The MS Center at the Swedish Neuroscience Institute is proud to present the Annual MS Center Art Show featuring creative works made by those affected by multiple sclerosis (MS). Each year we are humbled by the volume of participation and the creative artworks we receive.

The prevalence of MS in the Pacific Northwest is one of the highest in the world, affecting more than 12,000 individuals in our state alone.

The MS Art Show is one of many events the Swedish MS Center hosts to help individuals thrive beyond their disease. The show is not a fundraiser but merely an opportunity to raise awareness about MS. Payment for any art sold goes directly to the artist unless otherwise noted.

Want to help? You can make a tax-deductible donation to support the Art Show through the Swedish Foundation. Contact Samantha Vanover by email at Samantha.Vanover@Swedish.org or by phone at 206-386-3349.

Want to volunteer or submit artwork next year? Email MSCenter@Swedish.org or call 206-991-2099.
Thank you to our 2019 contributing artists!

We received an overwhelming amount of wonderful artworks this year. Due to space, not all can be displayed in the A/NT gallery at once. We invite you to view all 2019 submissions here, along with artist bios and experiences - all are featured in this catalog. Additional submissions will be displayed at the A/NT gallery thru the month as pieces are sold.
Thank you to our 2019 MS Art Show Sponsors!

In the art show you will see some submissions featuring pets and service animals. For many of us, animals are a vital part of our lives, even more so when living with a neurological disease like MS. This year, in partnership with All the Best Pet Care, we wanted to celebrate these wonderful animals that enrich our lives in so many ways!
Casey Jo Ailes

"I was newly diagnosed with Relapsing Remitting MS in 2017"

"In the fall of 2018 I started teaching an abstract painting class for adults, which is where I met Bean Fairbanks. Bean became a regular at my classes. She doesn’t just deal with MS and limited mobility, she strolls into class on her wheelchair with determination - weighed down by canvas, art supplies, and her trusted companion, Aauuga, by her side.

This piece was created during our time together in my art classes. I work primarily in acrylic paints on canvas, and include endangered animals in my work to bring more awareness to our current climate crisis."

Casey Jo Ailes is a full time working professional artist. She has been creating art for over 20 years and could not imagine doing anything else. She has had a busy life, working in galleries, hanging art shows, teaching classes, publishing her children’s story, and creating work whenever her tiny humans give her a moment.

Casey creates in both mediums painting and photography. When she is not creating art, she can be found trying to save the world and helping others reduce their environmental impact. Casey has lived in Seattle for 1.5 years and loves chasing waterfalls with her family on weekends.
Aauuga
Watercolor & Ink
110-

“My friend Bean, whom has MS, ended up in the hospital.

Her dog Aauuga was not allowed in the ICU and Bean really missed her, so I made her a drawing. Bean liked the drawing so much, she asked me to enter the piece in the show. My mommy wanted me to redo the drawing in watercolor so we could give the other drawing to Bean.”

My name is Oscar Ailes and I was born on April 2, 2010 in Indianapolis. My favorite thing to do is draw. I love to draw pictures of myself flying with wings. I am inspired by my mom and her drawings and paintings. I also love dance and swimming and I want to touch 12 ft. down in the pool.

Deborah Artis

Dragon’s Lair
Acrylic
50-

“All of us have our Dragons to face. Once we find them, they must be faced, named, and tamed.

The Dragons in this painting are visible but must be searched out like the Dragons in our lives. MS is one such Dragon. Once it has been named it must be faced, tamed, and them managed. This is when the Dragon can be lived with peacefully.”

Artist Bio

I am currently 66 years of age. I live in Seattle proper. I was 40 when diagnosed with MS after receiving inoculations while serving in the US Navy Reserves during Desert Storm. I was able to retire with my full 20 years.

I have enjoyed a multitude of art forms over my life. I am a knitter, I crochet, color using colored pencil, and various inks. I enjoy watercolor, oils, and acrylics. I enjoy listening to music and books while I work on my art. I find art and music very relaxing. It fills my idle time now that I am not working outside of the house. I used to walk a lot, played some golf, and bowled. I would love to do voice overs in the near future.
Rhonda Berghoff

"I grew up with my dad (and 5 aunts) having MS. My dad has since passed on but I am so grateful for all he gave me. His roots were deep in his faith and family. And despite a 32 year storm with MS, he never faltered, never gave up, never broke despite the rain, wind, and hail.

