

White Ribbon and Pearls

Alesha Arnold

14 x 11 x .75 inches

Acrylic paint, wood, and pearls on stretched canvas

Patient/Survivor • Lung Cancer

Different types of cancers are represented by various colors. Some (such as pink for breast cancer) are more commonly known. White, pearl, or clear represent the ribbon of the cancer that is the leading cause of cancer death worldwide—LUNG CANCER. As an awareness color, it signifies the fact that lung cancer symptoms often go unnoticed.

I was diagnosed with advanced stage lung cancer in 2019. I was completely surprised by my diagnosis, as I live a healthy lifestyle and never smoked. My abstract piece represents the growing number of women like myself, who are affected by this disease. The subject of my piece is carrying a white, wooden ribbon representing awareness and unity. The many colors in her skirt represent the colors of other cancers which people endure. And of course, the pearls hidden within this piece represents “what happen after” diagnosis—Advocacy.

Public health messaging with a focus solely on risk reduction has helped create a stigma around the disease. Yet let the story be told—anyone with lungs can get lung cancer. Hopefully, advocacy of groups such as the White Ribbon Project will help start conversations and break stigmas, correct misperceptions, and create a sense if community.

If you are interested in learning more about the White Ribbon Project, please visit the website.

www.whiteribbonproject.org



Masked Man

Ann Bastianelli

22.12 x 18.12 inches

Pencil

Caregiver, Family Member or Friend

I made a New Year's resolution in January 2020 to explore different artistic techniques and media, and I set an ambitious goal of completing five pieces each month. In January and February, I completed eight pieces—mostly portraits. The lockdown occurred in March, bringing everything to a sudden halt. I relied on my art to keep my spirits up. Portraits are the most involving type of art I do. I thoroughly enjoy the feeling of intimacy I get by looking deeply at and into each person I draw. I imagine that is how God sees and loves each living being. He knows every little thing about what makes them wonderfully different. I feel privileged that my art allows me to get to know people in a way few others can. By mid-April it became difficult (understandably) to get people to pose for me because of recommendations for social distancing and masking. My portrait subjects were mostly family members and friends from then on. Many, like this one, were drawn from photos of strangers. The 'Personal Moments' series is comprised of thirty portraits in all.

Completed in May 2020, 'Masked Man' is a portrait of an internist that reveals grief, exhaustion, and a steely determination to save lives — possibly risking his life in the process. As a child, I loved to read comic books and was a fan of superheroes. The formula of all those superhero stories was the same: a selfless, ordinary person would change out of street clothes and into tights, a cape, and a mask, and transform into a superhuman capable of performing death-defying feats of heroism — all in the name of Truth, Justice, and the American Way. In 2020, COVID-19 required doctors and nurses to step up as real-life superheroes: ordinary people who routinely saved lives while risking their own.

This doctor had started in clinical medicine but was pressed by his parents from early on to “do well, and do good” and in his mind, public health was the best way to fulfill that charge. As the director of public health for a vast geographic region, he was feeling hopeful in May, though he knew that success was fragile. Since April, there had been monthlong stalemate against the pandemic, and impressive declines in the number of COVID cases. By mid-June, the gains had begun to evaporate. He felt it was because Americans and U.S. officials at every level were bitterly divided on the question of how to balance public health and private liberty: Should people be ordered to wear masks or close their business for the greater good and, if so, for how long? In his mind, politics had won out far too often over sound science. The state's reopening had been calculated and cautious, but too many citizens had ignored the mandates. The intensive-care unit was bracing for an onslaught. For this doctor at this precise moment, though, it was time to mask-up and return for another shift just as he had for the past two months, working sixteen hours days, six days a week.



Vision Board

Art by Rach Anne

16 x 20 inches

Glass beads, plastic beads, yarn, glitter, shells,
paint on foam board

Patient/Survivor • Myelomonocytic Leukemia



My Heroes

Art by Rach Anne

16 x 20 inches

(2) Pencil drawings on canvases

Patient/Survivor • Myelomonocytic Leukemia

First off, I want to give God all the glory because with him nothing is impossible. I believe the very breath I breathe is from God. My art is possible due to my mother, Mrs. Sarah Jane Rivers. She always had a newspaper to read or a piece of paper to draw on. When 'learn to draw' was introduced to me, she influenced me to apply. Not sure if it was in the paper or on TV. But I was interested in it. See, artwork has always been with me even in high school. My teacher gave me and my classmates a project to do at home; we were supposed to draw something in our houses, I forgot. So, when I got to my classroom the next day, I was like 'Oh no', so, quick thinking, I took my earth shoe off and drew it-genius.

