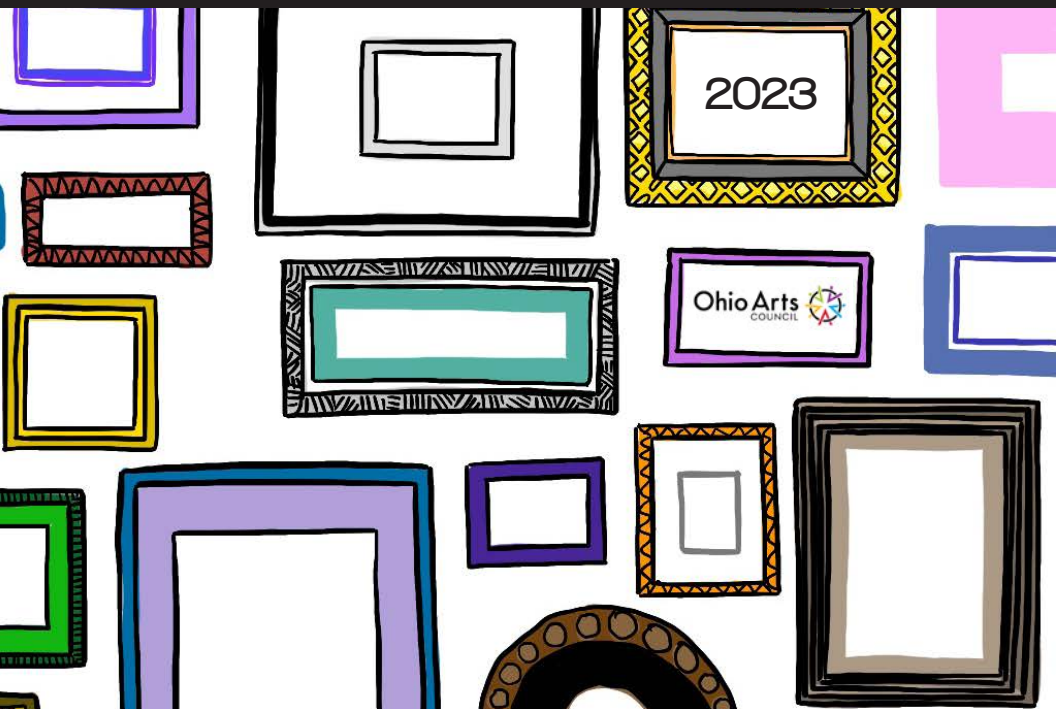


Kaleidoscope

Exhibition booklet



2023

Ohio Arts
COUNCIL

This booklet is organized alphabetically by the last name of the artist, and features the stories and statements each artist submitted.

GBS History

Tom Adamich

Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS) is a rare neurological disorder in which one's immune system mistakenly attacks part of the peripheral nervous system—the network of nerves located outside of the brain and spinal cord. This often follows a viral infection. GBS can range from a very mild case with brief weakness to nearly devastating paralysis, leaving a person unable to breathe independently. Fortunately, most people eventually recover from even the most severe cases of GBS.

I experienced GBS beginning in January, 2017 and lost function of my arms and legs. As a runner for nearly 40 years prior, it was a shock to be paralyzed. I had to learn how to walk again and relearn other simple functions. Through God's grace and the kindness of others, I have fully recovered and can even run again!

This is a story of humility and the powerful role faith plays in overcoming severe illness. It is also a celebration of life and the deeper understanding of the challenges many handicapped individuals face every day -- including prejudice. While my condition was temporary (it took nearly 3 years to fully recover), others aren't as fortunate and live with daily accessibility and accommodation-based difficulties.

Tom Adamich is a native of Northeast Ohio (born in Dover and family continue to live in Akron/Barberton/Wadsworth areas). He has been a librarian, archivist, and historian for over 30 years -- operating his Visiting Librarian Service either F/T or P/T since 1993. He writes a weekly local history article for the Monroe News (Monroe, Michigan) and has written several history books profiling Ohio, Michigan, and Florida history.

Bear and Bees

Sarah Andreas

Sarah Andreas is an American Author, Artist, Coach, and Leadership Development Expert. Sarah is also an Assistant Professor for Kent State at Tuscarawas. She used mixed media for the underpainting of her art. Using Acrylic, spray paint, and other light-fast mediums and finishing the painting with oil paints. She considers her art expressionistic realism. Sarah lives with her husband and son on a farm in Northeastern Ohio.

Day in Barcelona \$275

Theresa Apana

I grew up in the Cleveland area and had absolutely no art experience until at the "young" age of sixty, I decided to enroll in art classes. I never dreamed it would become my obsession.

Since art, as in life is an everchanging adventure I love exploring the different combinations of colors and art mediums. I have found my passion lies in Watercolor, Alcohol Ink, and Multimedia. Although I design art that is a combination of whimsy and reality, I usually gravitate to using the beauty and bright colors of nature's flowers. My trip to Barcelona was the inspiration for this piece bringing back memories of the beautiful flower boxes hanging in quaint alleyways and around every corner.

Winter Angel \$250

Susan Augustine

I began diamond painting as a way to relieve stress and anxiety during my second round of cancer treatment for leukemia/lymphoma. After I started this piece in late 2022, I was diagnosed with breast cancer and have once again rallied my support team to help me through this new challenge. *Winter Angel* reminds me that I am not alone in my journey, as it evokes feelings of hope, faith, and God's promise. The original painting, "Winter Angel" by David Galchutt is a licensed diamond art kit from Dreamer Designs. Diamond painting is a craft (similar to cross-stitching and paint-by-numbers), where faceted "diamonds" are individually glued to a charted canvas, bringing the image to life.

Hope of the Hummingbird \$50

Allison Bailey

My family was first impacted by cancer in 2011 when my grandpa, "Pappy" was diagnosed with lung cancer in April 2011. I was 11 years old and watched firsthand how cancer impacts not only the person but the whole family. Pappy was my favorite person. I remember eating cheese puffs out of his pocket when I was 3, listening to polka's play constantly at his house and always spending time with him in the back yard taking care of the birds. He had so many bird feeders and bird baths around his house. He taught me how to refill the feeders, what each different bird liked to eat and how to tell the difference between a male and female bird of different species. My favorite memories of him always go back to spending time with him in the back yard, watching the birds and listening to the beautiful sounds they make. After his passing in August 2011 from cancer, my family and I still feel connected to him through birds. On my 18th birthday, I got a tattoo of 3 birds along with my mom, sister, and aunts to always have our Pappy with us. I often sit at my desk at Stewart's Caring Place and look out my window and see birds flying around or sometimes sitting on the ledge staring at me. It always makes me smile and think of my Pappy and how he is always with me.

Le Sigh – the Art of Letting Go \$400

Nikki Bartel

"You feel a gradual welling up of pleasure or boredom, or melancholy. Whatever the emotion, it's more abundant than you ever dreamed. You can no more contain it than your hands can cup a lake. And so you surrender and suck the air. Your esophagus

opens, diaphragm expands. Poised at the crest of an exhalation, your body is about to be unburdened, second by second, cell by cell. " ~Bernard Cooper

This piece revealed itself during a time in my life where I had forgotten to breathe. A place where the weight was grand and my legs would buckle under it all and the only taste in my mouth was the cortisol rushing through your body. Through mindfulness, diligence and action the answer presents itself yet again to remind me that letting go is at times the healthiest path. Releasing toxins and control through the exhale of the Great .

Steam In The Cascade Valley \$100 donation to SCP

Anthony Boarman

Steam in the Valley is one of the annual events that the Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad puts on that truly brings me excitement. Not only do I enjoy tracking the train's whereabouts during its two-week stay, I love exploring new places to view and photograph it from. For this photo, I wanted to capture a unique perspective that combined the Cascade Locks in Akron and the 765 steam engine along the CVSR line. These two 1880s transportation systems were built on the backs of hard working Americans, primarily immigrant laborers. They helped to carry goods and people across the nation and ultimately helped to put Akron on the map.

Light Rain \$75

James Buckey

My name is James Buckey, and I am an artist and graphic designer out of Akron, OH. I currently work at Wayne Center for the Arts in Wooster, OH as both an instructor and program coordinator of the Digital Arts / STEAM department, while also handling graphic design projects and print production. I have been working in the graphic design and print production industry all of my adult life, and am a graduate of the Akron Public School system - Ellet High School. I have worked with clients in North America, South America, Europe, and Asia for various commercial and personal projects, and currently work with local small businesses as well as (and especially) artists, musicians, and bands to help bring their passions to life. My preferred movement of work is in modern-expressionism, pop art, and 21st century graphic arts.

The piece I am submitting is called ""Light Rain"" and is a 20+ hour multi-process digital painting and printed art piece, highlighting the personal struggles of the individual surrounded by both positive affirmation and somber weather, and reflected in the delicate tension of water droplets hanging onto a wire. My goal in this piece was to show the duality of reassurance and support against the external forces outside of our control (rain). The raw emotion displayed by the subject is entirely subjective to the viewer, as it is intended to be a cathartic moment. Accomplishment, perseverance, and pride fit the moment as much as helplessness, loneliness, and sorrow. Ultimately, I hope that those who view this piece find the emotional release they need. At some point in all of our lives, I'd like to think that we have all felt like the rain drop, clinging onto stability using only the tension we naturally work against. While

gravity remains undefeated against the water droplet, at the end of the fall is often a puddle - a reminder that even at the lowest point we are still surrounded by others who have endured the same tension, the same gravity, and the same fall that we have.