This painting reminds me of him, standing strong even while being on the floor, unable to get up. He taught me, more than anything, that when you fall, you get back up. Every. Dang. Time."

Beyond being an artist, Rhonda is one of our nurses at the Swedish MS Center.

Susan Bullock Brown

Artist Bio

When I was 10, mom was diagnosed with MS. Mom was 35. It was a light case. She went to Tacoma to the Jonez Clinic for MS and improved a lot. After that, she got her social work credentials from the University of Washington, working in Seattle and Santa Barbara, CA. When she got old and bedridden, she made all her own plans for caretakers and house help. My sister and I visited her several times a year to cook and freeze meals for her caretakers to serve her.

She lived just shy of her 92nd birthday. She was a collector of friends, enjoyed conversation with many people.

Nancy Louise Bauer Bullock
March 4, 1920 - February 26, 2002
Lois Caslin

Serious Business  
Scissor Art  
50-

Down by the Riverside  
Bone Beads  
50-

Joan Czeslawa

Beam Me Up Seattle  
Photo on Metal  
200-

“Whenever people become aware of the fact that I have MS, the first thing they say is ‘you don’t act like you have MS’. My question to them is: what’s the prerequisite for how I should act?

I tell them I would miss being a participant in so many beautiful and unusual things in this world if I spent all of my life focusing on what my MS has done to my brain and body.

Then I let them know that I may not kick as high as I used to but I’m going out kicking and screaming.”

Artist Bio

“I’m no artist, just a happy crafter. I am an 80+ long time Seattlite who gets a bang out of crafting - this includes knitting and card making. Being a first born kid I guess I never got over the compulsion to ‘produce’. MS does not limit my activities in any way - well, maybe I’m a bit slower than the average bear.”

Artist Bio

Joan creates with an eastern sense of detachment within the flowing lines, drawing and encouraging the observer to look more intently.

Exhibits have included the Art/Not Terminal Gallery, University ArtWalk, Jeremy Todd Wellness Spa and Salon, Pratt Fine Arts Center, Broadway Market Gallery, as well as international buyers in Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Japan.

Donations are important to Joan. Contributions have included WA Womens Lawyers, Seattle Asian Art Council, Pike Market Clinic, Seattle Mental Health Preschool, Leonard WIlkens Celebrity Classic, Hamilton K-12 and Morningside Academy.
Dorian Delagrange

“Water is a comfort area for me. Always has been and even more so now. It also is always changing and unpredictable, like MS.

The blue tang fish are representative of me as my nickname is Dori - and now with the cartoon character based after that fish, and her personality and memory issues, it speaks to my cognitive issues.”

Dorian is 36 years old and was diagnosed with MS in 2009 after she showed with optic neuritis and l’hermitte’s sign. Dorian has always loved art, selling a watercolor painting for $5 in elementary school done in the style of Vincent Van Gogh “Sunflowers”. If possible, she would always have a paper, pencils, paints, brushes, camera, etc on her at all times. She enjoys photography (usually of the nature or animal variety), drawing, painting, writing poetry, song writing with help of the music therapist at the MS Center. Basically, if it is considered artistic in nature, she has tried it or wants to try it. She participates in the Art Life Program at the MS Center where the facilitator has watched her blossom with her painting.
I am a Leo. I used to have a mane of red gold hair and the fiery energy to go with it. After living 30 years with MS, I often feel washed out and weak as a new kitten. I am trying to reclaim my fierceness through art and this dramatically colored lion reflects that aspiration.

“Ebony was my first service dog and she impacted everyone with her ‘old soul.’ I tried to capture that in her eyes, evident, even when she was a small puppy. In addition to being a mobility assist dog, Ebony was able to alert me to upcoming migraines, fatigue and heat intolerance.

She was trained in intelligent disobedience, correcting me as I needed when I got confused. Unfortunately, she died prematurely and Aauuga (portrayed elsewhere in this show), is my new service dog. Aauuga is an amazing service dog, so affectionate and dedicated, but no one will ever match Ebony’s intuition.

