984. Zaremba uses watercolor to seek a deeper meaning in the world around him while capturing brief moments in time. His love of art, classical music, and the masters inspire the subjects of his watercolor paintings. He claims that: “Art has enabled me to see with my heart. I paint not only with a brush, watercolors, and canvas but with what I feel inside.” Zaremba has exhibited in various art venues. He has had 3 of his watercolors selected for the VSA Transformation Exhibition at the John F. Kennedy Performing Arts Center in Washington, D.C., and was selected as a Champion of Courage by the Berlex Drug Company “for the courage demonstrated while facing MS.”

Edward Zebrowski

Dallas, Pennsylvania

Zebrowski is an artist and pianist living with autism. He has been playing piano since the second grade and enjoys a variety of musical styles. A seasoned traveler, Zebrowski has been to Hawaii, Bermuda and the Caribbean. His preferred subject matter is bears, which he depicts freehand on batik. He also enjoys including Buddha and other animals in his batik artwork. Zebrowski uses his affinity for color combinations to create felt wallets. He is a member of the Verve Vertu Art Studio, an arts apprenticeship studio that encourages people with special needs to explore their creative energies.

Art Terms

A reference guide to explain the variety of media and processes used in creating the artwork in the 2017 Art Ability Exhibition.



Kathryn Noska, *Elevate Existence*, walnut oil on panel

Painting

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 also is 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.

Cray Pas/Artstix/oil stick – 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.

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.

Pastel – a combination of dried pigment and binder forming a colored chalk stick.

Scratchboard Art – is a 2-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 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 signed and numbered multiple in a specified 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.

Computer Graphics – the reproduction of digital images on a physical surface. Digital images differ from litho, flexography, gravure or letterpress printing because every impression made onto the paper can be different, as opposed to making several hundred or thousand impressions of the same image from one set of a printing plate.

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 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. 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, and non-image areas are cut away.

Silk Screen or 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. Batik is silk screen printing on silk.

Photography

Computer and Photo Manipulation – the application of image editing techniques to create an illusion or deception, through analog or digital means. In digital editing, photographs are usually taken with a digital camera and input directly into a computer. Photo manipulation may involve overlaying a head onto a different body or changing a sign's text. Image editing software can be used to apply 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.

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 – Polaroid, actually a brand-name, is an example of film photography. Film photography relies on chemical processing.

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

Inkjet Print – a computer generated image from a digital photographic process.

Metal Print – a process whereby an image is infused into the surface of an aluminum plate.

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

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 hand blown and shaped in the other process, hot glass is poured into a mold.

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 or glass (tesserae) affixed to a hard surface to create an image.

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

Papier Maché – 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 on a potter's wheel.

Sculpture and New Media

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

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

Dura Stone – a product made of a limestone composite base.