A Tender Touch \$500

Jeremy Butti

My name is Jeremy Butti and I have been a charcoal portrait artist for the last 16 years. In 2006 my mother was diagnosed with stage three Melanoma. She fought hard undergoing various treatment options for nine months before losing her life in May of 2007. She was 46 years old. After her passing we were received by countless people reaching out to pay condolences; people came in person, sent e-mails, phone calls, online registries, messages etc. I was taken back by the sheer number of people whose lives she touched and at the same time not at all. I understood the strength and love in her hands. She was always there to comfort, lift you up when you were down, raise you up when few could see the beauty and pride she brought out in you. Even people she just met. It seems there is little I can do to repay all she has done for me in my life. The least I can do is carry the light she shined as an example to show love and kindness, and be the person that everyone she met told me she was. I couldn't lend a hand as much as I would have liked to when she became ill. There was little I could do for her. Being there, showing love and giving her something she could be proud of was more than enough.

This portrait is of my mother's hand shortly before her passing. Its been 16 years and I still carry her light. Finding ways to raise her up as she did with so many. With these hands she gave me and helped to grow, I chose to create something beautiful, not only for her but for anyone who may come across it. And anyone continuing to struggle with unforeseen illness.

Our hands can help all of those in need, whether its family or anyone going through the same struggles that she did. They can help us heal, grow and inspire. From one hand to another we can make a change in someones lives, even if they are no longer with us. My heart goes out to anyone having to go through troubles, and my hands are always there to help. Or at least inspire people to keep your head up, and continue to carry the light. My love and gratitude goes out to all the caregivers that do everything they can to give a helping hand and a kind supportive heart.

Washed Away

Taylor Clapp

Recently most of my paintings have been about mental health, specifically anxiety and depression. "Washed Away" is a self-portrait that was meditative to create as well as technically challenging. Water can refresh the mind, body, and soul. When I find myself spiraling with anxiety or depression, no motivation, or stuck thinking about something emotionally heavy I turn to water. I will wash away that negative energy to make room for growth and positivity by simply washing it away."

Taylor Clapp is a graphic designer and artist that loves nature, animals, and creating; she strives to push herself and works in many mediums. Taylor grew up in rural Ohio and has always been interested in pursuing a life in the arts in some way. After earning her BA in Graphic Design from Central State University she moved to Akron, Ohio with her spouse and cat. They quickly fell in love with their adoptive city and now are settling down and filling their home with more pets. During her first few years in Akron, she had the pleasure of working with multiple local organizations in art related jobs. In November of 2020 she decided to officially start freelancing and created her own company, Clapp for Art, LLC. This has allowed her to work with many organizations large and small including Wigs for Kids and Summit Artspace. Taylor also serves on the board for Summit Cycling Center and is one of the co-organizers of the Groundhog Show in Portage Lakes.

Hoping \$50

Maggie Clark

I am in recovery from drugs and alcohol. I also have mental and physical illnesses. I have experienced different kinds of abuse and trauma in my life. I have suffered many losses of people I love, including my husband, mother, and brother. I seen a picture similar to this on an artists page. It invoked such strong positive feelings for me that I had to try and paint my own version of it. To me it shows hope. It says though I am small, I have enormous hope. No matter how dark things get I hang on to my hope.

Homage: James Wiley \$2,000

Makaylah Clark

My artwork explores Bipoc fantasy and escapism through the use of colors, material, and character design. I create diverse character-centered artwork that tells a story and encourages the viewer to explore it. I encourage all people to see Stories and adventures available around us. I love to use bold, bright, and eye catching colors. The colors I use help create a sense of fantasy and contrast the less colorful world around us. Fantasy has only recently included BIPOC and I want to expand upon what it looks like to include diverse characters. I'm inspired by many artists around the world who integrate their culture and identity into their artwork. I give each character unique clothes, eyes, hair, and accessories in addition to personal iconography. So I use those qualities to create in-depth meaning in my artwork.

Makaylah Clark is a Black women artist and lifelong resident of Akron Ohio. Clark creates colorful and dreamy character-based artwork that works together to tell a story of escapism. She uses a mix of common materials such as crayons, glitter, and stickers, to bring familiarity to the viewer. Alongside Unique materials like metallic fountain pen ink, wax pastels, and pressed plants, to captivate the viewer. Many of her artworks use bold and saturated colors to express the otherworldly. Together the materials and colors help create many textures that bring the work together and give work a fantastical look.

Rebirth of Happiness \$50

Amanda Cotton

Both my painting and poem titled “Rebirth of Happiness” speak of my life’s journey. I have had many traumas in my life, but just like a phoenix, I’ve eventually risen above them each time. My first major trauma was when my mother died from leukemia when I was a child. I’ve had to learn how to navigate through adolescence and adulthood all on my own without a caring mother figure to guide me. My world burned down around me again most recently in 2021 when my beloved husband of 13 years died from kidney cancer. My two young children and I were devastated, but Stewart’s Caring Place helped us in our grief.

Bluebirds have always held a special meaning for me since they are a symbol of happiness. One of my life goals is finding happiness even after all the heartbreak and pain life has thrown at me. Combining the symbolism of the phoenix and bluebird into one image seemed like a natural fit to me. Being able to find the light of hope even in the darkness has been one of my strengths that was forged in my pain.

My husband, James, was an exceptional artist. His artwork always seemed to come so effortlessly to him. I prayed and asked him to help guide my hands and heart as I worked on this painting. I know he answered my prayer because this is one of my best paintings.

I love writing poetry and belong to the Poetry is Life Restorative Writing Group at Stewart’s. Naturally, I felt compelled to write a poem to go with my painting. I had the first and last two lines of the poem written before I even started painting. I am also an aspiring author and am currently working on my memoir. It will be about the lessons I took away from my mother’s death and how I applied them to help myself and my children cope throughout their father’s cancer journey and death.

I strove to evoke feelings of hope, healing, and triumph in my painting. I also wish to conjure emotions of encouragement and hope upon reading my poem - served up with a helping of advice. I want the reader to be inspired to keep going and not give up. They too can be a phoenix and find their own bluebird of happiness – reborn from the flames meant to destroy them.

Reunited

Avonlea Cotton

My drawing was made using pen and colored pencils. I am 11 years old. I drew dragons because they’re my favorite animal. I also drew bluebirds to symbolize happiness. What inspired me to draw my art work “Reunited” was a burning passion to want to see my dad again. He died from kidney cancer in 2021. The translucent dragon is supposed to represent him, and the red dragon symbolizes me.

The Sky \$15

Felix Cotton

The picture is of a butterfly with wings of flames bursting forth from an actively exploding volcano. It is nighttime and many stars and planets can be seen in the darkening sky. The American flag can even be spotted on the moon. Giant ocean waves encircle a watery cross.

Felix is 7 years old. His dad died in 2021 from kidney cancer a week and a half shy of Felix's 6th birthday. Felix says that he was thinking of Daddy while he drew this picture. He also knows that Stewart's symbol is a butterfly, so he wanted to include one of those in his drawing as well. The flame wings were inspired by his mom's "Rebirth of Happiness" painting depicting a bluebird rising from the flames like a phoenix.

Felix says he really enjoys all the activities and parties that Stewart's Caring Place offers. We are all very grateful that a place like Stewart's exists.

My Father's Guitar (My Mother's Closet)

Julian Curet

When I was little (maybe 3rd grade? maybe 4th? maybe earlier?), I reached a little further into my mother's closet—past clothing I had never seen her wear; past personal items—into the darkness, and my hand touched something that would later in life feel like an extension of my own self. As a musician, it would bring me solace while simultaneously drawing out joy and pain. I heard the hollow jangle of wood and steel (or were they nylon?) strings. What is this?! We have one?! But I knew never to pull it out into the light; out from behind the things of a woman. From time to time, I would visit my discovery and reach in just to quietly strum the strings that were somewhat muted by something soft or something with sequins. At some point I asked her about it. It used to be my father's before he left (sometime before pre-k). When we moved (6th grade), it disappeared and I was angry. I never saw it again. Now I hang guitars on our walls.

Time is an illusion \$60

Laura D'Alessandro

My name is Laura D'Alessandro and I am a breast cancer and survivor. I am also an advocate with the Young Survival Coalition and Living Beyond Breast Cancer. I use layering in my photographic work. To me, this correlates with the layers we have within our lives. The piece I have included for this exhibition is a lenticular print, which includes many layers. It is called "Time is an Illusion"—which symbolizes both the time that has passed since our cancer diagnosis (which we want to see happen quickly) compared to the way most people feel sadness for time moving by so quickly in every day life.

Helping Hands \$20

William Doing

While attending family fun night at Stewart's Caring Place with my grandchildren and wife as we always do we decide we were going to make a painting the meant something to us and also to others, we call our painting "helping hands " no matter how big or how small there's always away to lend a helping hand whether it be in the physical sense, spiritual sense, or just by being there for someone, our grandchildren mean the world to us and are always prepared to lend a helping hand as the know I am sick with this horrible disease called cancer, no matter what they always bring a smile to my face and help me forget about the the pain, so making this painting is just one of the ways for all of us to show we are always here to lend some type helping hand, a little about me is I have stage 4 metastatic prostate cancer that has spread through out my body I learned about Stewart's from one of my doctors, one day we decided to come check it out and were amazed at how caring and understanding and helpful they are and we have been coming to as many functions and group meetings as possible, here again is "helping hands", they are here for us just like I mentioned above with my grandchildren always here to lend a helping hand. Stewart's has been a place of encouragement, support and compassion for me and has helped immensely with my cancer journey, not only helping my but helping my family, "helping hands" is what it's all about, just being there for someone in any capacity. Thank you for helping me through this difficult journey and thank everyone for their "helping hand."

breathe

Jules Eckroth

I have been aware of the maze since the sixth grade. I will not claim to have invented it as research has come out since then regarding similar automata. But even before, the concept of reducing a maze to a collection of forking paths seemed more than intuitive. It seemed definitive.