MS doesn’t always impact fertility, in fact women with MS often improve while pregnant. That wasn’t the case for me. I lost all 6 of my pregnancies between 10-12 weeks, most likely due to an autoimmune response related to my MS. The cervix of woman who has never delivered vaginally is a small circle, after birth it converts to a smiley shape. Due to 2 D&Cs required for hemorrhages, mine is more starburst. Painting this was part of the life long process of accepting I will never be a mom. My MS journey has been all about reinventing myself. My cervix will never look like the bottom one but I have been blessed to be an Auntie and nanny to several wonderful people.”

Since my diagnosis with MS in 1987, I have had to continually reinvent myself as an artist as my abilities and senses change. I delighted in textile arts and photography as a young woman but found them challenging as my eyesight and sense of touch were impacted. I turned to digital art and painting. With my sense of smell still keen, I soon focused my creative energies on wine and beer writing and judging. But my soul greatly missed art, and I struggled with severe depression so common in MS. Returning to art, I tried encaustic, which I loved but couldn’t afford. My lack of control with pastels, paints, and even my old love - digital art - left me frustrated.

Two years ago, I discovered Alcohol Ink. It is an inexpensive medium, similar to watercolor. It allows me to paint with cotton balls, Q-tips, and other household items easier for me to hold on to and control. A new world opened up and art was available to me again! Today art is a critical part of my cognitive, physical, and mental therapy. I strive to do at least a little bit of art everyday. If I do, I feel better. To help motivate myself and inspire myself, I started a blog about my art and the importance of daily art: https://dailypaintart.com. With added confidence and skilled instructors who help me problem solve, I have even picked up acrylics.
Andrea Ficker

*Ferns in the Woods*
Fused Glass in Wood Round
250-

Eileen Fix

*Red Hat #1*
Watercolor
700-

*Red Hat #2*
Watercolor
700-
Cheryl Harrison

*Untitled #1*
Drawing
Prints available by request

“This image came to mind one evening as I sat alone inside feeling separated from the world outside. The earth seemed to be looking at me and passing me by, but perhaps it was actually an invitation to come on out to play in whatever ways I could participate.”

*Untitled #2*
Drawing
Prints available by request

“In darkness of night medicinal plants’ sunlight reawakens, repairs, reconnects discordant nerves step by step and side by side shimmering in harmony with a mind intent to live my best.”

**Artist Bio**

Cheryl, who lives in Seattle, began creating extemporaneous art not so long after being diagnosed with MS in 2002. As is sometimes the case, that diagnosis came many years after the initial flare-up which had come then completely disappeared after about 3 months. Using mostly pastels, occasionally combined with watercolor and ink, the process was an exercise in free-flowing, unplanned and creative, “self-art-therapy.”
Carlie Herrick

I can relate to this painting because I love nature and all it brings. Today I’m really finding myself reaching for hope and looking to be inspired by something as each and everyday I leave with so much pain. Art has helped so much as it has brought me closer to God. I am able to feel hope as God has inspired me. I feel at peace as my creativity flows and I’m able to really see God taking care of everything he has created, and he will also take care of me.

“I am 24 years old and live in Everett, WA. I have a disease that is very rare called DYT12. It is part of the ATPA3 gene. This disease is much like MS and Parkinson’s. I do receive care at the Swedish MS Center, and very much like it.

I love my family and friends and mostly my little dog Donner. He is my best buddy, and is always by my side. I enjoy baking when I can, art, being around family, and going on outings. My hope is to walk and talk again as I used to, and to give awareness to the disease. I pray for a cure not only for myself but for each one in pain no matter what illness they have.
My mother Anne Durham was diagnosed with MS in the 1950’s. She had four young children who became her caregivers. Around the same time, Dr. Salk, who had discovered the polio vaccine, began looking for a MS cure. In the meantime, my mother was confined to bed and her wheelchair. It wasn’t easy for her or us, but it was an experience that shaped our lives for the good. When my sister Heidi Durham fell off a pole while working in a pioneering affirmative action program for women electricians at Seattle City Light and broke her back, it was my mother’s example that got her walking again and back on the job.