When I had my son, I found 'learn to draw' again, and it was a teddy bear on display, so I drew it. I lost it down through time. My son has always been my inspiration, because when he would smile, I realized I had something to live for.

When I was diagnosed with Myelomonocytic Leukemia I was scared, I cried, I was numb. Even before the diagnosis the feelings were there like: terrible headaches and continued fatigue. Then after the diagnosis, continued blood transfusions something like 11 in 15 months. When I was admitted everything stopped. A patch was placed on my shoulder immediately for smokers. I didn't leave the unit for a whole month. But my son was there every day. I love him for that.

When I was released, everything felt brand new. I thank God, my son, and family. For the whole month I was in the unit I didn't get to see my grandsons, so as soon as I was able I drew portraits of them. I am so appreciative of them; I call them my heroes because they mean so much to me and also because I was able to see them again. I was so afraid of the COVID-19. I was very safe when I got home. The night I cried when I was all alone. God assured me I wasn't alone and also that I wouldn't die. Here I am today showing my appreciation and my artwork. I hope everyone feels the same hope I do; thank you.



Soon All Done

Bo Choi

25 x 24 x 1 inches

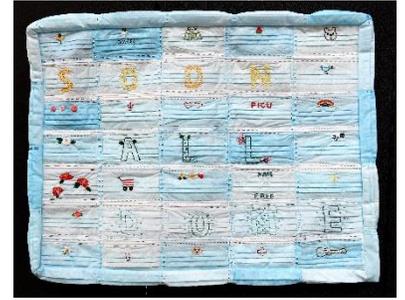
Masks, teddy bear fabric, thread

Caregiver, Family Member or Friend

Masks are the ubiquitous symbol of the COVID-19 pandemic. They unite people in providing protection yet divide people along the party lines. Our family has been staying at the hospital during the pandemic to tend to our kid's rare Leukemia. What our experience in the stem cell ward and pediatric intensive care unit (PICU) taught us was that, as Lara N. Dotson-Renta of the New York Times observed, "every death is a COVID death". Masks were with us all the time during our hospital stay, even we were talking to hospital chaplain in desperate moments. Masks were with us when PICU visitors were granted exception to see their loved ones for one last time.

Embroideries on the mask are the most intimate images of our journey in the hospital during this pandemic. "All Done", our 16-month-old son's favorite phrase, symbolizes hope. It is the human resilience, whether it be against weeks of grueling chemotherapy, complications involving multiple organ failure, or the global pandemic that is the ultimate test of human will. It is also our desperate plead to the Almighty as we pray in our daily evening devotional: Thy Will be Done.

Soon, our son will be declared cancer-free, and we will go home. Soon, people will get vaccinated, and the pandemic will be over. Soon, we will all be out there rejoicing, mask-free.



Hard to Let Go

Brian Bullerdick

16.75 x 13.75 x 1 inches

Oil paint on stretched canvas

Patient/Survivor • Cancer of the tongue

This painting has a lot of personal meaning to me. It's my hand holding the hand of my mother before her passing on September 1st. My mother was a survivor of COVID less than a year ago. She was a hard fighter and fought to survive until her body couldn't do it anymore. I battled cancer for over two years not knowing what my outcome would be. I did my best to remain positive, and through the good days and bad days I tried to find the good. I feel I got a lot of strength from my mother who never wanted to give up no matter how sick that terrible virus made her. This will always be one of my fondest memories of holding her hand and not wanting to let go shortly before her passing. Beautiful woman who is now in a beautiful place.



The Farmers Market

Brian Bullerdick

30 x 23.5 x 2.5 inches

Oil paint on stretched canvas

Patient/Survivor • Cancer of the tongue

I made a Saturday morning trip to our local farmers market a couple weeks ago. And upon arrival, I realized this was something that was taken away by the pandemic last year. To see all the bright faces and people enjoying a beautiful Saturday morning was a welcome sight that I just had to recreate. It's amazing how many of these little things that we missed out on for a year. I only hope that we can overcome this and get back to the normal life and all the little things that mean so much when you don't have them. It was great to see all the happy, relaxed people enjoying the market on such a beautiful day. This is my third year to have my art in the show, and nothing means more than to have it seen by so many people that can associate with my life over the last few years.



The Surgeon

Brian Bullerdick

31.5 x 25 x 1.63 inches

Oil paint on stretched canvas

Patient/Survivor • Cancer of the tongue

There are very few people that can alter and touch a life the way this man can. I was close to the end when I met him, and he made me feel like there was hope and a reason to continue to fight. He changed my life forever, and along the way I found a person I could trust and what became a family friend. The way he talked to Donna and the kids at my appointments made us all feel at ease. I will never forget him and owe him my life for what he did for me. It made it all worth it, and I still to this day love to go to his appointments because he tells me the truth and takes care of things the way they should be.



