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WHAT IS TWIST OUT CANCER?

Twist Out Cancer provides psychosocial support for individuals touched by cancer through creative arts programming.

The Story

When 29-year-old Jenna Benn Shersher was undergoing cancer treatment in 2010 for a rare form of Lymphoma, she felt disconnected from the world. Isolated at home because of a compromised immune system, she longed to do something she hadn't done since she was healthy...dance. And so she did. With Chubby Checker's, "The Twist," blasting in the background, she recorded herself twisting her heart out. When she posted the video on Facebook, she had one simple request, "Please join me on the dance floor!" The response was astounding. Within days, Jenna was flooded with hundreds of videos from thousands of people from across the globe, all doing the Twist!. These videos came from people she knew and from perfect strangers. There were people twisting at work, at home, and even from the hospital. "As they twisted, I was able to tiptoe out of my room and join the world," recalled Jenna. "I no longer felt alone, but instead connected to and supported by a community of twisters." It was then that Jenna made a vow that once she had completed treatment she would give back in a meaningful way. And so, Twist Out Cancer was born.

Twist Out Cancer

“My mom had breast cancer and throughout the process, I was the primary person helping her,” said a young woman named Emma. “Most of my friends would ask about my mom, but they didn’t think to ask about me. It was difficult because I was struggling to care for her, and I also needed support.” Twist Out Cancer creates exactly that – a place of support for everyone who needs it. What began as a light-hearted way for anyone touched by cancer to connect has turned into a global community of support and inspiration. Established in 2011 as a nonprofit organization, Twist Out Cancer (TOC) offers the platform, tools and community – both online and offline – for anyone touched by cancer to feel connected to a community and for many to take action. TOC does this through online platforms, Brushes with Cancer, Twist-Shops and Health and Wellness programs and events in the community.

The App

The Twist Out Cancer App connects individuals touched by cancer with our dynamic support community as well as resources. The platform allows anyone to create a profile page and a personal call to action. Through videos, photos or essays, those touched by cancer are able to share their unique “twist on cancer.” Sample posts have included everything from “I’m in the midst of chemotherapy and have lost all of my taste buds... host a dinner party, and tell me what it tastes like” to “Help me Kiss Away Cancer. Kiss a friend, a family member or a stranger on the street, and snap a quick selfie and share it on social media.” So far, TOC’s online presence has touched over 300,000 people across the world – and the numbers keep growing.

Brushes with Cancer

This unique celebration of survivorship and hope pairs those touched by cancer (previvors, survivors and caregivers) with talented artists working in a variety of mediums. Those touched by cancer share their ‘twist on cancer’ – their stories, feelings and experiences – with the artist, which serves as the inspiration for the art. The program culminates with a celebratory annual event and fundraiser in which the pairs connect in person and the artwork is revealed for the first time and then auctioned to support TOC. Since its inception in 2012, hundreds of inspirations and artists have been matched, and over 15,000 people have participated in the celebratory art exhibitions and galas. In addition to our Montreal debut, , Brushes with Cancer has expanded to include programs in in Tel Aviv and Philadelphia. “Telling my story in this context and through this creative process was better than any kind of therapy,” said Amy, who lost her mother to breast cancer and who is herself both a survivor of kidney cancer and a ‘previvor’ who was diagnosed with the BRCA2 gene.

Twist-Shops

TOC workshops or, “Twist-Shops”, are educational workshops that provide individuals touched by cancer with an opportunity to share their ‘twist on cancer,’ – their unique experiences – with everyone from teens to community members. Trained TOC facilitators lead groups in meaningful discussions related to the critical importance of psychosocial support and guide exercises that foster creativity and encourage team building. To date, over 10,000 people have engaged in Twist-Shops. TOC workshop community partners include Camp Chi, the University of Illinois, Northwestern University, Imerman Angels, Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago, and Federation CJA in Montreal.

Health and Wellness Third Party Events

TOC understands the importance of health and wellness – particularly mindfulness, strength and resilience – both during and after cancer treatment. Since 2011, over 30,000 people have participated in health and wellness programs run by TOC in partnership with a variety of other health focused organizations. Twist has partnered with Whole Foods and Kitchfix to provide nourishing and healthy cooking classes to help inform participants of how to make healthy choices throughout survivorship.