I would classify my fascination with the maze on the healthier side of obsession because I would keep finding uses for them. They'd keep me quiet in class, awake in church, and even occupied over quarantine when I started collecting sketchbooks of them in earnest. If music has been a mentor guiding me through life, then the maze has been a friend keeping me company.

Something less friendly accompanying me has been anxiety. So when I got my diagnosis for it at the beginning of the year, I resolved that I would dedicate my free time to a single, long-term project, at least for the rest of the year.

Initially I did not even have painting listed as an option. I am a musician that got let go for using the wrong color for a touch up paint job; I felt that I had professionally proven my lack of skill. But when my wife sent me the post calling for entries to this exhibition, it was like she giftwrapped motivation as an early birthday present. I had "breathe" finished by the end of the week.

I started by coating the canvas in burgundy paint with a satin finish because I wanted

the piece to remind me of a health awareness ribbon like the ones I got in school. Then I taped the maze shape and poured blue and white in between. I removed the tape before it dried, and the resulting drippings mixed with what had already seeped under the tape to create the image presented.

I am currently working on my fifteenth piece since starting this one a month ago. I am making mazes using different colors, sizes, and even styles, but sticking to the “forking path” format as much as I can. And all the while I will have this piece to remind me how I got started; as well as the processes – both natural and artificial – that have helped keep me where I am.

New Dawn \$1,875

George Erwin

There are two sides to a story and my painting “New Dawn” is inspired with the message of hope. The artist joined two canvases together creating a painting whispering out from the heavy storms of life with the brief rays of hope for us to see. Those who feel the emotional pain going through hard times need to know we stand beside each other and we are not alone.

Hope for the Win

Kristen Evans

In January 2013, I heard the words no one is ever prepared to hear. I had cancer. I immediately became someone I didn't know anymore - my body was no longer mine. I had no idea what would happen to me or how I would get through this. To be honest, most of that year is still blurry - there were doctor appointments, treatments (including lumpectomy, chemotherapy and radiation), more doctor appointments, throw in a few hospital visits and I really don't know what happened that year. I found that as much as cancer is not a destination I wanted to be on, the journey ended up showing me there can be blessings where you least expect them. I made some of the strongest friendships throughout this journey that I have ever had in my life and without them I would not still be here today. I also discovered the Dragon Dream Team which is what inspired the painting I am submitting today. I joined the team knowing nothing about what they did based on a post I had read from a breast cancer survivor from another state talking about how wonderful dragon boating was. Google showed me there was a team in Ohio, and what a team IT IS! The team taught me that I was able to begin to thrive physically again after all the toil my body had been through. In the past couple of years, I have also discovered art and the need to get my thoughts out of my head and onto different mediums is helping me deal emotionally with the still lingering scars and doubts of all that I went through (and still go through with the remnants of pain and miscellaneous issues). Cancer takes so much away, but it also brings so much into our lives that is unexpected and the sisterhood of breast cancer thrivers is something I am so thankful to be a part of. Stewart's Caring Place is such a valuable resource to the surrounding communities. I was able to take advantage of several of the services offered and am extremely thankful for them. Anytime someone

asks me what helped me get through I make sure to make sure to tell them about Stewart's and to check them out and all that they can learn and use.

Feeling Blue \$65

Kimberly Fleischman

A graduate of Denison University with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree, I earned a Master of Science in Education degree from Bank Street College/Parson School of Design in New York City. This work represents the collage medium that I have grown to love. Recently I have been focusing on circles and dots of all sizes. The placement seems simple at first but different placement prompts different emotions. Adhered to photographic paper, color saturated designs are my way of seeing faces simplified and most communicative.

Peaceful \$35 donation to SCP

Vicki J Fotheringham

Hello art enthusiasts! Thank you for taking an interest in my art! Please allow me to tell you a little about myself. My name is Vicki Fotheringham, but I paint under the name of Honeydots. I was born and raised most of my life in Massillon, Ohio; we moved to a small town called Brewster when I was in middle school and is where I finished school, graduating from Fairless High School and R.G. Drage Technical Center. I am now fifty six years old. I have been with my husband, Richard, for coming up on twenty years. We have seven kids combined, one son together; and twenty two beautiful grandchildren. Around seven years ago, my son brought home a couple painted kindness rocks he had found while out riding his bike with a friend. I was curious about them, so I looked up the rock group on Facebook from the label on the back of the rocks. I was hooked right away, which was shocking because I had never considered myself to be artistic. But I loved painting little rocks with the thought of possibly making someones day a little brighter! In 2017 I started my own little kindness rocks group on Facebook called HoneyRocks(Ohio)! It is named after my grandma, Honey! Sadly, my grandma lost her battle with breast cancer; so I paint and spread love and kindness in her honor. I have painted probably hundreds of rocks for a local annual event called Bikers for Boobs; which donates all of the proceeds to Stewarts Caring Place. Its a cause very close to my heart. Painting kindness rocks lead me to delve even further into releasing my artistic creativity. I began to teach myself to paint dot mandala art. It fills my soul with passion and positivity. It is a very healing art form. It is also very calming and meditative. I have grown so much as a person, and I have made dear friendships with incredible artists from all over the world. I am proudly a featured artist for an amazing paint company called Naturalis Paint, in Illinois,U.S. They also honored me by creating a special pink paint, for all of my volunteer work for breast cancer; naming it Honeys Pink Sparkle! I am very grateful for the opportunities art has given me! And it all started with two painted rocks! I only hope that through my art, I can bring a smile to someone, touch their heart, and spread a bit of love and kindness in this world.

Fall

Bruce Gates

Akron, Ohio is fortunate to boast the talent of photographer Bruce Gates amongst the creative pool of artists living in the area. Bruce is a professional photographer and the creative visionary behind Studio 526 .Bruce earned both an Associate in Applied Sciences and a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the prestigious Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester New York.

Through his work as a professional photographer, Bruce has garnered some of the advertising industry's highest awards while producing unique images for such Fortune 500 companies as Coca-Cola, The Goodyear & Tire Company, PPG Industries, FedEx Custom Critical, Microsoft Corporation and The Home Shopping Network.

In addition to his high-profile national efforts, Bruce's original work has been showcased in numerous art exhibits including Solo Shows at the Image Transfer Gallery in Portland and The Vox Gallery in Akron, Ohio, as well as numerous Juried art shows, including the Gasparilla Art Festival in Tampa and the Coconut Grove Art Festival in Miami. In recent years, Bruce has also taught Advertising Photography at The University of Akron.

I am semi-retired from the Commercial Photography business, working on a record career in the Fine Art Photography field. Presently, I am working a several Personal Photography books and showing my work at galleries around the region.

Mondrianetta \$280

Anne Geraghty

Anne Geraghty lives in Stow, Ohio with her husband Mike, their two children, Luke and Isabella, and Collie dog, Stella. Though mostly self taught, Anne has had some formal art education from the Art Institute of Phoenix. She also has an Associates Degree in Liberal Arts from Glendale Community College of Arizona and a Bachelor of Arts from Kent State University.

My favorite medium is watercolor. I love collaborating with my clients and interpreting their vision. Although I do check in with my progress frequently throughout completing the commission, the final reveal is such an exciting point. Their vision has come to life.

I grew up admiring a coffee table book that my parents had, by Robert Bateman. I love his realistic woodland creatures and have always been amazed by his skill. Our family pets were Scottish Terriers, and I showed horses, so these were the first things that I learned to draw. I must've drawn a hundred dogs and a thousand horses as a young girl.

Ultra Light Beam \$2,100

Suhaylah Hamzah

Suhaylah “The Artist” Hamzah is a self-taught, soul-guided artist who uses her talents as a means of therapeutic outlet, expressing herself through all types of mixed-media. Suhaylah goes by “The Artist” to highlight a facet of who she is, declaring her artistry independent of her naturalization. She has showcased her work throughout Michigan and Ohio but can more often be found in The Land.

Suhaylah’s creations push the threshold of societal acceptability and borderlines on radicalism, as her concepts often shatter the norms of political correctness. While her pieces are grounded in the foundation of Black Militancy and Divinity, Suhaylah still loves to display light-hearted, afro-futuristic aesthetics that accentuate the many other aspects of her character. These pieces are vessels to her identity that she vulnerably opens to an audience – inviting them to explore her universe while she’s on her journey to higher understanding.

The Black Woman is symbolic of Mother Earth (the woman as a tree). After giving birth naturally, feeling like I was at the brink of death, the connection to this plane of existence was solidified. I created a being in the spiritual world and manifested him into this physical world. I’ve beat myself up and torn myself down for the decisions I’ve made to even get to this point, but it’s all been necessary life lessons. I had to re-ground myself in stability by looking to those who came before me (skulls are the ancestors) to guide me down the right path of finding my higher self (the chakra colors in the sky). The woman standing in the tree pose was not only meant to represent a physical tree, but what that pose and trees symbolize in humanity. In Tree Pose, your body may sway, like a tree does in the wind, but your foot stays rooted into the ground. This freedom for your body to move and find its balance while you envision being rooted in the ground develops your spiritual acceptance of your body’s position in space. The lotus flower at her foot represents purity and self love, and the ability to grow in that. The beam of light is that higher power coming down to lead me to my higher self. The birds are a representation of letting go of things that no longer serve me and creating new beginnings.

Cellobration

Goldie Haren

This is Cello. (Pronounced CHEL-OH, like the instrument). Cello had surgery for a large, fast growing, cancerous mass in her leg. The doctor said he couldn’t get it all, it would likely come back within the year. Several months passed, I was diagnosed with cancer. Cello was with me every step of the way. After my last surgery, when I returned to work, Cello’s cancer came back almost immediately. She made it almost 3 years between occurrences. I know she stayed until she knew I was ok to make it without her. She passed peacefully, surrounded by love, on her 16th birthday. Thank you Cello, my love. My furry angel.