New Day New Beginning

Brian Bullerdick

17 x 29.5 x .75 inches

Oil paint on stretched canvas

Patient/Survivor • Cancer of the tongue

There is nothing better than waking up early on a beautiful summer morning and watching the sun rise over the meadow. The colors that nature produces are such an unbelievable thing. I can only take in its beauty of the new day and the beginning of another good day. I hope everyone has a chance to see the beauty that surrounds us every day. It's there, you just have to look for it.



The Doorway and the Path

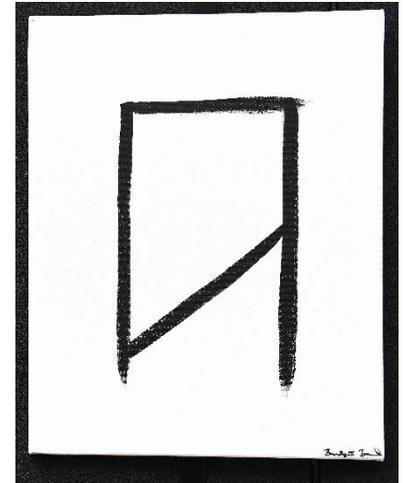
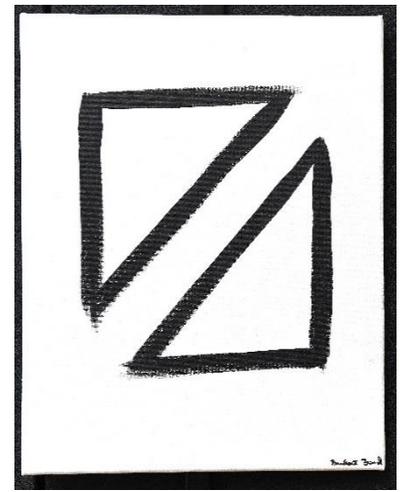
Bridget Bard

11 x 14 x 1 inches

2 Canvases with acrylic paint

Caregiver, Family Member or Friend

There is a Jewish prayer reflection on the doorway. There is a doorway that we all face and must decide if we will walk through or walk away from. There is no right answer, only the consequences of each decision. I've been inspired by the doorway as the gate to what happens next and the path as the journey ahead. First, one decides if you walk through the door. Then one must pick a path; a direction to follow until the next doorway appears. This year, I hope our paths lead to healing and that the next doorways will be filled with opportunities for growth and change.



It's All Connected

Bridget Swinney-Kajzer

9 x 12.5 x 1.25 inches

Watercolor, ink, assorted papers, embroidery floss, cardboard

Patient/Survivor • Metastatic Breast Cancer



Each day brings new beauty and mystery. My artwork is inspired by the magic that surrounds us every day, overcoming challenges, and celebrating the ordinary. It is playful and symbolic, reminding us all of life's impermanence.

This artwork combines watercolor painting and mixed media collage made up of mostly repurposed materials. The frame of this piece is constructed from a cardboard box used to ship my chemotherapy meds.

We are Awake!!

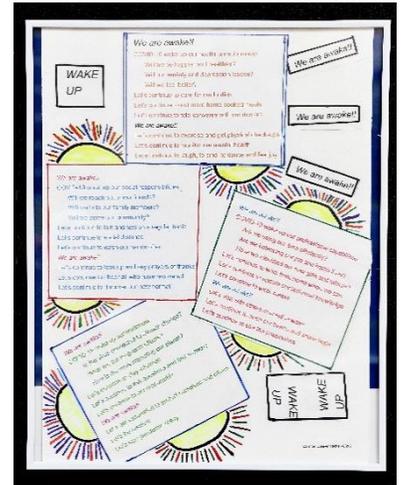
Carmon Weaver Hicks

15 x 20 inches

Foam board, paper, markers and ink

Patient/Survivor • Metastatic Breast Cancer

We are Awake!! reminds us of our actions that became our routines in 2020 and 2021. We learned new strategies to protect ourselves and those we love. Most days, we ask if we are part of a global experiment. We are. Nevertheless, a new form of stability emerged from our action - it's a new normal.