When I was diagnosed with MS in 2006, I was angry. What had all those doctors and scientists been doing since Dr. Salk that there was still no cure? But later, when asked to paint something that symbolized me in a beginning art class, I was surprised to find that it was my mother’s wheelchair. And it was happy! So this little painting is for all the mothers with MS. You teach your children resilience every single day.
Gillian Holsinger

The Fog Defines It
Digital MRI Collage
150-

Healing Happens
Collage
200-

Shelley Irish

Nuit and the Seven Sisters
Oil
4334-

“This painting speaks to the ability to ascend and travel between the spiritual and material worlds. When we are faced with physical limitations, openings expand through our other energetic avenues. This painting is a celebration of that transformation.”

Through passionate color and visionary storytelling, I infuse classically rendered oil paintings with transcendental exploration. Art is my life ritual, sharing it with you, my bliss.
Danielle Kehoe

“Fairly new to having MS I find myself suffering in silence due to my seemingly normal outward appearance. My hair began falling out by the handful after being diagnosed. At first I attempted to cover my thinning scalp only to be more stressed by the need to hide it. I feel this image is a bold statement that reflects my newfound anger towards my options for treatment. I hope it also brings light to those newly diagnosed who are suffering without visual evidence for the world to see. Our struggles deserve a voice. The price tag is that of one year supply for the medication copaxone that I refused to try.”

Born and raised on Camano Island, WA, I have been an artist since I was a child. Most nights were spent escaping into my own world of drawing or painting. As an adult I found myself studying graphic design at the Art Institute of Portland. Now I find myself disabled with a dwindling ability to remember my previous skills, art included.

My goal is to use the graphic design knowledge I still possess to create a voice for those with MS that are appalled at our treatment options. Being scared into taking toxic medications should NOT be the only path for those of us with this disease. There needs to be awareness of this mistreatment. I raise my finger towards the standard protocol and also hope for change.

Art has influenced me to keep creating and practicing to build knowledge that lets an artist truly express themself. Drawing since the age of six, I've always tried to draw what I see. Classes have always kept me testing my abilities. When first diagnosed with MS, I lost the ability to draw and even hold a pencil to a piece of paper. Today, I proudly draw more than ever, with no limits, to keep up with my creativity and desire to continuously create something new for myself and others.

Monarch
Pen and Copic Markers
100-

“The MS awareness color orange and symbolism of the Monarch butterfly influenced me to portray change and new life, especially with others who face the battle of multiple sclerosis. Let this piece influence your courage and fight for a cure, but also treat it carefully as you adapt.”

Louella Jackson

FMS
Photograph with Font Overlay
25,280.64-
“Multiple Sclerosis is an unrelenting thief that robs the body of its strength, leaving but a trail of frailties behind.

But MS can’t steal the haunting warmth cast by the sun setting in an autumn sky, or the soothing sound of rustling leaves in a summer breeze, or the fleeting joy of a flower unleashing its beauty in spring.

The power of photography to capture triumph and jubilation in the simplicity of an unfolding blossom can now and again create an enchanting momentary escape that elevates the mind, the heart, and the soul above and beyond the casualties of MS."

“...in the dew of little things the heart finds its morning and is refreshed.”

Kahlil Gibran

In the Dew of Little Things
Photo

“...in the dew of little things the heart finds its morning and is refreshed.”

Kahlil Gibran

Wendy Lamson Collier

“Weaving Blues reflects my experience with multiple sclerosis for the last 44 years. Many sides, many facets, threads of knowing and unknowing. The contrasts of how I look from the outside and how I feel inside as a 74 year old woman who is still walking, however wobbly a dance that might be be. Finding joy in my life!”

I was born at Swedish Hospital in 1945, the second of five children. Raised in the PNW swimming, sailing, and skiing. I went to Southern California in 1963 to attend Scripps College. I became an educator and movement arts specialist.

I gave birth to three wonderful children between 1970 and 1983. What a joy to be each of their Mom and to watch them become such loving, productive adults. I so enjoy all my family, including siblings, grandchildren, great-grandchildren plus nieces, nephews, and cousins. My husband Bob is my number 1 support person.