Kaleidoscope \$200

Kimmy Henderson

Kimmy Henderson aka Makikisart (mama and Aunt Kiki combined) is a self-taught artist with a diverse portfolio. Spending much time in the Cuyahoga Valley she draws inspiration by surrounding herself in nature's elements which is evident in her work of trees, botanicals and butterflies.

This piece is entitled 'Kaleidoscope'. A group of butterflies is called a kaleidoscope - referring to a constantly changing sequence or pattern.

Rose Lake

Denise Henkel

My painting is of Rose Lake (located in Hocking Hills). I had the opportunity to go there on a Retreat planned by one of my dearest friends. It was an assembly of lovely ladies of various ages gathered for prayer, meditation, fellowship, and an opportunity to soak in the resplendent beauty provided to us by our Creator. We hiked, we shared our thoughts, we made new friends, we played, we ate, we laughed and we shared ourselves. The hike to Rose Lake was worth it. The peace and serenity the view provided was disarming and charming. -- Painting provides a calming, therapeutic remedy to whatever ails me personally. As an amateur-hobbyist painter, I appreciate the opportunity to submit my piece, and my peace.

Cancer has touched my family's life, as it has touched so many. The journey on this planet dictates so much to us that is outside of our control. I thank my God every day for my gift of faith, and for the arms that continue to hold me up and allow me to feel gratitude.

The Hike \$170

Martha Henry / Idyllic Joys

I love time spent among the trees in the woods. It is quiet. It lends itself to reflection. It is healing. Many weekends in the fall through early winter I find myself sitting in a tree in eastern Ohio in the heart of Appalachia. There are so many amazing sights to take in. Many days I witness flocks of birds come in to perch. The quiet and then ..the chirping songs! Chipmunks and squirrels scurry around on the floor of the woods making rustling sounds in the fallen leaves. Butterflies and insects of every type float through the air. I've witnessed owls fly in. Wonderful, beautiful nature....but my best memory is that of a fox.

It was dusk and just about time to climb down from the tree. What was moving to my left? About one hundred yards down the hill, trotted a red fox. As he arrived, so comfortable in his surroundings, he paused. The fox decided to sit right in front of me, his back toward me, and have a moment of rest and a scratch. Then, as quickly as he appeared, he continued on his journey.

I am so thankful to have had that moment with the fox. These experiences tend to make one breath....it did so for me. Sharing the space with him was healing. He was beautiful and unassuming. That small lovely creature was unaware of my presence yet gave me such joy to share in his. How favored am I? How blessed are any one of us who can be a part of something beautiful, un-noticed...a participant by just observing? And through that observation joy or even love being kindled in our souls. Life is precious. It is wonderful in all it brings us if we open our eyes to see. In itself, life is healing for all who will invite it to be. We are blessed.

I have always been thrilled at the beauty of nature. Taking in the beauty of a sunset, watching the waves crash onto a beach, enjoying a bright full moon or studying the elegant structure of a tree. These things bring my heart overwhelming joy. So... I found my courage and started painting. Painting produces an extremely happy and peaceful spirit in me. I hope that The Hike will produce a happy and peaceful heart and a measure of healing for you.

Circuit Buddy Version 1.3 \$34.56

Maryellen Hicks

I'm just a red-headed, left-handed, pigeon-toed, possibly knock-kneed, step-kid from Akron.

Summer Garden \$500

Julienne Hogarth

Julienne Hogarth is an artist and art educator native to the greater Akron area. Her work can be distinguished in her use of color and her studies of growth in the natural world. Nature is her inspiration. She has a home studio in her barn on 12 acres of open fields, woods, ponds, and gardens. Julienne has found this place to be her spur to make art full time.

As a young woman she helped her aged grandmother tend a garden. Then, later began gardening so she had her own flowers to paint. Julienne continues gardening with her own grandchildren, for food for her family, for food for the birds she loves as well as for her paintings. Being in the dirt in the spring is rejuvenating and watching the growth is inspiring for making art.

Julienne's bird and garden larger scale paintings are full of color, growth and healing. The intent of these works in to bring a garden and all it comes with into a home.

Julienne's art is exhibited locally at Akrona Gallery and has been shown at Summit Art Space (Akron), exhibited in Canton, Columbus, and the Monterey Museum of Art, CA. Her mural work includes Akron Children's Museum, Akron Children's Hospital's Expressive Therapy Center, Summit County Library at the downtown branch and Canal Fulton Christian Fellowship. Julie was the 2010 First Night Akron Button artist.

She recently retired from teaching visual art in Akron Public Schools (32 years), during her time with Akron she taught and developed workshops at the Akron

Art Museum, Akron Public Schools and Ohio Stem Learning Network. Currently, Julienne is painting full time as well as working to develop and facilitate professional development for art educators.

Proximity Dolls \$450

June Hund

My artwork is almost always an emotional response to situations that I have encountered. I am a mixed-media visual artist. I create collages, photomontages, assemblages, installations, paintings. To express my creative outlet I use a variety of materials and tools.

“Proximity Dolls” is a piece that was fun to assemble. It is light and airy. The figures and feathers just float!

Twenty-two years have passed and I am in complete remission from my cancer. My older sister was very supportive when I was going through cancer treatment in 2001. She wrote “...Last April, when you were diagnosed with breast cancer, I couldn’t imagine that this could be happening. I’m sure you couldn’t either since you faithfully went in yearly for a mammogram...Some types of breast cancer are more easily treated than others. Some types of breast cancer are easier to recover from without lasting reminders of the pain...The need for better early detection methods and a real cure for this horrible disease is imperative. You have been so strong. I love you.”

Dragonfly

Laura Hyle

The piece of art was very meaningful for me to create and truthfully very hard to work through and finish. I have been currently trying to go through a healing phase in my life due to emotional trauma and mental health issues. I have always carried my anxiety and bouts of depression throughout my childhood and into my adult life. I’ve found it too be such a struggle trying to shut down my doubts and fears throughout any difficult situation in my life and always pondering the worst outcome and feeling of low self worth and always being unsure about myself and my decisions in life. I have cried multiple times while trying to complete this drawing because it represents so much for me and also having feelings of unattainable perfection within parts of it. My grandmother who I called Grammy was always my rock and safe person in my life that I could come to for anything and she called me sweet pea. She was always my closest person in my life and my sense of lightness when I was struggling. She passed away in 2016 and that really catapulted me into a dark place and sometimes I would try to cope with unhealthy addictions like binge drinking and just having a rough time relating to anything in life. I had other people in my life try to help and caring for me but the spiraling was a little out of control at times. Dragonflies have been a spirit animal for me representing change, transformation, adaptability and self realization. The flowers in my drawing are sweet pea flowers and they represent that dark time in

my life when she passed and the dragonfly represents my transformation from that dark place. I have three tattoos a dragonfly, sweet pea flowers and moon phase that are all represented in this drawing all representing changes in my life. Lately I have been using my art as a form of personal therapy some things that are dark in nature and sometimes light depending on my current feelings and situations in life. I plan on trying other forms of therapy as I am still trying to still heal from deep abandonment wounds and high times of anxiety. I hope that my art can at least invoke something for other people to relate too and to realize that healing is a journey that sometimes goes on for a lifetime but there are healthier ways to find a way out of the darkness.

Understudy: Jump rope Song

Earl Iselin

I've been painting for fifty years; full-time for the last six. I've long worried that painting was finished in the late sixties, before I had even begun. In 1955 Richard Diebenkorn breathed life into painting, first with his Berkeley abstracts, and later with his Ocean Park paintings. When I was five or six, my sister and I went to school in Benecia California, across the bay where Diebenkorn was quietly working his magic. We were no more aware of him than we were of the wines from Napa, just up the road. That is how it was for us then, and that is how it is for us now. Ohio offers a painter meaningful obscurity, where work is created without ghostly distractions, where a painter can find oneself. Unlike nature, a painter relishes a vacuum, an empty space, a bare canvas. My older sister, my eleven-month Irish twin, was my first painting teacher. At five she tried to teach me how to color, having received a bunch of coloring books for her birthday. She taught me the rules, which did not apply to my four-year-old Fauve eye. I only have the memory of her now, of her jump rope songs, double Dutch and powerlines. The black inner frame is the editing of that memory, required if only to protect me. Some deeper rules do apply.

While I work as hard as I can with my painting, and work to be a better painter, I want others to understand that they are the artists, as art only lives in their experience of it. A painting stored in my studio is just that, a painting. It only becomes art in the minds of others. I only want my painting in my work, not the art of others. I don't want to speak too much about my work, since others will only see what they think they see. Guston said that. I'm not going to change their minds. Nor do I want to harm their joy in discovering for themselves. No one likes a buzz-kill. When it comes to painting, I do my best thinking with a paintbrush, my mouth shut, and my eyes open. I used to fear that painting was dead. I suppose in the minds of many it is. but, not to worry, Every painter is required to raise it up again, to make it real and genuine for themselves, if it is to have any chance of being that for anyone else. Painting gives me the chance to move beyond myself, beyond my ability to reason, beyond my emotions, and my imagination. Painting can move me into a whole other place where I can encounter that which is more genuine.

Bluebird Kaleidoscope \$150

Mary Lou Jubin

I have a passion for birds, music and photography. My backyard is a refuge for birds, especially bluebirds! Through the years I have watched over 200 bluebirds fledge from my backyard nesting boxes. I delight in the opportunity to photograph and observe these gentle, beautiful birds. Bluebirds are symbols of happiness, joy and hope. They can represent the connection between the living and those that have passed away. Birds have inspired many of my music compositions including "Lullaby for the Baby Bluebirds," "A Bluebird's Winter," "Flight of the Tree Swallows" and "Swan Song." I photographed the male bluebird one winter day on a branch of my Fraser fir tree. I used the photo to create my Kaleidoscope photo version.