Meet Jade

Charlotte Copeland

20 x16 inches

Watercolor, ink, pencil and colored pencil on canvas

Team Member

As I reflect on 2020, my take-away would be how valuable and imperative 'peace' is for a sound mind and body. This is what koi fish symbolizes to me - tranquility, resilience, and gracefulness. Watching koi swim is a meditative experience. Their nimble movements and vibrant colors are simply therapeutic. Watching fish for 10 minutes can actually lower blood pressure and reduce anxiety. And after 2020, I believe we could use a little 'extra' tranquility.



Light In the Dark

C. Hill

20 x 16 x .75 inches

Acrylic on canvas

Team Member

This painting was meant to inspire people to shine the light that I believe lives within us all. It is in the darkest places that our light shines the brightest. The little girl is a representation of what I think courage and bravery looks like. As she walks through the forest, she proudly shines her light and keeps going no matter how scared and alone she may feel. I chose to use only black and white paint because I find it fascinating and inspiring to see the beautiful tones that are created when these two opposite shades work together. I feel that people are the same. I think it would be wonderful if we could see just how much more we could do and how much farther we could go if we only worked together instead of choosing to stay apart.



He Rested

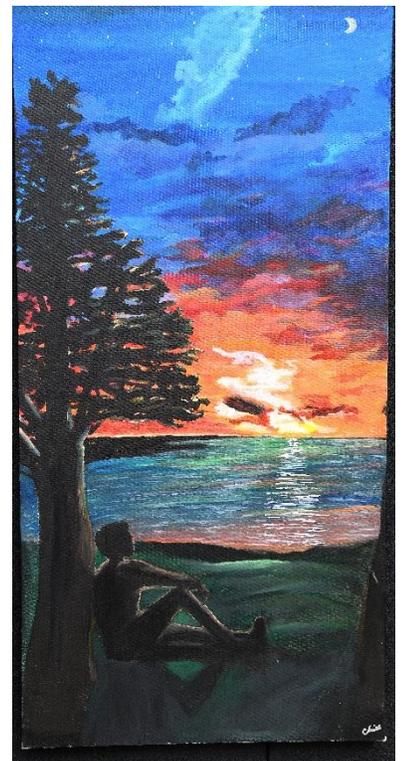
C. Hill (Connie Hill)

48 x24 x.75 inches

Acrylic on canvas

Team Member

This painting was meant to inspire us to rest. After a year full of heavy worry, hard work, and so much pain and loss I wanted to paint a scene that showed how a moment to rest can give us the opportunity to see our world's beauty again. As we heal, I hope that we can all feel what the young man may have been feeling as he leans against the trunk of the strong tree. I would imagine he was able to take a deep breath and close his eyes for a moment as the sun set for another day. I hope he thought about the work he had done and the accomplishments he had made during his day. My hope is that before he closed his eyes to rest, he was proud of himself and whom he had become.



Cast Your Eyes

C. Hill

20 x 16 inches

2 Canvases with acrylic paint

Team Member



Let Your Light Shine

David Jeffers

17 x 12 x 1 inches

Art glass, various textures and colors

Patient/Survivor • CLL, 2014

After such a restrictive and fearful year, intensified by separation, each of us needs to reflect on how we will live our lives going forward. As cancer patients, we have all experienced that initial feeling of fear and darkness after receiving our diagnosis. The question eventually becomes, "are we going to let cancer define us or are we going to be a source of light for others?" Will we continue to let last year's darkness define us, hide our thoughts and actions and steal our joy, or will we intentionally express our love for others and be a source of light to those around us?



Glass is such a perfect medium to express this thought. Glass surfaces without light shining through them can be dull and uninteresting. But exposing the glass to light produces an amazing transformation, highlighting its inherent beauty.

"You are the light of the world - like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden" (Matthew 5:14, NLT). Art glass can be as simple as a child's small sun catcher or as complex as a large cathedral window in a church. Both have the ability to bring joy to the viewer. Its transformational capacity is limited only by the viewer's mindset. My goal for my artwork is to help to provide the viewer, young or old, an enlightened escape, even if briefly, from the day-to-day cares that tend to drain us of our joy as well as our desire to share that joy with others.

Behind the COVID Mask

Chaplain Donald Stikeleather, MDiv, MFA, BCC

24 x 36 x 12 inches

Acrylic paint, sanitized masks, dried wisteria branches, copier ink, paper, hose, twine, cable ties, screw
Team Member



Who is behind the mask? Often smiles and frowns are hidden behind our masks. Our lives continue behind the masks, despite isolation, illness, and caring for children and parents.