The Need

“This organization empowers you,” said Alana Dugandzic, a two-time cancer survivor. “It gives you a way out and helps you make your situation the best it can be. It allows you to focus on the positive as opposed to being victimized.” What makes TOC unique is its multi-tiered approach that gives anyone touched by cancer the support and community they need to no longer feel alone and the tools they crave to take action. TOC provides anyone, anywhere in the world, the platform to create, support and inspire. As such, our reach is limitless, targeting everyone from the person who finds out that a dear friend has just been diagnosed with cancer and doesn’t know what to do, to those like Jenna, who feel that because of cancer, they have to sit out the dance. A labor of love, TOC has a network of over 200 active volunteers serving as ambassadors in Chicago, Philadelphia, Detroit, Tel Aviv, Toronto and Montreal.

Get Involved

Twist Out Cancer is a community that celebrates creativity, encourages engagement, and believes in the importance of giving back. TOC volunteers donate their time, expertise, and passion to help create a network of support and hope. It is thanks to their commitment and hard work that the TOC community continues to grow and thrive. For more information on volunteering, please visit the volunteer section of our website. We hope you will join us.

**A MESSAGE FROM JENNA BENN SHERSHER,
FOUNDER AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF TWIST OUT CANCER**

Gratitude.

It has been quite a journey. A journey measured in moments, markers and finish lines. A journey artistically preserved in hypercolor. A journey that may have started with the three words, “you have cancer,” but has continued with, “No Evidence of Disease.” I may not be able to choose the cards that I am dealt but my response, my narrative, my journey, is my choice. Over the last few years, with the help of countless people, we have transformed my story into a larger movement. Twist Out Cancer’s foundation is built on hope, is stabilized by support, and is secured by the belief that when you share, the world opens up. Twist Out Cancer emerged out of desperation, blossomed out of loneliness and grew from despair. Today this movement continues to grow because of you. To the countless friends, family and strangers that lifted me out of the shadows and into the sunlight, I thank you. And to the legions of tiny twisters who believe in Twist Out Cancer, we would not be here without you. We hope you will continue to... Share. Connect. Heal.



Welcome to Brushes with Cancer Austin

Welcome to the inaugural Brushes with Cancer Austin celebratory event and art exhibition! Our team is so excited to share this event with you, and we hope it will touch and inspire you as much as it has us over the past eight years. We are so incredibly grateful for all the outstanding cancer supporting organizations available here in Austin and around the world. Equally, we feel so fortunate to bring something truly unique to such a deserving city. Our hope is that your experience here with us tonight will encourage you to share what we are doing with others, and get involved if you are passionate about our cause. We couldn't do this without an incredible group of committed volunteers, sponsors and donors, and we thank each and every one of you from the bottom of our hearts. To the cancer inspirations who shared your stories, and the artists who took on a massive task of retelling those stories through art, we are in awe of your strength, courage, and openness to share.



ALANA DUGANDZIC, BRUSHES WITH CANCER CO-CHAIR

After overcoming my own bouts with cancer, my priorities changed. I knew I wanted to get involved in the cancer community, but didn't know how or where to start. In 2008, after spending my entire life in Texas, my adventure took me to Chicago for my fresh start. In Chicago, I "met" Twist Out Cancer. As an honored inspiration in the very first Brushes with Cancer Program, I was hooked. I'm empowered by this organization to embrace all the experiences I've had in my life, good and bad, and through it, I met the most incredible people. I am so proud to bring this program to my home state, and both the Austin arts and cancer communities will benefit significantly from this collaboration. I am also especially fortuitous to work for Salesforce, which allows me the privilege to invest a significant amount of time on philanthropic efforts. We are so grateful you are here and we thank you immensely for supporting us.



IVAN DUGANDZIC, BRUSHES WITH CANCER CO-CHAIR

I'm currently 45, married to my wonderful, beautiful wife Alana Dugandzic, and we are blessed with two amazing children, Ethan and Lyla. In 2012, when Alana and I were dating, she was asked to be an inspiration for Brushes With Cancer. This experience opened my eyes to the importance of allowing an inspiration to share their story in a unique way, and I immediately became more involved. I saw firsthand how inspirations who didn't typically talk about their struggles with cancer were now able to open up and receive unwavering support from their loved ones and the whole community. I dedicate my time to Brushes with Cancer in honor and memory of my mother, Zrinka K. Dugandzic, who lost her own battle of this debilitating disease in 2001 at the young age of 49. I miss her every day. Cancer worked its way into my life in many ways including the diagnosis of four of my dear uncles who have passed away due to Pancreatic, Colon Rectal & Blood Cancer. I am extremely proud of my brother, Tommy, who is a survivor of advanced Melanoma and a true inspiration.

BRUSHES WITH CANCER

Brushes with Cancer is celebration of survivorship and hope through art, music and storytelling. This event is brought to you by Twist Out Cancer with the generous support of the sponsors featured throughout this program.