We live in Ellensburg, WA, where we enjoy all four seasons in small town living. I love to garden, cook, knit, weave, and listen to audiobooks. I find many ways to be creative in my daily life.

My MS journey has been a long one, since 1975, some chapters mild and some severe. My biggest challenges now are pain, fatigue, and mobility, though I am still walking.

All in all, life is good and gratitude is my song!

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Ben Lang

"Living with MS is a journey. The path is full of twists, turns, and is forever changing. It can seem long and weary. A path can bring on obstacles like fatigue, vision loss, depression and anxiety. Walking on this path we are considered warriors and fighters. To help lead us along the way, we lean on family, friends and community. We travel on this journey with hope. Hope for a cure!"

Artist Bio

I am a 36 year old man living with MS. I live in Lynwood, WA with my spouse and two dogs. Photography is my passion. I enjoy showing the world as I see it. I also enjoy the outdoors and travel. The more I get to see and do is an accomplishment. My goal is to never slow down.

Shawn Ann Langley

"My brain feels full of gunk and my hands won't behave! I can't get the right words all the time. It is more of a challenge to paint but still worth it."

Brain in the Clouds
Acrylic, Mixed Media
100-
E Faithe Lester

“With me, the initial diagnosis of MS was a direct consequence of optic neuritis - first in the left eye & then in the right one. With remitting/relapsing MS, I’ve had the good fortune of many more years of remission than of active disease. Although currently treated for medical issues with my eyes, I’m fortunate to have my vision as it is indispensable for my photographic art. These pieces of night photography would not have been possible if my vision had been permanently altered by optic neuritis or the current issues under treatment.”

Faithe sees beauty all around; shooting what she observes contributes to a highly eclectic portfolio. It includes landscapes, seascapes, cityscapes, and many isolated objects within those broader scenes. Her expanded portfolio includes squares and panoramic shapes - prints ready to frame, some already matted and framed, and others printed on canvas or laminated to wood frames. She primarily shoots during the beginning and ending of daylight hours, seeks the off-beaten path, and is delighted when her in-the-camera images satisfy her critical eye with only limited post-production touch-ups. Family groups are an area of special interest for Faithe.

Cathy Lykes

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All my life I have had a love of the outdoors as an avid camper, hiker, boater and photographer. When MS happened to me, it seemed my world was closing in on me. I was no longer able to experience the outdoors like I used to. So I needed to shift gears. Getting in and out of boats like I used to was not possible, so I explored docks and horizons and took photos from that vantage point. No longer as a “second mate”, but of an observer of things I love.”

Nautical Dreams #1
Photo
40-

Nautical Dreams #2
Photo
40-
Faith Mason

Three Rats
Watercolor
75-

Space Aliens
Drawing
25-

If sold, all proceeds will be donated to the Swedish MS Center

A Native Bird
Drawing
25-

If sold, all proceeds will be donated to the Swedish MS Center

Kelly Maunsell

Three Onions
Watercolor
75-

“Kelly had a major stroke in 2002. Prior to that she painted in oil on canvas. Due to limited mobility (only the use of one hand/arm), she transitioned to water color. Kelly has been a patient of doctors and therapists that are now working with the Swedish MS Center.”

Artist Bio

Kelly Maunsell had a major stroke in December 2002. The stroke left her paralyzed on the right side of her body and unable to speak. Throughout her life she enjoyed art. Up until her stroke, she painted in oils on canvas. After her stroke, she was unable to continue with oil and large formats and made a transition to water color on paper. She tries to keep her compositions light, fun and colorful. Kelly has some of her artwork made into cards and an annual calendar.
Leigh is the facilitator of the Art Life program at the Swedish MS Center.

Healing Mandala
Acrylic
111-

Connie McDevitt

“Fruit or veggies is the assignment in our Abstract Impressionism art class. I am joined by a fellow painter in her automatic wheelchair with her big black dog and a satchel of paint supplies. She has MS. Though occasionally she cannot make it to class, she is highly capable, successful with many art sales. She has shared with me a website she sells her paintings on which demands she paints every day. In this way she has been my advocate and my friend. And continues to be an activist.”