I would like the audience to discover and receive the acknowledgment of their rich lives behind their COVID masks by seeing this work. Pablo Picasso has said that "any picture has to be bristling with razor blades." I am always motivated to make something that changes the viewer, to surprise, ponder, and reflect. I bought the paint and painted the acrylic layer with no idea what I was doing, and then later cut wisteria branches down and brought part of the branches in to lay on the painting, an unusual choice. Soon after this decision, I was washing masks for some unknown need, and realized I could cover the painting with masks.

After I had completed the face and quote collage, I enjoyed how beautiful it was, but the chaplain artmaker knew I must continue, for these faces have been covered for over a year, and to be true to myself, I covered them, revealing a beauty of human resilience. At first, I wanted each mask to be flat, which turned them into little sails, a surprising, freeing feeling for this required accessory. This was hard to do, so I began to let the mask hold the shape it wanted, showing the fragility and weariness of all in the world these days from living through this pandemic. All the masks have been washed over and over and are clean. The hose added a metaphor about oxygen, and how it became so precious this past year. Thank you for looking behind your mask.

We Honor You

Ellen S. Crabb

24 x 29 x 3 inches

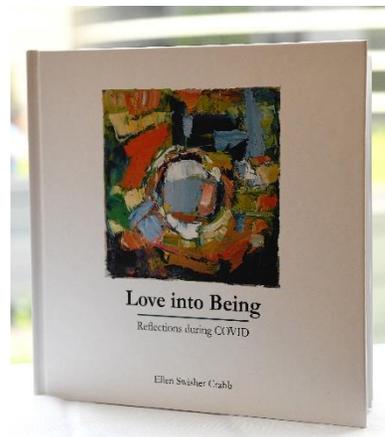
Oil painting, selected piece from original book 'Love Into Being'

Caregiver, Family Member or Friend

I am a portrait and abstract painter. Experiences with loving a person who is dealing with mortality and loving a person from a distance in COVID times, inspired me to combine the words about deep feelings for my friends and family with paintings and titles.

The trio of meaning, the painting, words, and title, are combined into a series of independent and sequential experiences reflecting how I coped with grief and hope.

I have selected three original pieces from my forthcoming book 'Love into Being' to be featured in this show.



The Bravest Thing Today

Ellen S. Crabb

12 x 10.75 x 1 inches

Oil painting, selected piece from original book 'Love Into Being'

Caregiver, Family Member or Friend



Missing You

Ellen S. Crabb

24 x 29 x .75 inches

Oil painting, selected piece from original book 'Love Into Being'

Caregiver, Family Member or Friend



*Blue Morpho, from Dancing Wings Butterfly Garden,
Rochester, NY, 2020*

Heidi Moffatt

8 x 12 inches

Inkjet photograph on canvas

Team Member



Blue Morpho is a large butterfly whose wings appear blue due to reflection and refraction of light from microscopic, diamond-like scales. While the butterfly is often selected as a metaphor for transformation, this particular butterfly serves as a metaphor of reflection and shining light on complicated, and even dark, places. The natural world for me is a reminder of how everything is interconnected and interdependent.

Love is All of Us

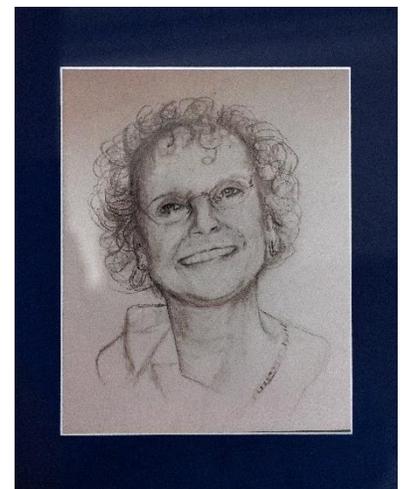
Jane Schaedel

14 x 11 inches

Series, Three Pencil on paper portraits

Patient/Survivor • Pancreatic Cancer

I feel very privileged to be part of this show. I have been so privileged to have this talent from God and hope it gives others a joy when I do them for people.



You Are My Sunshine

J Callahan

16 x 20 inches

Oil painting

Patient/Survivor • Multiple Myeloma

COVID-19 has defined my life since March 2020 as it has so many others. In November 2020, on the eve of Thanksgiving, COVID took my dear mother-in-law, who had become like a mother to me when my own beloved mother died in 1992. This painting expresses my sense of loss, but also my sense of knowing that love remains even after our dear ones pass on. It is called "You Are My Sunshine" because the portrait is modeled on a performance she participated in at her care home. The song that was acted out was "You Are My Sunshine" and that represents the joy we got from each other's company. As she waves farewell and fades away, you can still see the love in her face. I would like the viewer to take away the feeling of joy and love. This is the essence of "What Happens After" to me.