TONIGHT

ART: Twist Out Cancer paired 25 artists with 26 survivors, previvors, and caregivers, and challenged the artists to create original works of art influenced by their inspiration's unique "twists" on cancer. Since May 2019, our pairs have worked closely together, sharing and creating. These unexpected relationships developed into systems of support and a place for healing. Their artwork honors the inspirations' experiences with cancer but it also celebrates the new relationships that have developed. Tonight we honor their journeys and celebrate the importance of storytelling and utilizing the arts as a mechanism for healing. *All proceeds from ticket sales and the art auction will go towards growing Brushes with Cancer in the United States, Canada, and around the world.*

Program

4:00 PM	Opening Ceremony for Artists, Inspirations and Their Families Performance by Kenzie Slottow and Leah Mosier, Guitarist
4:30 PM	Welcome and toast by Jenna and Alana
4:40 PM	The Brushes with Cancer Experience - Nancy Carpenter and Morgan McBride
4:50 PM	Photos of Participants
5:00 PM	General Admission & Art Auction
6:00 PM	General Program Featuring: ELA and DJ Squake Dave Froehlich, Emcee Jenna Benn Shersher, Founder and Executive Director of Twist Out Cancer Mayor Steve Adler Remarks Alana Dugandzic Remarks
6:30 PM	The Brushes with Cancer Experience - Kim Kass and Amanda Walker
6:40 PM	Shawn Strong Award Presentation - Erin Green/Alana Dugandzic
6:45 PM	Kenzie Slottow and Leah Mosier, Performance Inspired by Alana Dugandzic
7:30 PM	Art Auction Closes/Raffle Winners Announced
8:00 PM	Event Conclusion



RULES OF THE SILENT AUCTION

- To bid on art please register with OneCause/BidPal mobile bidding at <https://one.bidpal.net/brushesaustin/welcome> on your phone. See volunteers at Check-In for assistance.
 - A bid is construed as a legal agreement to purchase the listed item(s) at the amount indicated.
 - All bidders must be 18 years of age or above.
 - All winning bids must be settled before the end of the event by cash, check or credit card.
 - The auction will close at 7:30 p.m., at which time the highest bid will be declared the winner.
 - Twist Out Cancer is acting as a consignee of the art for the purposes of this auction. All sales are final, as is, and are between the artist and the buyer.
 - If conflict arises over identifying the last valid bid for an item(s) or in the event there is any confusion over any of the rules or procedures of this auction, Twist Out Cancer reserves the right to determine the winner or to impose an alternate method of closing the item for interested parties, including, but not limited to, cancelling the sale or requiring a sealed final bid. All Twist Out Cancer decisions are final and binding on all participants.
- * *Payment in full is required at check-out and winning bidders will be asked to take their purchased artwork home at the close of the event. If alternate arrangements need to be made, please reach out to the Twist Out Cancer representatives.*

PARTICIPATING SPEAKERS

Jenna Benn Shersher, Founder and Executive Director

Jenna Benn Shersher is a 37 year old cancer survivor, civil rights advocate, world traveler and tiny twister who dreams big. In December 2010, Jenna was diagnosed with a rare blood disorder called Grey Zone Lymphoma that at the time affected fewer than 200 people. Instead of surrendering to cancer, she was determined to find meaning in her suffering. In the course of her fight, Jenna figured out creative ways to leverage social media to process her experience, and in turn create a community that became invested in her fight. In the course of a year, Jenna battled cancer and founded the nonprofit Twist Out Cancer.

Jenna's story was selected as a top ten best read by Mashable.

She is a blogger for the Huffington Post and has made television appearances on all major media outlets, including Forbes, CNN, NBC5, CBS, ABC7, WGN and Fox32. She has also been featured in the New York Times, the LA Times, Wall Street Journal, the Chicago Tribune and the Chicago Sun Times. Jenna is a mentor angel with Imerman Angels, and was an Honored Hero and advocate for Team in Training and the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

She is an ROI fellow with the Schusterman Foundation and serves on the board of the Anti-Defamation League. Jenna received her Bachelor's degree from McGill University in Montreal, Canada and her Masters in Social Enterprise and Administration from Columbia University. She resides in Philadelphia with her husband Dr. David Shersher and their daughter Noa Pearl who is a miracle.



EMCEE

David Froehlich

Dave Froehlich anchors Fox 7 Austin's "Good Day Austin" Monday through Friday from 4:30-10 AM.

Dave is a Houston native and University of Texas graduate whose 20 year TV career has also included stops in Kansas City, Corpus Christi, Amarillo and Colorado.