Breast cancer runs through my family with another member just being diagnosed. Today there is hope and support for breast cancer patients. The disease I fear far more than cancer is the rare Creutzfeldt Jakob Disease. <https://cjd.foundation.org/>

There is no treatment or cure. It is 100% fatal and claimed the life of my sister. I shelter and care for all birds in memory of my sister and I share my photography in nature themed informational programs with my hammered dulcimer music at libraries, churches etc. My most memorable program moment was when a woman approached me at the conclusion of my Norton Library presentation. She told me she was undergoing cancer treatment and really did not feel up to attending my program but her friend insisted on bringing her. She then said my program was the best medicine ever and she was so glad she attended!

Nature and music can be some of the best medicine!

Monument Valley \$500

Alex Klayman

I love the Impressionist style of painting and often base my work on it. I get inspiration from nature, music and the colors I see every day. I have always been inspired by the Impressionist artists like Monet, Degas, but also surrealistic and philosophical artists like Odd Nerdrum and realists like Richard Schmid who has the strongest influence on my work. While I enjoy painting in all genres, I prefer landscapes in my own romantic style.

Morning Mist \$350

Amy Koch

My painting, Misty Morning, is based upon the autumn view of a path on our property in Burbank, Ohio. I hope to paint images of this path during other times of year as well. When I enter these woods, no matter the season, and no matter what is happening in my life at the time, I can finally slow down and take a deep breath. I smell the damp earth, marvel at the various plants along the trail, feel the bark on the trees, and stand humbled by the tall canopy far above my head. I don't have to see all the way

to the end of the trail, or know what my destination looks like. I feel joy as I venture down this beautiful path, and at times, I am nearly overwhelmed by my feelings of relief and gratitude, knowing that I am allowed to be here in this moment.

Nothing inspires me more than the natural world. Whenever possible, I get outside, and observe everything in my view, and whether examining the moss on a log, listening to spring peepers, smelling fallen leaves, or just standing in awe of a beautiful sky, I then want to take all of that back to my studio, and find a way to recreate the beauty I am so blessed to have experienced. This is what heals my soul.

I have been an art instructor for nearly thirty years. I have taught every age group, from Kindergarten to my senior citizen friends. It is so fulfilling to watch others feel the joy of creating, especially when it's a new experience for my students. I think I have learned more from them than they have from me!

I have been commissioned for a wide variety artwork through the years, and usually work in acrylics, watercolors, pen and pencil. I aspire to write and illustrate children's books, and someday hope to work as an art therapist as well. So many plans, so little time!

I love to study prehistoric Ohio, garden, country line dance, walk my dog, and cook!

Roots and Roads 4 \$1500

Karen Koch

Roots and Roads 4 is a large collage that reflects on and honors our roots (where we come from) and our roads (where we are going). It is part of a series of artwork inspired by the idea that we can be grounded in our past as we grow into our future,

The tree trunk cross section in the lower left has small photos of me as a child, family members, ticket stubs, and other personal mementos. I hand stitched the concentric growth rings, taking time to revisit memories contained within.

The tree, made of painted paper, grows from that base. The leaves are hand painted, then stitched on so that they stand up from the canvas a bit. Sprinkled among the leaves are buttons from my grandmother's button box. Behind it all are pieces of road maps.

My art is often influenced by my love of nature and fondness for memories of days gone by. Collage is my favorite art process, because of the hands-on tactile joy in the making, and for the ability to include repurposed and meaningful materials. My favorite materials – paper, book pages, maps, paint – appear in almost every artwork. Maps are wonderful reminders of road trips and the promise of grand adventures. Thread, buttons, and stitching are a nod to evenings spent embroidering with my mom as a teenager and to days as a seamstress in college.

Today, I am a full-time artist with a studio and gallery on historic Main Street in Hudson, Ohio.

Time at the Met \$350

Therese Kramer

We are all here to tell our fascinating story and to support and help each other in whatever way we best know how. The best way I know how is to paint. As an art therapist by trade, I taught others through the years to paint what they feel, to reminiscing, and to work out feeling using paint and paper. My art therapy background has strongly influenced my work as an artist. I realize now how art can assist in keeping me grounded while overcoming the many challenges faced in life. Celebrating our individual timeline in the form of art is quite empowering.

“Time at The Met” is an acrylic 8x10 framed painting that I did in honor of my late mother for her first heavenly birthday. This painting, as well as most of my other work revolve around the a common theme of places in the world that I hold dear. These paintings of places are my attempt to document my life journey with the people that are important to me. “Time at the Met” originally came about as a legacy dedication to mom, but in reality turned into a healing piece for me.

For over 10 years, my mother, Dorothy had been working on research for a biography she hoped to write about a composer from the 1950’s that performed for the Metropolitan Opera. Dorothy, my family and I took numerous trips there to the Opera House and worked in their library researching. After many hours of frustrations on so many occasions, we would walk through the Opera House to complete our visit. She never finished writing her masterpiece due to a very long difficult illness. For me, that “unfinished business” of not finishing her book was heart wrenching. I didn’t know how to fix the situation, I was not a writer at all, and the research left behind caused me much hurt and sadness. My attempt to get closure for her lost goal was to do a painting to honor her and her many hours of work.

Getting closure using paint and canvas aimed to be powerful and heartfelt. I surprised myself with the most amazing transitional change of thought. I learned that instead of looking at what Dorothy was not able to finish I embraced the celebration of her and the experiences my family and I gained. So this painting ended up for to be an art work of true joy. As art therapy is often about the process rather the final product, so was my piece of mind and Dorothy’s unfinished book.

The History of My Hair \$75

Christine R. Lamb

After the shock of a bile duct cancer (cholangiocarcinoma) diagnosis in early 2021, Christine Lamb and her doctors and family went full force to eradicate cancer from her body. Following surgery and treatment, Chris and her care team made it to NED (no evidence of disease), and moved to surveillance.

Since then Chris has focused on her new reality, filling her mind and heart with love, laughter, and life, and leaving cancer in the dust. In her free time Chris enjoys observing birds and nature at local parks. Her newest experience is participating in the Stewart’s Caring Place Poetry is Life Restorative Writing Group. Although Chris wrote a blog

during her cancer treatment journey, this is her first poetry writing since high school. She looked online for ideas on what to write for National Poetry Writing Month. Choosing from a list of 30 topics, "The History of My Hair" is the result. The poem begins in the present, looks back to Chris's early life, continues forward to the present again, and finishes with a question about the future.

Chris and her husband live in eastern Stark County with their three fuzzy felines.

Whale Tale \$583

Veronica Leigh

Veronica has enjoyed being creative and painting for as long as she can remember. However, it took her long to believe that working as an artist could be a viable profession.

The global pandemic of 2020 forced Veronica to sit still and focus on what mattered most. During that time she started painting as that was often one hobby she wished she had more time for. During that time she started painting and posting those onto social media family and friends started reaching out to her to purchase those artworks during that time she was painting as a hobby. Fast forward she has worked as an after school art instructor for a non profit, had her first solo art exhibition and participated in multiple exhibitions and pop ups around the state. All while creating unique pieces of art for home interiors.

"Whale Tale" is 23.5 x 30 inches, epoxy resin and broken glass on wooden canvas.

The Morning Hike \$325

James W. Leslie

As a young boy, James W. Leslie spent his summer days hiking through the woods, visiting the local swimming holes, and taking in the beauty of the land. His desire to capture and express how nature made him feel would become a life-long passion. Fueled by early exposure to French Impressionism and American Landscape Painting, he began to express the rural and natural images of his hometown. His painting seeks to capture those care-free days of his childhood, the beauty of the landscape, and ever-changing light. Here in Northeast Ohio, James is mesmerized by the constant medley of color and atmosphere within the elements of trees, sky, mountains, and water. Paint on canvas has been his vehicle to capture this joy and beauty. He loves the feel and smell of oil paint applied to canvas and is intrigued by the never-ending possibilities to capture this beauty before his eyes. A beauty that still sparkles from the days of his youth. James earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Painting and ceramics at the Colorado State University and The Ohio State University. He furthered his studies at Kent State University, earning a Master of Fine Arts. He continues to travel for inspiration and creates daily on location and in his studio in Northeast Ohio.

Untitled \$250

Diane Lewis

I have always had an appreciation for the arts, whether it be visual arts, writing, or music, theater, art has been an integral part of who I am. After several years of putting off my lifelong passion for painting I took the plunge and decided to revisit that passion! I believe that art is a means by which we (artists) draw the beauty out of places and spaces that on the surface are not necessarily beautiful. Rather than succumb to the parallels of life's reversals, art helps me to reinterpret and embrace the change. I want my art to tap into other's reservoir of creativity & commonality-- that to me is empowering and transformational!

In the words of Maya Angelou, "We need art to live fully and to grow healthy. Without it we are dry husks drifting aimlessly on every ill wind..." I hope and pray that the visitors of Stewart's Caring Place and those who may venture into the space will find it to be a place of healing, hope and comfort.

Birch Allée \$1,200

Linda Lyell

An impressionistic portrayal of Birch Allee at Stan Hywet gardens. Featured on the outside walls of the North Side Market District in Akron, Ohio.

Since retirement from running Ohio.com for 15 years, she has embraced her transition to chalk pastels because of her love for the fragility and timelessness of the medium. Very rarely does she use fixatives on her work, for it compromises the presentation and freshness of the pastel. She continually surrounds herself in color in everyday life, which is reflected in her work.