I began exploring oil painting in 2018 and have an excellent teacher, Vandra Pentecost, and meet weekly with a group of "students" who are older, like me. Two of us continue to work and one is retired. The creative outlet was always very important to me but is especially important since my diagnosis of Multiple Myeloma in February 2020. Although my treatment is excellent and I am in chemical remission, a cancer diagnosis helps you understand that life is short and that you need to do the things that are important to you. Creating beautiful and meaningful art has become a priority for me now.



Inhale Cancer, Breathe Out Hope

Kate Reuschel

23 x 31.5 inches

Dyed cotton and cotton thread

Patient/Survivor • Hodgkin's Lymphoma



Cancer will teach you a lot about control, you have none. The only thing in life I can control these days are quilts and even they have plan b, c and d!

This piece reflects on my journey since cancer treatments ended. I am missing the 2/3 of my right lung and phrenic nerve thanks to blood cancer spreading silently throughout my body. Lungs are so very important to survival; my life is very different these days. I had to learn to accept my new breathing issues. The only way to combat pain and feeling sorry for myself is by creating art. I have a lot of bad days with pain and breathing issues, yet somehow, I can fight through the pain while I make something beautiful, especially when it is for others. I find my art has become much more purposeful. I make a lot of gallery quilts now, cancer and COVID seem to be the topics as of late. I also find myself making a lot of cancer care packages, cancer blankets and memory quilts for others. My art became a healing process for me, whereas before cancer it was just a business, now it is a business with a purpose.

For this piece I used hand dyed fabric scraps from the 3600+ COVID masks I made during the first year of the pandemic. Between cancer and then COVID, I had to make something beautiful from such an ugly few years. COVID really hits hard for me with breathing issues, I have spent 19 months in my house self-isolating for the most part away from other humans. So, I needed to make something that would connect me to others. I used the hand dyed scraps from the masks and made them into beautiful, hopeful butterflies emerging from my lung. It represents me letting go and being hopeful.

Here's to life after cancer, hope. Hope that it may never come back, hope that no one we know gets it, hope that one day things will be brighter.

To hope and an incredible treatment staff of IU, I would not be here today without you.

Surviving2

Kelly Shannon

38 x 32 inches

Oils and other paints on canvas

Patient/Survivor • Stage 4 Metastatic Breast Cancer

I am 40 years old and a mother of three children. I was diagnosed with stage four breast cancer a little over a year ago. This piece represents the constant internal, isolating struggle of living with cancer and finding room for hope.



Next

Linda Adeniyi

12 x 15 inches

Acrylic on canvas board

Team Member

Chaos creates change. In any unexpected situation life hands you, there is always something positive you can learn after the experience. So for me "What Happens After" is the idea that challenges and change allow an opportunity for hope and positivity to shine through as we adapt to any new situation.



Peace

Linda Adeniyi

8 x 4.5 x 2 inches

Clay

Team Member

The comfort of a pet during difficult times is priceless.



Joy of Eternity

Linda Sampson Johnson

24 x 30 inches

Acrylic paint on canvas

Caregiver, Family Member or Friend



My art is my passion. I paint freestyle based on my mood. It becomes something that I start to feel deep in my soul, my mind wanders into inspirational thoughts, and my heart becomes overwhelmed with love and the beauty. Loving all and feeling free.

Contained – Hold/Release

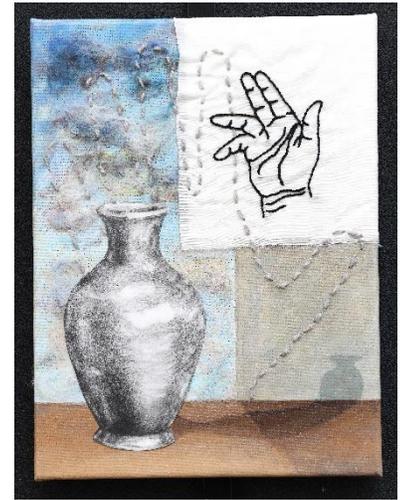
Lisa Lynch Habegger

12 x 9 inches

Mixed media on canvas

Team Member

The challenge of thinking about the before and after, take or leave, spurred me to think about how I go about creating art and how my art can better reflect my life. As a young artist, I liked to experiment, trying out many materials in new ways to create my art. More recently, while I have not been creating much work, I have narrowed that work down to oil painting. This past year has offered me the time to reflect on this narrower choice, as well as on the imagery that has been important to share in my work. I believe that leaving, or letting go, of my tight hold on oil painting has been healing as I have pushed myself to experiment with new materials again when creating this new art piece. While I did take, or hold on to, the imagery that I have used in previous work, I have added to this in a more personal way imagery that is symbolic of my physical healing from three hand surgeries in 2020. I am excited about what happens after, after reflection and healing.