Dave and his wife Mariah live just outside of Austin with their two children and four rescue pets.



ENTERTAINMENT

Kenzie Slottow

Kenzie Slottow enjoys occupying the space between genres with her expressive and creatively percussive style of flute-playing. During her education as a classical flautist (BM University of Michigan, MM University of Texas), she explored Irish, Hindustani, and bluegrass music, and later incorporated beatboxing and looping into her musical toolkit. In 2015 Kenzie released "Hold It Up To The Sun," an EP set of original music for flute and electronics. As a proponent of contemporary electronic music, Kenzie has collaborated with electroacoustic composers and premiered works at conferences such as SEAMUS and LATex composition conferences, the National Flute Association Convention, and Root Signals Electronic Music Festival. Her own compositions include looped flute soundscapes as well as duos for flute/guitar and flute/marimba (listen at www.kenzieslottow.com).



Kenzie identifies as a storyteller, thriving on opportunities to combine art forms and diverse media to create narratives. Some of her favorite past projects include flute and acting improv with immersive dance theater company NunaMaana, choreographed solo performances of Kay He's On The Axis of an Abandoned Carousel, and working with the Kruger Brothers on their bluegrass chamber opera, Spirit of the Rockies. Current projects include modern folk band FlecHaus and leading large group improvisation sessions using a technique called Conduction.

Kenzie wanders the US as a digital nomad from her home base of Austin, Texas. She is currently honing her creative writing and music composition skills and searching for the next big adventure.



ELA

The music of Ela is crossover appeal mixed with familiar country charm. Armed with bold lyrics that speak to the inner dream child in all of us... Ela's ability to weave a story through song is her distinct talent. Quitting her creative job in San Francisco to pursue her full-time dream of being a singer/songwriter in Austin, Texas. Ela is now known as a dynamic power player in the Austin scene and a performing powerhouse on stage. Never looking back, Ella is set to continue her take over with original music coming this spring 2019.

Ela - Ella Reid is the most identifiable singer and songwriter you will hear this year. Reid puts down music that can't be easily compared to anyone working today. Her latest release, Big Girl Pants, is a perfect introduction to Ela's world and unique musical vision. She easily blends pop melodies with country sounds, storytelling and the drive and glamour of rock and roll, giving fans songs they can't stop singing.



DJ Squake

Squake has been a nightclub DJ since early 2003. Breaking into the scene when jungle/drum & bass was still the true underground sound of U.S. dance music, Squake became instantly addicted to the vibe while attending the legendary Respect weekly club nights in L.A. from 99' - 03'. Inspired by greats like MC Fats, A-Sides, Bailey, Andy C, Total Science, & Marcus Intalex, Squake pushes boundaries with genres, and holds intensely long mixes, utilizing 3 decks making his live performance a wild ride through all styles of boogie, funk, hip-hop and dance music. Squake has regular international tours happening every summer and a weekly radio spot on Bassdrive.com, so there are plenty of chances to catch him live in the mix. In July 2009, Represent Radio was launched on Bassdrive.com by your host presenter Squake, and hit

the ground running. Broadcast on a weekly basis every Friday from 5pm to 7pm central time, Squake keeps his show fresh showcasing the newest released tunes, forthcoming dubs, and of course the classic anthems you have all grown to love. Inspired by all factors of music, Squake delivers a powerhouse mix covering the full spectrum of funk, jungle, drum & bass, hip hop, reggae and house beats each and every week. A veteran club DJ, producer, scene designer, promoter, and long time jungle punter, Squake's experience and knowledge of the scene shines through when you hear him live in the mix.

BOOKINGS : representradio@gmail.com

FACEBOOK: facebook.com/representradio

TWITTER : [@representsquake](https://twitter.com/representsquake)

MIXCLOUD: mixcloud.com/squakebassdrive

INSTAGRAM : [@djsquake](https://www.instagram.com/djsquake)

SOUNDCLOUD: soundcloud.com/squake

PARTICIPATING ARTISTS AND INDIVIDUALS TOUCHED BY CANCER
MEET THE MATCHES

INSPIRATIONS

Amanda Salazar
Kathy Davis Gray
Charlotte Warren
Johanna K Kenney
Irene Martinez-Cezon
Keith Hennessy
Katie Forsythe
Jereme Brinkmann
Judy Waxman
Courtney Stanz
Carrie Stewart
Kim Kass
Keryn Hawthorne
Amy Newton
Angela Fuller
Rakefet Laviolette
Adan Zylberberg
Shelly Bain
Karen Hidalgo
Bob Kaufman
Patricia Totten
Krystal Lucero
Christina Bain
Alana Dugandzic
Nancy Carpenter