Pear
Acrylic
200-

Grapes
Acrylic
200-

I have earned a Bachelors Degree in Fine Art, majoring in Graphic Design. I spent a few years creating event posters, sales catalogs for Ace Hardware, and a box for pocket radio. Later, I used my artistic skills with developmentally disabled adults in a nursing home, including those with autism, aspergers, and MS. We consulted on room decor and clothing choices, travels to the city, and building a float for the Seafair parade. At times, I would sketch a client in action or repose. An art show in the main office building included my drawings.

I have organized fashion shows, performed stand-up comedy, and assembled collages for print and personal motivation. Most recently, I have discovered acrylic painting in the Abstract Impressionism style. My canvases incorporate what has come before. It is my pleasure to share them with you.
Ryan Moore

Rainy Day
Acrylic
300-

Being Koi
Acrylic
250-

Susan Okubo

The Dragon Within
Digital Art
100-

"I've heard some people refer to MS as a MonSter. I see this dragon as the monster within. You never know when it will awaken to mess with us in so many ways, some visible and some not visible. I am just thankful for my team of knights in shining armour to help keep things under control."

"Three years ago I signed up to walk with the UW MS Center team at the MS Walk. I had gotten an email to wear purple and gold. I just couldn't stop at that. This is the third year I have come up with a creative design for my shirt using my MRI scans. The fish have brain scans and the seaweed are parts of my c spine scans. Once I got done I looked at the image on my monitor and thought it needed a treasure chest. I took some of my techidea and put it in a wooden box to add to the design."

Artist Bio
I live in Renton and MS hit me at work in 2011. Not knowing what was going on and my balance was so bad I had to use walls at home to get around. I got in to physical therapy twice a week for as long as the insurance would cover it. The therapist I worked with had me use a quad cane but that only slowed me down. To keep up be able to get around without my cane I would go out to places where I could go for a walk, and would take my point and shoot camera. I would take my photos home and work on them in Photoshop. Eventually I finally thought it was time to upgrade to a DSLR. It wasn't until sometime later that I decided to try and work my MRI scans into my Photoshop work. I just see my MRI scans with an artistic eye.
Companions in the Night
Acrylic
By Jen & Allen Parker

“I am so lucky to have my husband Allen. Since my diagnosis, he has become my caregiver, chauffeur, cook, dressing assistant, problem solver, my eyes, strength, calendar keeper and so much more. Time spent together has changed from mostly evenings and weekends to nearly 24 hours a day. Our relationship has strengthened with more sharing of feelings and deeper conversations. Our bodies often fight us, exhaust us until we can’t push forward without rest.

Allen’s desire and sacrifice has allowed me to take up this new hobby to de-stress. To take a break from never-ending appointments, my husband occasionally takes me to a painting event and waits until I finish (where I am always the last one unless I am too tired to continue). This time he surprised me and painted with me, creating our own partner painting, working together to try to create a single fluid piece. I feel these paintings represent our working together to accomplish the things that need to get done.”

- Jen Parker

Tess
Acrylic
Allen Parker

Ellie Just Beachin’
Acrylic
Jen Parker

“I love my pets for they are a part of my family furever. Unlike our previous pets, Ellie travels with us, whether to drop me off at the pool or staying overnight at the beach. She is often found by my side so I can more easily pet her, give belly rubs, or talk. She knows when I am having a ruff time and I’m upset, hurting, or stressed; she seems to always reduce my anxiety, stress and emotional frustrations. Ellie is a great listener who lets me vent and problem-solve, just like a therapist, which is why I call her my therapy dog. Ellie makes me more pawsitive that I can handle life’s challenges.”
“I was in a still-life painting class with Bean and her service dog Aauuga. I was so impressed with the two of them working together, in total harmony.

This hard work of creating art is the perfect distraction from life's ups and downs. Full concentration is critical, and there is no room left to think about what comes next, except in the painting.”

Artist Bio

I've been making art all of my life but only found painting ten years ago. Through my work at Path with Art, a local non-profit, I have come to see more clearly how life-saving this process of making art can be.

I have four close friends who are living with MS. In my opinion, the presence of art appreciation and art making has had a very positive effect on their lives. It has certainly been a positive force in my life!
Howard Stabin

"In 1969 I took a trip from New York City. I mostly hitchhiked and took greyhound buses all across America and back to Brooklyn, NY.