Ken Smith, *Rhyme 1*, pigment ink on paper

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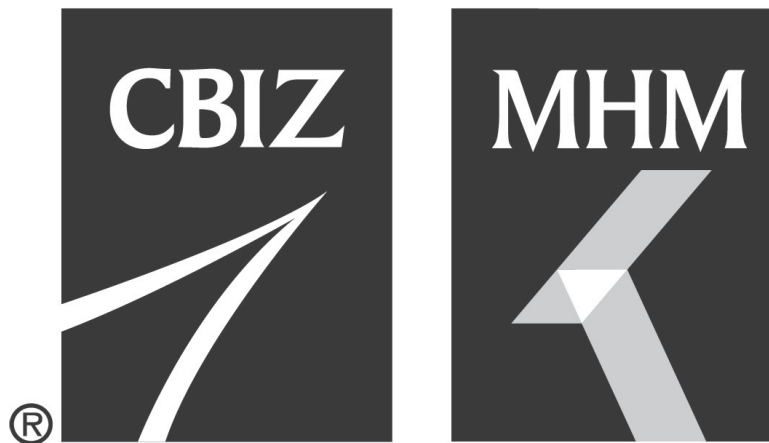
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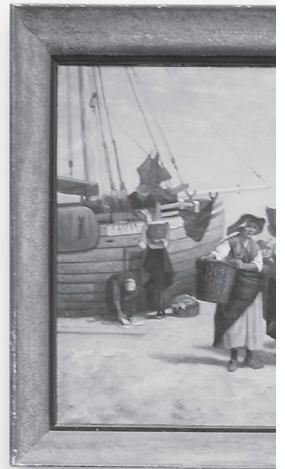
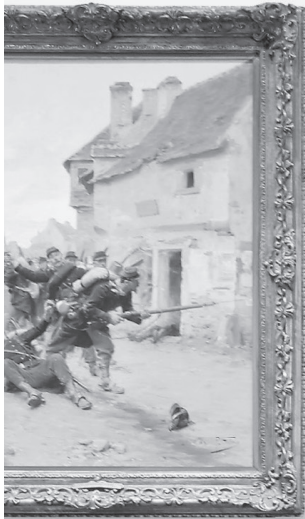
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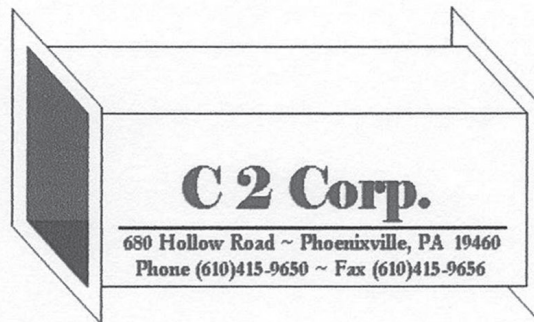
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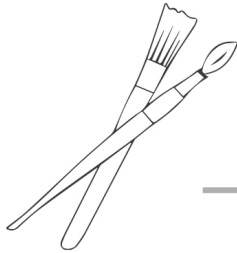
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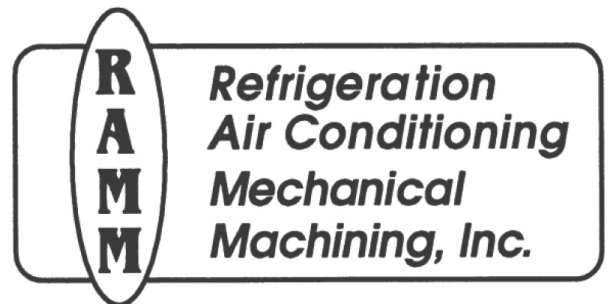


celebrate the determination and
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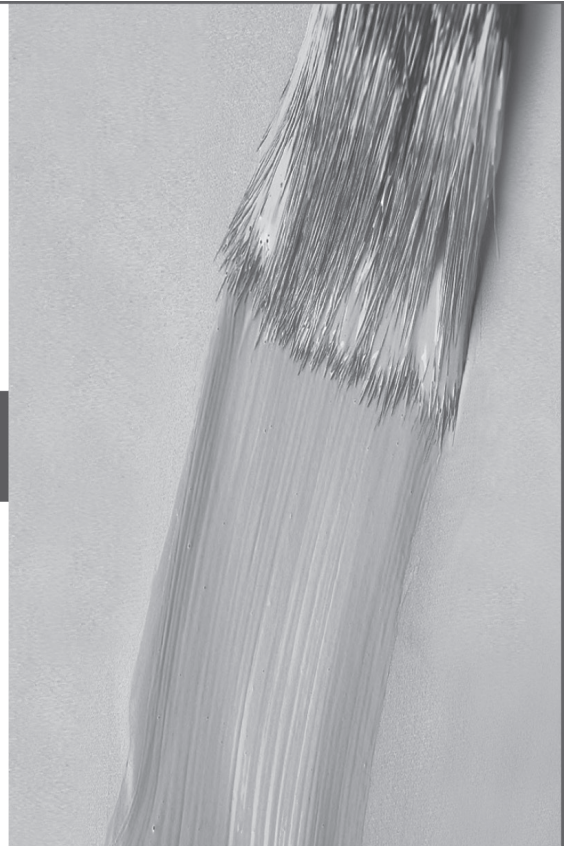
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Art AbilitySM

Save The Date

2018 Art Ability Preview Reception

Saturday, November 3, 2018



David Kontra, *Confluence*, Acrylic on canvas



Carol Foerster, *Hello*, Graphite on Paper



Ginger Gehres, *Laissez Le Bon Temps Rouler!*, Scratchboard

Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital's Art Ability is an integral part of the hospital and a year-round showcase and celebration of artists with disabilities. It is the country's largest international, juried exhibition and sale of art and fine crafts created by artists with cognitive, physical, hearing and/or visual disabilities. In addition to the twelve-week annual exhibition, Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital is an actively collecting institution whose permanent collection of over 300 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, call 484.596.5607 to reach the Art Ability office or visit mainlinehealth.org/ArtAbility