ARTISTS

Casie Warnke
Mary Ann Nailos
J.R. Rapier
Laura B. McCarty
Beatriz Cezon
Beatriz Cezon
Julie Pelaez
John Weber
Shawna Stroup Billet
Cindy Gautschy Goldsberry
Nathan Nordstrom
Amanda Walker
Sylvia Arabian
Linda Dumont
Erin Greganti
Sherri Lipman McCauley
Annie McAulay
Arielle Austin
Gino Greganti
Bryan & Liz Kuntz & Ricky Kimball
Angela Navarro
Erin Harris
Adri Baker
Kenzie Slottow
Morgan McBride

Amanda Salazar and Casie Warnke



Amanda Salazar
Cibolo, TX
Survivor

Twist on Cancer: Life has changed so much since I was diagnosed. I want nothing more than to feel like my old self. Although I struggle with the 'new normal, I also appreciate the new perspectives I am left with. I find that I worry about fewer things and am more honest with myself than ever before. I have learned to take in the calm and grow from that. I do not know what lies ahead, I just know I need to make the most of it.

Casie Warnke
Austin, TX
artbycasie.com

Artist Statement: Cancer doesn't just affect the person diagnosed, it affects their entire family. I was fortunate enough to be matched with Amanda who was diagnosed with breast cancer on her 31st birthday. She was already married and has two sons who were 6 and 9 at the time. I wanted to shed some light from the perspective of a child witnessing a parent battle a serious illness and go through physical changes. In the innocent and fragile world of a child, it's a very terrifying and traumatic circumstance. There are many emotions that are difficult to understand and process. I want to be a voice for them having had experience with it myself. I decided to portray Amanda as Rosie the Riveter because if she can conquer cancer while also having a family to care for, she can conquer anything. I also portrayed her sons as WW11 welders. One reason was, of course, a nod to the times, but the main reason is that those two boys are the ones who hold their mother together. She is made of steel and if she somehow falls apart she will be okay because a mother lives for her children and they are the ones who she fights for. Going through something like this together makes a family stronger.



1.

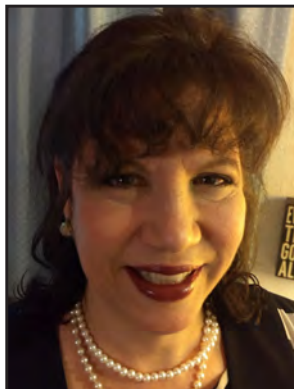
“Heart of Steel”

Pastels

24 x 36

\$1000

Kathy Davis Gray and Mary Ann Nailos



Kathy Davis Gray

Austin, TX

Survivor

Twist on Cancer: Life is basically an acronym for Love Is For Everyone! With this view, we can handle whatever journey presents itself to us. My name is Kathy Davis Gray, and I am a faith-filled mom of three and a joyful survivor of Triple Negative Breast Cancer! I wholeheartedly believe that it is our mission on earth to share love and spread positive energy in all situations. I embrace the saying that, "It is all about how you handle Plan B!" A positive outlook coupled with faith, family, and friends can pull you through anything.

My journey with cancer helped Dr. Debra Patt (my hero) and me prove that you can be allergic to the chemo that is supposed to save you, reject implants, and yet THRIVE! God carries us when we need it and reveals daily miracles. Cancer has many positives. Yes, you read that correctly. Find positives in your own challenges and acknowledge them in others.

Here is a challenge: rearrange the letters in the word cancer to find other words. Rearrange how you see the world and share blessings daily! Look at challenges with "color" rather than just black and white. Perhaps you will see them transform into inspirational life-artworks instead!

I was blessed to meet Mary Ann Nailos, my inspirational artist, who herself is a cancer survivor! She is an artist AND a business woman! She is creative, joyful and shares my belief that life is a gorgeous explosion of color, love, and concentric circles of growth.

Mary Ann Nailos

Austin, TX

Artist Statement: My name is Mary Ann Nailos. I am a mixed media artist with a focus on textiles and ceramics. I love color, texture and the direct hands-on process of making with cloth and clay.

One of the things I find essential to my work, or work that speaks to me, is the hand of the maker. That is why I chose to work in both ceramics and textiles. Each require a high degree of touch in the making of the art.

This means using some amount of hand stitching on any textile piece I make. Hand stitching is an intimate act, allowing me to slow down and contemplate the piece, giving it energy that is hard to describe. I hope that resonates with the viewer, making them stop and contemplate, and if I am very lucky, form a connection.