Jazz Reflections \$750

Daniel Mainzer

I am 77 years of age and have been a photographer since I was 12. In the meantime, I collected a Political Science degree from Muskingum College in 1968 and worked at various jobs till 1976 when Firestone employed me as a photographer. After four years and some months, I stepped off the deck of that sinking ship into a photographer's job at Stouffers foods. That lasted almost three years, and next I became a photographer at General Tire, which transformed itself into GenCorp, a new corporate structure. This turned out to be important because they urged me to start my own studio after 4+ years by letting me and 300 others go after a takeover bid. That was 1987, and I hit the ground running, freelancing for GenCorp and adding many clients to date.

An unexpected benefit (?) from the 10 years in the rubber industry was a large body of work documenting the life of the workers and the destruction of the factories. Being a self-taught and self-educated photographer, I felt I was operating in the same vein as Lewis Hine and others who documented the world around them. The

benefit was to me as a photographer, not as an employee, who along with everyone else lost his or her job. At least there is a record of the factory work and the people who did it. Some of this photography has been published (1998) in a book "Wheels of Fortune", a history of the rubber industry in Akron published by the Akron Beacon Journal. It is my hope that this body of work will be recognized and find a permanent home so people will remember their legacy.

Most of my work is commercial: studio product shots, location events, industrial, advertising and auto racing photography. The racing photography started when General Tire began a motorsports program in 1984, and is now a third of our current business. A branch of the business is panoramic stadium shots for professional and collegiate football and baseball. This started when my wife took a print of the Indians baseball stadium, Jacobs Field, to work and came home with 50+ print orders. I have been the official photographer for the All American Soap Box Derby since 1980.

Throughout my career I have always photographed landscapes, flowers, and the world in general. Being a self-taught photographer has allowed me to enjoy it as an avocation, in addition to my vocation; something I will always do. From 1969 to 1976, I assigned myself to make a finished b/w print a day and with few exceptions stuck to this routine until accepting my position at Firestone.

Landscapes have always been a relaxation to me even though they demand scouting, great light and technique, and patience. My commercial clients purchased the few landscapes that we displayed in the studio, and thus the move into gallery sales.

This photo has been called Jazz, Kaleidoscope, and Van Gogh has drinks with Monet. It is an example of the magic of photography which strikes me almost every day. It is a blend of intuition, 60+ years of experience, keeping the eyes open, hunting and speed.

Flutter By

Norman Mallard

Norman Mallard is a mixed-media artist living and working in Akron, Ohio. He was raised in the mid-1900s in Norfolk, Virginia, and spent his working career as an Art Director and Graphic Designer. He received his Advertising Degree from Portfolio Center in Atlanta, Georgia. His 20+ years in the "big city" of Washington, DC has influenced his collage and assemblage work which is often crowded and slightly frenzied. He works from his basement studio, where his hoarding can be contained.

His tin collages celebrate recycling in the most delightful way, utilizing cast-off and often damaged metal from multiple sources. Even the base is an upcycled game board (Chinese Checkers). This piece pays homage to Spring and Kaleidoscopes in a most colorful and exuberant way.

Cancer has touched my life over and over again – from my mother's fatal lung cancer to my husband's recent successful prostatectomy. An inordinate amount of people I know have had (or have) brain cancer, and just this week two friends announced their breast cancer diagnoses. Two people in my life have leukemia. And the list goes on. I wish daily for a cure for this scourge.

Untitled \$40

Patricia Mangus, Illustration by FoxSister

Stewart's Caring Place has offered me a peaceful sanctuary filled with an understanding community that has been both healing and up-lifting. Knowing that I have a place where I feel understood and loved has made such a big difference in my journey to recovery.

The elephant that I made on the laser represents to me the matriarchal strength and community I have relished at Stewart's Caring Place.

I am a retired graphic designer who now enjoys creating laser art. You can find more of my art displayed for sale at Marigold Wellness at the circle in Sharon Center where you will also enjoy some of the same Matriarchal love and energy.

Emergence \$75

Cathy Manus-Gray

Cathy Manus-Gray is a full-time artist focusing on collage, mixed media, and abstract acrylic painting. She is a graduate of Kent State University and Ursuline College and attended Ivy School of Professional Art. After supporting others in their creative processes as an art therapist, licensed clinical counselor and creativity coach, she returned to her love of art making.

Nature and the rhythm of the seasons serve as inspiration for her creating. Within her collages she uses disparate pieces and joins them together to create a sense of wholeness and completion both within the piece and within herself.

She offers art experientials for groups that combine the creative process with mindfulness toward the goal of greater self-awareness and as an opportunity for participants to enjoy art making as a means of exploration and self-expression.

She has exhibited at Tri-C Eastern Campus Gallery East and at Ursuline College Wasmer Gallery, and has sold her artwork at shops throughout northeast Ohio.

The piece that I have chosen to submit is a reminder that we can emerge from the dark times of our lives. Sometimes we need to stitch all those times (pieces) together which doesn't make us emerge as any less whole and beautiful, but perhaps more wise and strong.

Big Daddy

Lisa Marshall

This watercolor was done a few months after my husband Mike died in 2017. My counselor had suggested I take a class or do something for myself during my grieving and I chose a watercolor class. I didn't think I would do this picture, but it ended up being so therapeutic for me. I now have done many paintings and even have a little art studio where I draw, paint and create. Who knew that by losing the love of my life that I would gain a new hobby that gives me an outlet a gift that I didn't know I

had. My faith has also helped me during my grief and I clung to this verse in Isaiah 43:2, “when you go through deep waters, I will be with you.” Mike loved Lake Erie and this verse helped me through some very difficult times. It has been 5 years since Mike died and I think about him everyday but I have moved forward and can live life with joy because I know where he is and I know that God is with me as well. I can also help others through the grief and pain of loss as well. This is not the end, but only the beginning.

A Dear Friend \$275

Alexandria McDonald

When you look in the mirror, you might greet your reflection with judgement. “I’m too this” or “I’m not enough that”. Any personal insult you can think of is a lie. You allow yourself to believe these lies out of fear. You’re terrified of the obvious truth beaming back at you with brilliant light.

Be Brave. Be honest. The truth is, your reflection is the most beautiful thing you have ever seen and it is your best friend. Viewers are encouraged to “try on” the antlers and take a mirror selfie.

Joyce \$217

Lisa Naymik

This portrait is of a woman I knew, Joyce. I had been working in assisted living and had come to meet so many fascinating older women. Listening to their experiences and learning about their lives gave me a deeper appreciation for the elderly and a better understanding of aging. When I began painting again during the pandemic, these women were a natural choice for my portraits. The women I paint have passed on; my paintings are meant to honor them and remember their influence on me. I use color and pattern to convey their lives’ spirit and richness. I wish to show there is beauty in aging that comes from the lives they’ve led, the experiences they’ve had, and a vitality that remains - even as their bodies decline - that surrounds them.

The Butterfly’s Dance \$1,000

Grace Nestor-Louie

My name is Grace Nestor-Louie and I am a fine Art oil painter & muralist. I create approachable and wholesome artwork to uplift the soul and bring honor to the Creator. I utilize playful scenes of nature in bright and vivid colors to give viewers a momentary reprieve from this sometimes depressing world. “The butterfly’s dance” depicts Ohio butterflies dancing in the rays of a warm summer’s sun. I wanted to capture the type of quiet peace that can only be found in nature.

I grew up in rural Ashland, Ohio and I spent many hours of my childhood walking in fields of tall grasses, with leaves rustling in the trees, and with my childhood kitten trailing behind me. I saw many of these butterflies on my walks. They made me feel simply free. It was a time of no worries. The beauty of Creation was a gift to show me

that I was not alone in the world. This painting brings me back to that moment. I hope others can experience that moment as well.

Re-Awakening \$250

Jackie Palumbo

I truly believe in healing the mind and heart through creativity, and love to express myself through different mediums. This mixed media piece entitled “Re-Awakening” is part of my mental health journey signifying those “ah-ha” moments and truly realizing the importance of self-care and the role art has in my life. The realization brought me to become a Certified Meditation and Mindfulness Instructor. Then I took my training and passion for art and carefully tailored and designed Mindfulness Art & Meditation workshops for kids, teens, adults, families, and businesses. Each session helps participants embrace a creative mind and a peaceful heart while practicing non-judgment, self-acceptance, and being in the present moment.

My journey also includes substitute teaching and conducting various art clubs, classes, and camps, selling at art and craft shows throughout Northeast Ohio and at some local galleries, and conducting free community events to make greeting cards for the soldiers and veterans.

The Midnight Garden

Bonnie Pepperney

I gather positive energy from this garden and send it daily, for weeks, for months to my dear friend. She is fighting for her life, a brave warrior. It is a privilege to be her friend.

Technique Applique, Embroidery, Quilting with Cotton Fabric, Cotton Batting, Embroidery Floss, and Cotton Thread.

The Fall \$125

Barbara Perkins

My artwork usually is full of many bright colors as the Creator made the world. It's my hope that the viewer sees my art and is inspired to wonder about the marvelous work of the Creator in this universe. This piece is one of my favorites because the beautiful colors of the fall season is such a display of the work of God. May your spirits be uplifted!

Art is very therapeutic as the work evolves into something special to each viewer. This piece is for sale if it is also special to you.

Sunset Ocean \$50

Madelyn Petrulis

Hi my name is Madelyn Petrulis I am 15 years old and in the 9th grade. I have just recently been diagnosed with stage II Hodgkins Lymphoma. Enduring this is a mental battle but I've found art and it has helped me a lot. I love sunsets and nature so it has inspired me to make this piece. I hope you enjoy this piece.