I was diagnosed with MS in 1976.

In 2019 I took an Amtrak trip from Seattle to visit my friends and relatives in Florida, and back.

Even with MS I continue searching for America.”

Seated Woman Holding Legs
Charcoal
150-

Coral Gables Waterway Bridge from Rowboat
Egg Tempera on Canvas
650-

Artist Bio
I lived most of my life in Brooklyn, NY. For the past 11 years I have lived in Seattle. I was diagnosed with MS in 1976 and I still travel – “Searching for America” at 71 years old.

Elaine Thomas

I am an immunologist who retired from science. My last scientific work was to educate physicians about new MS treatments and how they act on the immune response. My mother had a debilitating neurological disease. She would have been proud of my turning to art to tell our emotional story.

I am very proud of the piece in the above photo, simple as it is. It was the Red Dot winner at the Art Student’s League New York. It is the first time I have ever won anything in an art competition. Georgia O’Keefe was one of the first “Red Dot” winners at the League, which has been training artists since 1875. This piece is still in Manhattan, and will hang for 2.5 weeks in July at the Red Dot Winner’s Show.”
Genie Walters

Gifts of Nature
Acrylic
350-

“The dichotomy of Stonehenge - magnificent yet anti-climactic, but still, where magic dwells.”

Artwork:

The Magic of Stonehenge
Acrylic
350-

“Death is the mother of beauty” - Wallace Stevens

“You cannot live without dying. Mortality does not have to dampen our zest in life. This piece is a reminder to live each day completely and wholly. Even as petals fall, the flower is not worried.”

I am a freelance artist based in Seattle, specializing in acrylic paint. I initially began painting through art therapy, but it soon flourished into an absolute passion. Art remains a strong contender of how we share our thoughts and ideas. I work hard to develop paintings that speak to both me and the viewer.

Brieanna Jade Wellman

Baby Bat
Anime Drawing
165-

“I was introduced to the world of art by my grandmother, none other than the one and only Joan Geslawa (aka Joan of Art) at the age of three. I was instantly hooked. I got hooked on anime when a close friend of mine introduced me to Masashi Kishimoto's hit show Naruto.”

Artwork:

Twisted Roses
Painting
150-

“My Nana wasn’t diagnosed with MS until I was a teenager. Even when she wasn’t feeling well, she would encourage me to enjoy life and my many artistic abilities. She also supported many of my classmates by purchasing them art supplies and access to galleries so they could show and sell their artwork. The more my Nana was told to slow down, the more she refused to let MS control her life. My favorite colors are crimson and black, and my painting inspiration is Jackson Pollack.”
Annette Wundes

Having a little fun experimenting with new techniques
Encaustic
75-
If sold, proceeds will be donated to the National MS Society

I have many connections to MS, including family members and some friends. As a MS specialist, I work with people affected by MS on a daily basis. I am inspired by people living with MS, their stories, and their resilience. My admiration to all of those who find their personal strength, beauty, joy, and resilience through art. I have witnessed these traits in my personal life in my mother who went through a critical illness ~15 years ago. While struggling with illness and side effects from treatment, she started to paint in her garden. This has turned into a whole new outlook on life and a new circle of friends.

Today, my mom is connected with a number of friends through her art work. I am very proud of her. My personal attempts of some crafts and art are way more humble – the family art gene must have skipped me! Nevertheless, always having been fascinated by the medium, I did several encaustic workshops and will show some examples in this show.

Vera Wundes

Butterfly Tree
Acrylic Diptych
250-

Painting is something I started later in life and at a time of health struggles, but now painting has become an integral part of my life and a great source of joy and empowerment! I enjoy working with powerful oil and acrylic colors and started painting flowers in my beloved garden. After taking painting classes by various artists in my area, I have explored a great variety of materials, such as grind of marble, ashes, sand, and rust. Painting has allowed me to find new friends and enriches my world. I am actively involved with peers learning new techniques and supporting each other in our projects. Over the years, I had a number of exhibits both as an individual artist and group exhibits in my native Germany.
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