Kathy Gray and I share a positive and optimistic outlook. I was in awe of her resilience and ability to juggle so many aspects of her life while going through treatment. She said it was “all about how you manage Plan B”. I chose to celebrate her joy using vivid hand-dyed and painted fabrics and the dancing central figure. “Plan B” is the word that forms the mandala, repeated into a circle. Her personal symbols of faith, love, home and journey appear in the Milagros on the corners. I named the piece with a haiku - Triple Negative, Temporary Obstacle, In My Joyful Life.



2.

**“Triple Negative, Temporary
Obstacle in My Joyful Life”**

Hand dyed and painted cloth,
paint, imitation gold leaf
28 x 41

\$1200

Charlotte Warren and J.R. Rapier



Charlotte Warren

Austin, TX

Survivor

Twist on Cancer: As a survivor a common misperception is that life gets easier after cancer. But that's not always true, and even though we may be aware of our personal strength, sometimes we need a reminder that we are powerful beyond measure! My twist reminds me of the vintage 90's t-shirt, "No Fear". When I was young that was my favorite surf logo and it proved to be fitting for my cancer experience. I had always found my confidence and courage from within, I had to, however going through cancer gave me a new brand of resilience. There is nothing left that I couldn't stare down, push through, survive. I've been tested more than I thought possible, and my fighting strategy is to "keep showing up"... in life, and for life. Also, one of the biggest lessons I learned was about taking care of my own well-being. When I was sick I spent too much time worrying about how everyone else was handling my cancer diagnosis, I wish I had put that energy into my own well-being and mental health. Because no one gets to skip that part. And now, I've grown from survivor to thriver! The cancer diagnosis was arbitrary however being able to recover and pursue a quality of life was up to me - and it's the least I can do to show gratitude for making it through an unimaginable trauma. Instead of resenting the hard experience to get here, I'm showing gratitude for this courageous light to shine and help others.

J.R. Rapier

jrrapier.com

Artist Statement: The Warrior survives the deep waters with her innate will and resilience to overcome her struggle with life. With each ocean current she is vigilant, but is eager to endure what the forceful sea asks of her. Her nature is to be reserved from the rest of the world, so she becomes isolated, and in this solitude she finds life in the darkness of her existence. With that experience, she develops the complexity of her own understanding of self, and she camouflages herself to protect what feels vulnerable and threatening to her core. Riding the waves of transformation, her illusion of brokenness falls away into acceptance. This Warrior's love and acceptance of self rises from the depths of her soul to grow into the divine light from above. Within that light she nurtures her awakening into forgiveness and compassion for all previously held judgments, and for all those still burdened.



3.

“The Warrior in the Sea”

Oil on canvas

30 x 40

\$2000

Jo Kenney and Laura B. McCarty



Jo Kenney
Austin, TX
Survivor

Twist on Cancer: It's strange being diagnosed at 40 and trying to find your rhythm again at 40 something. Not quite a young adult, not quite a "traditional" cancer survivor. You're not sure what world you belong to as most young cancer support groups cutoff at 39, and other support groups are geared to those of an age who can meet in the middle of the day. I made the choice that I was going to invite myself in to those young adult groups; those groups that explore intimacy, dating after cancer, working through and after cancer, and even seek adventure. The "blessing" of cancer has been these relationships, these experiences, these moments that remind you that life is beautiful. Scars are strange creatures, they can define us, remind us of the pain and anger all why reminding us of our strength and the beauty we still possess. I am still here, I matter, and despite of everything cancer has taken, there is a lot of living yet to do. Being scared, being scarred, is part of the journey, but it does not have to define me. This is hard; this living after cancer, but it's worth every moment. I have learned to push through my boundaries, to go out and live it. Before cancer I was always putting things off, I'll go when I can afford it, when I have more time, when I have someone to go with me. So many whens, and so few nows; well now is today.

Laura B. McCarty
Granite Shoals, TX

Artist Statement: When I met Jo, she talked about so many supportive aspects of her journey, I had difficulty choosing what to paint. But when she talked about her dog and companion, Mika, and how Mika was the reason she even got out of bed most days, I knew Mika was the motivation behind Jo's fight with her battle against breast cancer. Everyone says dogs are a human's best friend, but in this case, Mika was Jo's lifeline.



4.