Pepe \$35

Alejandra Pinzon

While I was in the hospital getting treated with Lymphoma, all I could think about is not being lonely. Through infusions and therapies and medications, my mind was set on the thought of finally being able to go home and be with my family. Being eighteen years old with cancer feels like it sets you back, but really that experience made me get a while new perspective of my life, and it made me finally realize what I want to be, or aspire to be. Two years of treatment went by and most of my memories are fading of that time already, but some of the fonder moments were being able to be in the hospital and still being able to FaceTime my family and see my cat, Pepe. Pepe has been with us for about a decade now, and while I was on the hospital bed, all I could think about was having him at the bottom part of it, curled up in a little ball and sleeping soundly. Pepe is a rescue we got from one of my mom's coworkers at the time. She called my mom while she was house hunting, and said that someone left a cat in the apartment she was looking at and asked my family to look after him for the weekend. Turns out that weekend has extended a few years. We got him home, and he's been a mischievous, silly cat that we've had for the longest time out of all our previous ones. Whenever my mom put the camera on him when I called them from the hospital room, he would always look at me for a while, then blink a few times and look away. As the years have gone by, he's become more sociable and friendly, compared to how we started with him, shy and afraid from being abandoned by their last owner. Now, he's a playful little guy that likes to make cute faces when there's a camera pointed at him. Hence the inspiration for this piece! I was going through my camera roll, and found this picture of him looking down at the camera, and it reminded me of the joy he brought me through a very difficult time of my life. In a way, Pepe represents every cat I've had throughout my life, and I could not be happier to have such an adorable cat as company while I'm home. I never stop pointing out how he'll be laying in a cute position, or siting down looking at something and looking like the cutest fur ball to ever exist. That's something that continues to bring me joy to this day, and I hope I can transmit this feeling through my piece. Thank you!

The Window

Kaitlynn Reed

Kaitlynn Reed is 11 years old and in Copley-Fairlawn Middle School. "The Window" is a drawing with pencils, colored pencils, and gel pens.

The iris of the eye is divided into 3 parts representing a window into myself, the earth that grounds me and the sky that allows me no limits.

Drawing is a passion of mine that allows for an outlet for my mental health and part coping skills tool box.

The Walker and the Lawnmower

Nicole Reese

This painting depicts my grandfather and younger brother working together to fix a lawnmower. In the work I wanted to convey the simple moments in life that I often overlook or that are overshadowed by bigger moments. I also wanted to depict the progression of life through the vehicles someone uses whether that might be a walker or a lawnmower.

I am currently a student at Ohio University studying to become an art therapist.

Sunday Morning \$1,200

Annie Robare

This is a full watercolor sheet painting with a little bit of overlay. I painted it for a client who was giving it to a couple for a wedding gift. When I picked it up instead of mounting the piece they matted it. There was no time to replace it so I ended up giving the client another piece and kept this one for myself. Every time I look at it I am reminded that sometimes you have to do things yourself to get it done right.

I'm a 70 yr old retired Executive Chef, I always painted to calm down after a stressful day. But then again my plate's always look like a piece of art.

Sedona (Geoscape 19) \$1800

GC Roush II

The ""Geoscape"" series of work is gathered from nature, impressions of landscapes and geographical areas. This work is ongoing and continues to portray visions of places that the observer may recognize from travels or dreams. As in all my work, the Geoscape series has a definite beginning moving toward an end, this end will culminate in a final work to be determined by me.

GC Roush II has been actively working as a painter in excess of 30 years with work being exhibited and sold across the U.S. and Europe.

For me the painting starts where it wants to ending up as a map or diagram directing the observer to invest in emotional directness.

Pray for Peace for Ukraine \$300 donation to SCP

Brenda Schneider

Sunflowers symbolize loyalty and adoration (thanks to the myth of Clytie and Apollo). And, because of their association with the sun, sunflowers are well-known for being a “happy” flower. Of course, with the onset of Russia’s war against Ukraine, the sunflower has become a popular symbol of solidarity with our Ukrainian brothers and sisters.

I’ve always liked sunflowers, how throughout the day they turn their faces to follow the sun, especially the ones that grow well over most people’s heights! Master artist Vincent Van Gogh’s sunflower paintings, which I marvel at, have inspired me to make a few attempts of my own to capture just a bit of their gladdening nature.

My goal for my art is and has always been – if my art brings anyone even a moment’s joy, then it is successful.

This acrylic painting is on a 16”x20” birchwood cradled artist panel with finished (oak stained polyurethane) 3/4” edges, and securely wired for hanging.

Pinball Wizard \$500

Jenny Skinner

I’m an amateur artist, drawing and painting mainly for my own enrichment. I call this piece “Pinball Wizard,” because that is the way journeys often feel. In my healing process I expected that I would begin Wounded and proceed to Well, following a clearly marked path. Instead I spun and twisted and doubled back and finally realized there’s no clear path.

Mare’s Tails \$1,000

John Steiner

As a child I remember laying down in the back yard staring at clouds endlessly passing by. That expanse of blue sky was highlighted for me on drives near the ocean where that great blue sky seemed to disappear as it met the horizon. The faint white wisps of cirrus clouds highlighted on the deep blues hold a special fascination for me.

I tend to think of landscape as “land scapes” the beauty of the natural world devoid of man made objects but not the influence of man.

Mirror Mare’s Tails \$700

Andre Street

The creative intention of my work is to map out a path that examines ourselves more fully. My map builds off the concept that each choice garners a variety of potential subsequent responses. In that way, I look for my paintings to act as a mirror for the

viewer. Each painting starts with a particular examination, with the intension to arrive at a specific outcome. But just as in life, I expect to adapt the ideology of the image as each painting grows, both during its creation and after.

All Roads Lead to Yes

Da'Shika A. Street

Da'Shika A. Street, is a textile designer, multi-media artist, and lifelong creative who's design flare and artistry are influenced by her life stateside and abroad. With an artistic expression spanning a spectrum of earthtones and organic shapes to refined lines and vibrant colors Streets aesthetic represents the boundless connectedness of humanity and cross-cultural influences that add fiber to the world in which we live.

Street, a wife, mother of three and faith-led entrepreneur, uses her artistic gifts as a vehicle to enrich the lives and hearts all who appreciate art in its many forms and those who wish to tap into their inner creator.

I am the owner of Street Craftery, where I help seasoned creatives and newbies tap learn new artistic skills and develop confidence in their artistic abilities.

Bubble Galaxy \$300

Jacqui Sukie

3 years ago a friend put a camera in my hand and my world became a more beautiful place. I studied art in college, and visited museums throughout the world, but my eyes were opened when I saw things through my camera.

This picture, Bubble Galaxy, depicts one of my favorite subject. Bubbles always make me smile and especially when they are manipulated to be larger than life.

I like to take pictures of ordinary things captured through a macro or telephoto lens. I've recently become interested in street photography and look forward to combining my passions of travel and capturing an everyday moment in an interesting way.

STILL Wild \$600

Sylvia Sykes

5 years ago, I created a painting that I entitled "Stay Wild". When I created this piece in 2018, it felt perfect. But after 4 years, something about it was falling flat to me. It was like the spirit was gone from the subject. With the title being "Stay Wild", it seemed wrong that I felt nothing wild about it. For the first time I decided to revamp a painting.

I was excited for this venture because it felt like it would be a therapeutic process. I am a firm believer that what we see in art says more about ourselves than the art or the artist; Art is a mirror. Therefore, I had a feeling that I was now seeing "flat" or "lifeless" energy in this older work as a metaphor for something happening with me internally. My aim was that I would resuscitate HER energy in hopes to gain insight into which parts of MY worldview was falling flat.

Using color strategically really matters in my work, so I thought for a LONG time on what new colors I wanted to use. After weeks of debate, I decided on purple and yellow. I chose purple for her hair as a symbol for the Crown Chakra, bringing godly and connective energy to the piece, and a yellow background as an amplifier of that energy.

Ironically, the SAME day I decided on these colors, I was invited to display work at the Weathervane Playhouse during their showing of the THE COLOR PURPLE. Bizarre, right? It felt so synchronous! Not only for the physical color purple dominating the canvas but for the metaphor of the piece as well. The movie "The Color Purple" has always reminded me of the power of pouring life into each other and ourselves. It shows that narrative and voice are vital in forming healthy identities. How perfect was it that I had this impulse to revitalize this painting or give it life and then the opportunity opens to display work during a play that illustrates the importance of that exact concept?!

This moment felt like a wink from the Universe that I was exactly where I needed to be and giving this piece exactly what it needed. Suddenly, everything around me felt less flat and more wild again. The new version of this work is entitled "STILL Wild" and fulfills the promise of its first title.

Hourglass

J. Travis

J. Travis is a self-taught visual artist in Akron, OH. She is a wife and mother of two boys. She became an artist at age 6. She cherished special times with her mother who was a single parent. They would draw and color as their form of bonding time. She has also noted her APS Art Teachers, who were supportive and nurturing of her natural creative talents.

J. Travis created Inspiring Canvases during the height of the pandemic. Her art, specifically her paintings are made to spark the viewer's imagination and create creativity in others. She has had artwork featured in Summa Healthcare Hospital, Weathervane theater, and the Akron Black Artist Guild exhibition. She often donates artwork to schools, libraries, and local small businesses as a way of spreading inspiration to her community.

J. Travis primarily works as a visual artist working with acrylic paint. Her artistic style is mostly abstract, with mixed media and a little impressionism. She has experience with acrylic pour paintings, jewelry, and resin art. She likes to create art that sparks imagination and inspires creativity. She ensures her art is environmentally friendly, durable, and made with pieces that contain upcycled art so that nothing goes to waste. Her favorite subjects to paint are black women and space theme paintings. J believes her responsibilities as an artist are to provide resources and opportunities for creators and the uncreative to own inimitable works of art. She believes that everyone should have the right to own and/or become an art collector no matter their financial situation. She is an advocate for women's empowerment and equality for black people.