Shalom Wind Chime

Lisa Wall

30 x 3 inches

Fabric, bells, paper, mod podge and mixed media

Patient/Survivor • Acute Recurrent Pancreatitis/Chronic Pancreatitis

Shalom Box

Lisa Wall

2 x 3.5 x 3 inches

Fabric, bells, paper, mod podge and mixed media

Patient/Survivor • Acute Recurrent Pancreatitis/Chronic Pancreatitis



Pack Up Your Troubles

Maureen Bard

(2) 8 x 8 x .5 inches

Paper artwork

Caregiver, Family Member or Friend

What happens after is always on the mind of someone with cancer; what happens after diagnosis? What happens after surgery? What happens after chemotherapy? In the midst of a pandemic, everyone is wondering; what happens after? My optimistic side would answer: we travel and explore new places. But what if due to cancer or COVID that is no longer possible?

To that, I answer we must find new ways to journey. Books, documentaries, online searches, parents, grandparents, neighbors can all provide stories of travel and exploration. A leisurely walk through the neighborhood can be an adventure if we use our senses and imagination. Creating a piece of art can become an outlet for self-expression.

These activities can fill our emotional "suitcases" with insights and inspiration. While we collectively wait to see what happens after, let's use the power of imagination to continue our journey gratefully through the life we have been given.

Sunflowers In Vase

Mary McQueen

20 x 16 x .5 inches

Acrylic on canvas

Team Member

During the pandemic, my flowers and art have meant so much more to me. In this painting, I've tried to show how much creating art and enjoying nature can work together.



Sunflowers & Guardian Angel

Mary McQueen

5.5 x 4 x 4 inches

Gourd and acrylic paint

Team Member

This little angel represents me in my garden during the pandemic, returning to peace.



Survivor

Nancy Hanner

16 x 22 x 1 inches

Photograph

Patient/Survivor • Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia

I used my phone and took this picture of the lily that grows near our garden. This lily has survived the winter while we as humans survived COVID. With sunshine the lily will continue to bring beauty to the Hosta bed even though it is shaded by the big oak tree. This past year was rough being isolated from family, friends, and physicians. COVID has been our oak tree, shading us and trying to keep us from living life to the fullest. The Hosta symbolizes our family and friends who are there for us. We, as cancer survivors, will continue to thrive with the help of medicine, our family, friends, our cancer support group and our oncologists.



Many years ago, my husband brought an acorn home from Adirondacks. Out of that acorn grew that mighty oak that is in this picture. The beautiful white oak frame was 'Handcrafted by Jay S. Hanner, Jr.; his name is burned in the back since he is the one who made it.

The Daily Fight

Natalie Szwez

22 x 18 inches

Pencil drawing

Team Member

I think art is a great way to express yourself other than words. This certain piece shows the raw emotion that the medical field endures daily and continues to do so.



Reality Check

Natalie Szwez

22 x 18 inches

Pencil drawing

Team Member

This certain piece shows that this is reality more times than we care to share. Sometimes a picture is worth a thousand words. I show emotions thru my art and am proud of my work and want to make my art my full-time job.



I Am a Well - Being Series

Polymath Peach

22 x 24 inches

2 Oil chalk and acrylic on canvases

Caregiver

Through space-time, I flow from well to well, I am a well-being.



I Am a Well - Being Series

Polymath Peach

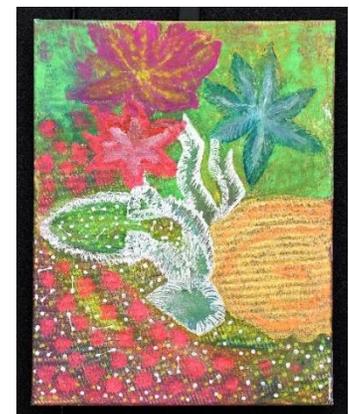
14 x 11 inches

19 x 16 inches

Oil chalk and acrylic

Caregiver

Through space-time, I flow from well to well, I am a well-being.



Untitled

Sean Milne

20 x 10 inches

Acrylic on canvas

Patient/Survivor • Hodgkin's Lymphoma

Thank you for checking out my work.



Vaccination Day - The Mask

Teresa Altemeyer

19.25 x 16 x .75

Watercolor

Patient/Survivor • Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia and Breast Cancer

I walked into the IU Health Vaccination Center the very first day in January that my age group was eligible to be vaccinated. I was ready to move to the "other side" of the COVID ordeal we had all been fighting through for months. The coordination and organization of volunteers and staff was extraordinary and the smiles were abundant as we all recognized "it was finally happening".