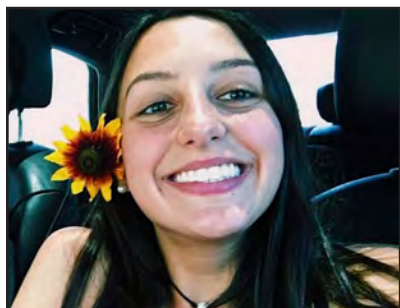
"Mika"

Acrylic

24 x 36

\$900

Irene Martinez-Cezon and Beatriz Cezon



Irene Martinez-Cezon

Austin, TX

Previvor

Twist on Cancer: My cancer experience has been the hardest, yet most crucial part of my life that has formed me into the person I am today. Prior to my experience, I never lived in the present and always worried about what my next step in life would be. Although this experience brought me anger, frustration, agonizing pain, uncertainty and immense fear, it also gave me the ability to realize what the true purpose of life is. Life is meant to be enjoyed. This means that I no longer miss out on sunsets, I go swimming at the river every week, I paint for fun, I listen to music with the volume on max and I tell the people I love that I love them. I live in the present and I enjoy the one and only life I was given because tomorrow is never guaranteed.

Beatriz Cezon

Austin, TX

Artist Statement: This piece of colorful hand sculpted porcelain was inspired by my 16 year old daughter and her love for sunflowers which is represented as my daughter in this piece. Thinking of a younger blossoming flower that is nurtured by mother nature's rain and warm sunshine taking its natural path of growing into a beautiful vibrant flower. In the case of my daughter her growth was abruptly altered when a tumor was found. The fragile break in the sunflower shows my daughters internal fight for her health and her fear of the unknown. As you can see through the peace the health of the flower as a whole stayed alive and well through the broken difficult times. The dark center that you can see through the fractured area represents the unknown in the darkest of times. The sunflower although it had a flaw in it the sun with its amazing powerful energy stood strong and brought life back to the flower. Never underestimate the magical powers of the beautiful sunflower.



5.

"Magical flower"

Ceramic

32 diameter

\$1800

Keith Hennessy and Beatriz Cezon



Keith Hennessy

Austin, TX

Survivor

Twist on Cancer: When I was first diagnosed with lung cancer, I thought briefly my life was soon to come to an end. After time with family and friends researching what was available at the time, I began meeting with doctors, chemo therapists, radiologists, and surgeons to put together what I call my “dream team”. My best chances for survival were to move forward with a resection and radiation treatment. The number one thing on my list remained my mental stability and physical health based on eastern medicine practices. I thought constantly about my hopes, dreams, and goals that I had for myself long after I would survive from this crazy ordeal I had currently been faced with.

Some doctors thought I would have approximately a year left of my life, but in my mind I had far too many things to accomplish. I had a brand new baby coming into this world, and I knew that being there for her was my true purpose in life. The mind is a very strong tool which can help us through so many trials and tribulations of our lives. One of my family members would say to always “hope, dream, pray, and believe.” My saying was “keep our lucky on.” I’m Irish and we are known for our stubbornness and I was determined to not give up. It’s now 20 years later, and I’m healthy! I have raised my child and I’m standing on my own two feet and enjoying life to the fullest each and every day.

When I wake and see the ceiling fan spinning, it’s another beautiful day. God is Good.

Beatriz Cezon

Austin, TX

Artist Statement: This human heart is made of porcelain ceramic along with many paints, glazes and fire time in the kiln. Much different than the human heart that lied in my husband’s chest diseased with cancer. Working on the piece of art as I laid out some of his thoughts and feelings that he had over his two-year

ordeal. I thought, at times, this project was difficult but nowhere near as difficult as the pain and efforts of many people to pull him through his trying times. As I was painting and thinking of the many people who fight cancer each and every day, tears rolled down my face.

I wrote a few of my husband's thoughts and key things that kept him motivated, hopeful and driven to beat his cancer. These words and ideas that are painted around the heart were things he thought of and used in his everyday life.

My husband Keith would say "Keep Your Lucky On."

In retrospect the construction and painting of the piece of this heart was to some degree exciting knowing that at one point he was given about a year to live and 19 years later I am able to do this piece of artwork in his honor with him by my side.



6.
"Circles of Values"
Ceramic
34 diameter
\$1800

Katie Forsythe and Julie Pelaez



Katie Forsythe
Fort Worth, TX
Survivor

Twist on Cancer: My twist on cancer is that it has taught me to embrace suffering. I can now see that suffering can be a gift — it strengthens, sharpens, illuminates. My experience with cancer strengthened my faith by forcing me to surrender control and trust in something greater than myself. It has sharpened my vision by teaching me to see beyond my present circumstances. It has illuminated my purpose by helping me see that I am called to be a voice of hope to others who are in the darkness. Suffering has made me who I am today and I wouldn't want to be anyone else.