Ski Burn

Larissa Tsoufiou

I love creating my own lines and abstract works. I start with one simple curve or line and see where it goes using intuition and creativity. I also love color and try to pull in my heart and I love to look at things that make me happy. I also love to draw people, landscapes and to work with textures. I just let my imagination take over. It's me.

Post Friendship

Linnea Tsoufiou

I am a poet and an artist. I love to fill sketch books and journals with inspiration. I find the human eye so compelling, there is so much being said yet unspoken. I sketch a lot of eyes and faces. I try to fill the page with emotion and bring something meaningful to each piece. I am 16 years old and hope that sharing my work will cast a positive light on the youth of today and give them courage to also share their talents.

Tabula Cerebri (Map of the Brain) \$500

Blake Newhem Valenzuela

Imagine the horror experienced by a lifelong author and English professor at the diagnosis of a brain tumor pressing on the language processing center of his left frontal lobe. Eighteen surgeries and years of radiation and chemotherapy later, I'm still challenged by the gradual loss of my language faculties. But, I've recognized it's not words per se that have defined me—it's story.

So, I decided to activate other parts of my "storytelling animal's" brain. I tried drums—way too hard. That's why I do collage. Not only does the process of making collage art – many quiet Zen-like hours of cutting up volumes from my life's library – calm me, and reduce pain and anxiety, but I can detect new wires and synapses firing, new neural pathways activated, entirely separate from the language centers of my brain.

As I learned to exist with "Ollie" (my oligodendroglioma) I became obsessed with how our personal pasts merge with collective histories; with the joy of reading the masters, and with the complications of various kinds of meaning-making and translation.

For 17 years, I taught college students how mere squiggles on a page, mere sound waves from mouths could possibly "mean" anything—and the near-impossibility of a sufficient number of us ever agreeing on those meanings enough not to start clubbing each other to death. It's a wonder we can communicate at all. This is an especially critical conundrum today, as the world becomes more polarized.

I'm less than a year into my collage adventure. Tabula Cerebri (Map of the Brain)* is my first mixed-media, multipage collage on stilts. The 12 panels abstractly document my challenges with communication, chronicling the internal processes firing—and often not firing, in a closed loop (because it's two-sided).

It's a murky (spotty, obscured, overshadowed) process, how humans use words and discern meaning therefrom; as well as how we remember, compose, and communicate stories and ideas from our brains to the outside world (which really means into other people's brains). We mostly take it for granted—until an obstacle stymies us. Maybe it's Alzheimer's or a TBI. Maybe it's marrying a non-native speaker, as I did. Maybe it's a tumor such as mine, slowly snuffing out synaptic connections, even as the brain's miraculous plasticity builds byways and spurs, eagerly forging "new ways around" the problem.

Look for the various ways the panels connect to each other.

*Tabula Cerebri (Map of the Brain) is found pages from antique books, contemporary magazines, art catalogues, & ephemera; vintage playing cards; scraps from one of my books; spray paint; watercolor; glitter; high-gloss varnish; ¼ inch painted square dowels; supple suede-type fabric tabs cut from 120-year-old book jackets; colored clothespins; spray & craft glue.

Bliss \$500 donation to SCP

Jennifer Vincik

Hello! I am Jennifer Vincik, an artist currently residing in Stow, Ohio. I began my creative art journey just over 5 years ago. Through private art lessons, I found art and painting something I was passionate about. I have recently had my work displayed in local art galleries and boutiques throughout NorthEast Ohio, and also including Western Reserve Hospital. I am also an advocate for mental health. I hope to bring more awareness to fighting the stigma associated with bipolar, anxiety and PTSD.

Family Farm \$50

Beverly Waltz

I am inspired by the intrinsic beauty in the things around me and the people I see: the uniqueness of each flower and the colors that bring its beauty to life, the innocent expressions of children that capture the emotions adults often mask, the serenity of the sunset that marks the end of a busy day. Although places I have traveled often inspire me to paint, I do not have to travel far to discover most of my subject matter. Paying attention to the everyday images of the world around me ---a person's pose, an expression on a face, flowers in my garden after a summer rain---fills me with wonder and beckons me to capture them on canvas.

It is my hope that those who view my work will rediscover the ordinary and see things not as mundane, but appreciate the small details, the poetry of the everyday world we are often too busy to notice. It is my desire to inspire them to reflect on the hidden wonders that surround them. It is my wish that my work brings them the joy and tranquility that painting it brings to me.

Great Expectations \$90

Anna and Sam Weisend / Seraphs & Salt Studio

As a mother and daughter team, we find joy working as collaborative mixed media/ assemblage artists. The collaboration forces us to always consider another viewpoint. It gives us infinite possibilities because we are able to draw from each other's strengths and there are no limitations on what materials we may or may not use.

Our work starts with the discarded. We recycle paper into bowls which are then used as foundations or elements in our pieces. We then alter and add found objects with the belief that unwanted things still hold beauty in the right environment. The rest of our inspiration comes from nature.

We are currently exploring themes revolving around nests and hives. This piece speaks to generational legacies being passed on. We chose to use peacock feathers and eggs in this because it has a significant familial meaning for us.

Forever Young \$80

Michael Weiss

I am a Canton-based artist with a whimsical, yet mysterious air to my work. Through a combination of drawing, photography, painting and digital artistry, the works create a world where words tumble off pages, children transform into angels and boats soar through the sky on journeys into the unknown. Many of the pieces are like a storybook pages, only the beginning of the story nor the ending isn't always clear. Once the seeds of a few words are planted in my head, my imagination takes over. I don't always know how the stories will end, I know only that I have enjoyed spending time with each character. As these surreal worlds take shape, just sit back and let your imagination take over. Enjoy the journey... who knows where you might end up.

I've included the piece "Forever Young". It is an image of a child on a swing. Yet the ropes of the swing looks as if it just continues higher and higher endlessly up into the sky. I love this piece because as an adult, there are many times I wish I could return to a simpler, peaceful time that the innocence of childhood offers. A time when the only concern seemed to be how much play time I could get in before night set in. It's calming and a little meditative.

Angel Over Me \$150

Johanna Wilks

My painting is called "Angel Over Me". My sister passed away in 2020 from breast cancer at the age of 47. My painting is in memory of her. Her personality lit up the room and she was wise beyond her years. She was an amazing photographer. She is deeply missed and will forever be in my heart.

Love Flowers \$20

Carol Wohlwend

I am a retired RN and a self-taught watercolor artist. I started watercolors during the pandemic and I practice daily. This is my first art show!

Reflections \$350

Catherine Wooley

On the surface of this work we see the reflective qualities of water, the faces of fashion models, and the benevolent pose of Mother Mary. What lies beneath the surface is the objective of my art. Reflection is a process of exploring and examining ourselves, our perspectives, attributes, experiences and interactions. It helps us gain insight and informs our decision making. All of these things matter to me as I create a collage.

I am an artist and an art educator. I have also served as a juror for area art exhibits. I am a member of the Ohio Collage Society and I frequently display my work in juried and invitational shows.

Wonderland Journey \$215

Joelle Zellman

This artwork is dedicated to Bess Gossage and Elisa DiMeo, two women who were diagnosed with breast cancer at a young age and found solace in co-hosting the Survive + Thrive podcast. Through their journey of treatment and recovery, they connect with others facing similar challenges and work to support their cancer community. This work celebrates their resilience and efforts to join forces in battling their disease.

Bess and Elisa's cancer diagnosis turned their lives upside down. They candidly share their experiences, including the emotional and psychological challenges of understanding the diagnosis, navigating treatment, and adjusting to the impact it has on their lives.

Why is a raven like a writing desk? It is never put with the wrong end in front...

Puzzling and difficult to conjure up an answer to this riddle. The truth is, it's about always facing forward.

This is one of a series of works exploring the harrowing journey of going through a difficult diagnosis at a young age depicted along the themes of Lewis Carroll's famous works of Alice in Wonderland.

Joëlle Diane is an Akron artist who studied Fine Art at The Columbus College of Art & Design and at SACI in Florence, Italy. Many of the proceeds from this series go towards Survive + Thrive and their efforts to help with the financial burden many young people experience when faced with various treatment options.

About Stewart's Caring Place

Stewart's Caring Place serves 22 counties in Ohio and provides cancer patients, their families and caregivers, with a relaxed and caring environment that offers supportive services and programs, from holistic care and fitness classes to support groups, nutrition consultations, art and music therapy, and a wig and beauty room—all at no charge.

"We know the power of art for a community, for inspiration, and for healing," says Jeannine Marks, President & CEO of Stewart's Caring Place. "With hundreds of individuals and families walking through our doors monthly, we're honored to host these works of art that honor the stories and people we're so grateful to serve."

About Kaleidoscope

Kaleidoscope is an art exhibition featuring the creative work, reflections, and stories of more than 90 local artists and individuals whose lives have been transformed through healing. The exhibition takes its name from a gathering of butterflies, which is called "a kaleidoscope."

"Kaleidoscope showcases the many ways that people find the strength and inspiration to heal through art," says Mac Love, Co-Founder of Art x Love and curator for Stewart's Caring Place. "Kaleidoscope features the work and stories of professional artists and everyday people who have discovered the health of art and the power of creative courage in their healing journey."

Kaleidoscope is free and open to the public, Monday - Friday, from 9:00am - 5:00pm, and will be on display from April 21 - August 1, 2023.

100% of the proceeds from all art sales at Stewart's Caring Place go directly to the artists. To inquire about making a purchase, please contact the artist directly or speak to a member of our staff.



Kaleidoscope is made possible in part by state tax dollars allocated by the Ohio Legislature to the Ohio Arts Council (OAC). The OAC is a state agency that funds and supports quality arts experiences to strengthen Ohio communities culturally, educationally, and economically.