I had been thinking about painting workers in the healthcare environment for months because my admiration for their sacrifice and dedication during the height of the pandemic is enormous. I would be assigned to my "shot giver" by this beautiful woman who was so kind as she directed each of us toward a new beginning. After my shot I felt compelled to return to her and ask if I might take a photograph of her from which to paint this portrait.

She willingly obliged and provides a vision looking forward to better times of promise for all of us. But her mask reminds us to never forget what we have been through and to learn from it. I also want the viewer to see that there is a light in this woman's eyes as a caregiver that a mask can't diminish and represents the will to move forward that resides in all the souls who were players in this drama - be they patients, families, doctors, staff and nurses.

It was both surprising and pleasing to later learn that this portrait turned out to be of a hematology nurse who helps my fellow blood cancer patients and even works with my doctor.



Photo Opportunity Backdrop at the Vaccination Center

Teresa Altemeyer

18 x 15.5 inches

Watercolor

Patient/Survivor • Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia and Breast Cancer

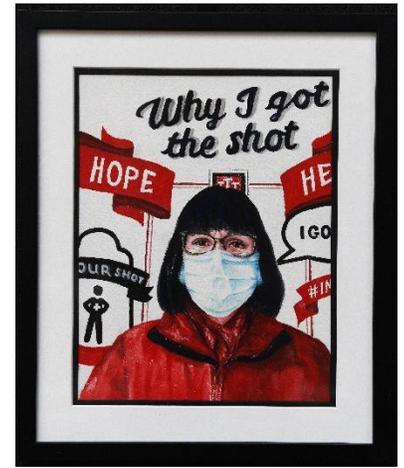
To celebrate the arrival of vaccines for COVID-19, vaccination centers were set up all over the Central Indiana region. One of the largest centers was located on the first floor of the Neuroscience Building on the Indianapolis IU Health Campus.

To honor those who came to be vaccinated and to provide a permanent, triumphant image to reflect on, a "photo opportunity backdrop" was located in the vaccination center. After getting your shot you could have your picture taken in front of it. This is a portrait of my dear friend who made sure she was at the beginning of the line for her shot and then in front of the backdrop for her picture as soon as her age group qualified to be vaccinated.

This image captures a unique moment in history. Messages of Hope and Health were incorporated into the backdrop and the reminder that this was "Our Shot" for stopping the deadly spread of this virus. This was our "path to the other side".

One wonders what thoughts will come to mind years from now upon looking at this picture. What will we be thinking? What did we learn? Were we successful? Did we thank the nurses, doctors and caregivers enough? Did we change the course of the disease for all or for a few? Did medical technology successfully grow and learn in the drug development process?

Did we get our shots and move on to a brighter future? Did we strive to value our precious time more dearly? Did we tell others that we love them enough? Did we learn to always have hope?



Laugh at Life

Teresa Altemeyer

31 x 24 x .75 inches

Watercolor on paper

Patient/Survivor • Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia/Breast Cancer

This portrait depicts an individual for whom I have the greatest admiration. Anna's life at times was a struggle that included experiencing war in Serbia, moving to America alone to start a new life and tragically the death of her beloved mother to stomach cancer. Her floral tattoo was designed by Anna and applied as a loving memory to honor her mother forever. In addition, she, like so many of us, had a great fear of COVID which she witnessed while living in New York City as the pandemic smothered that metropolis. COVID and cancer have done their best to sadden and suppress us.

Yet when I think of Anna I think always of happiness. Anna has taken difficulties and made the best of them. Like Anna, as hard as it may seem, we should endeavor to also do our best to live our lives, find the good, to throw our heads back and laugh out loud!

I hope that you can find the joy in your heart as you look to your future and Laugh at Life!



Fly

Heather Pirowski

63 x 26 x 14 inches

Mixed media textile kimono cardigan with hand embroidery

Patient/Survivor • Stage 3 Inflammatory Breast Cancer

At the age of 45, Heather Pirowski (mother of 2 teenage sons and wife to her high school best friend for 23 years, was diagnosed with Stage 3 Inflammatory Breast Cancer in February 2020 right before the world shut down due to COVID-19. So... "What Happens After?" During her journey, she re-discovered her passion for creating and ignited a mission to educate others about mammograms not working for 40% of women age 40 and over that have dense breasts (www.densebreast-info.org). She hopes to launch "The Pink Bucketlist" to encourage others to discover new passions and FLY.