Julie Pelaez
Austin, TX
juliepelaezstudios.com

Artist Statement: Getting to know Katie these past few months has been effortless and humbling. In our first conversation, Katie claimed she knew why we were paired together — there was something I had said about letting go of control and surrendering in my painting process that mirrored her mindset while battling cancer. Hearing her story, elements immediately rose to the top. For example, I was struck by the paralleled visual resemblance of tethered Neuroblastoma nerve cells to that of an interconnected community of family, friends, and doctors coming together to support Katie through her illness. This is symbolized in the background layer of purple shapes connected by green strands, their double meaning illustrating the best that rose out of the worst of circumstances. Overseeing and eclipsing all of this is Katie's faith symbolized in metallic. She repeatedly went through what she called a "Cycle of Suffering" where she would find herself at low points — be it from inconclusive test results, painful side effects, or ineffective treatments — only to surrender to God, who would then always provide relief and healing in some way, just not necessarily in the form she had originally imagined. Her ongoing cycle of suffering > surrender > salvation is represented by the continuous circular gradation of black to lavender to purple. After a three-year journey and recent remission status, cancer is hopefully forever behind Katie, but her lessons of surrender over control will undoubtedly influence her course ahead, as well as those around her, myself included.



7.
“Suffering, Surrender, and Salvation”

Alcohol ink

24 x 36

\$400

Jereme Brinkmann and John Weber



Jereme Brinkmann

Round Rock, TX

Survivor

Twist on Cancer: In September, 2017 while working for the Williamson County Sheriff's Office, I was deployed to Houston to assist in the swift water rescue efforts during Hurricane Harvey. I spent a week helping Houstonians escape their flooded homes. Upon returning home I became extremely ill. I had inexplicable cramps and nausea. I assumed it was a bacterial infection from the flood waters. However, after several months of blood tests, food charts, and CT scans; a bacterial infection was ruled out. In January of 2018, my doctor suggested more exploratory testing. As I waited for my first colonoscopy, I was prepared for a diagnosis of diverticulitis or Crohn's disease. Instead, I woke up from the procedure to my partner's scared face and the diagnosis of Cancer.

After the initial shock and fear, I knew I would fight and beat this. We hadn't made it home from the procedure, before my gastro's office was calling with instructions and scheduling. Within two days, I was meeting my surgeon, Dr. Steven Fass, and my oncologist, Dr. Brian Shimkus. On February 5, 2018 I was admitted to Seton Medical Hospital in Austin. In a few short hours, over a foot of my colon and surrounding lymph nodes were removed.

During my treatment at Austin Cancer Center I was diagnosed with Lynch Syndrome. I have a gene that predisposes me to cancer. I am currently cancer free. I know Harvey was a terrible storm that affected many lives, but it possibly saved mine.

John Weber

Buda, TX

dubsteel.com

Artist Statement: As far back as I can remember, I have enjoyed creating. My daily work is building stainless steel kinetic sculpture and through the influence of my mentor, I have been introduced into the life of being

an artist and a world of possibilities. I've been working with stainless steel for twelve years, watching my pieces span many different styles, from organic to industrial. The final piece of art is usually the result of 2 or 3 evolutions that occur as I work. Through my art I have been introduced to new artists, new ideas, friendships, organizations, collaborations, and partnerships. I'm excited to be a part of Brushes with Cancer, bringing my conversations with Jereme to life. "Hell or High Water" is a representation of the Red Tailed Hawk, an animal Jereme expressed his appreciation for and kinship with. I've also included aspects of the hawk rising above water, reflecting the journey he embarked before his cancer diagnosis. As a kinetic sculpture, "Hell or High Water" will soar with the wind. As a "spirit animal", the Red Tailed Hawk represents vision beyond our ties to the world directly around us, allowing us to grow into the duty of our true self.



8.

"Hell or High Water"

Stainless Steel and Glass

72 x 36

\$8000

Judy Waxman and Shawna Stroup Billet



Judy Waxman

Austin, TX

Survivor

Twist on Cancer: I still twist and turn when I think about cancer, but there were silver linings. I was diagnosed 6 years ago. I remember the day vividly. The next day, I was at M.D Anderson, my husband by my side. My leukemia was rare/aggressive, but if remission, and a donor found, I could have a stem cell transplant. My only hope. I would have treatment at MD Anderson for 7 months needing 24/7 care. Without being asked, our 3 children took control making sure I was never alone. They found a yoga instructor to help me. They took turns and enlisted dear friends to stay with me. They cared for me, made me laugh, and held my hand. Today, I live a new normal, and a part of me is now my donor. I will always be grateful to all who helped, and gave me those silver linings.

Shawna Stroup Billet

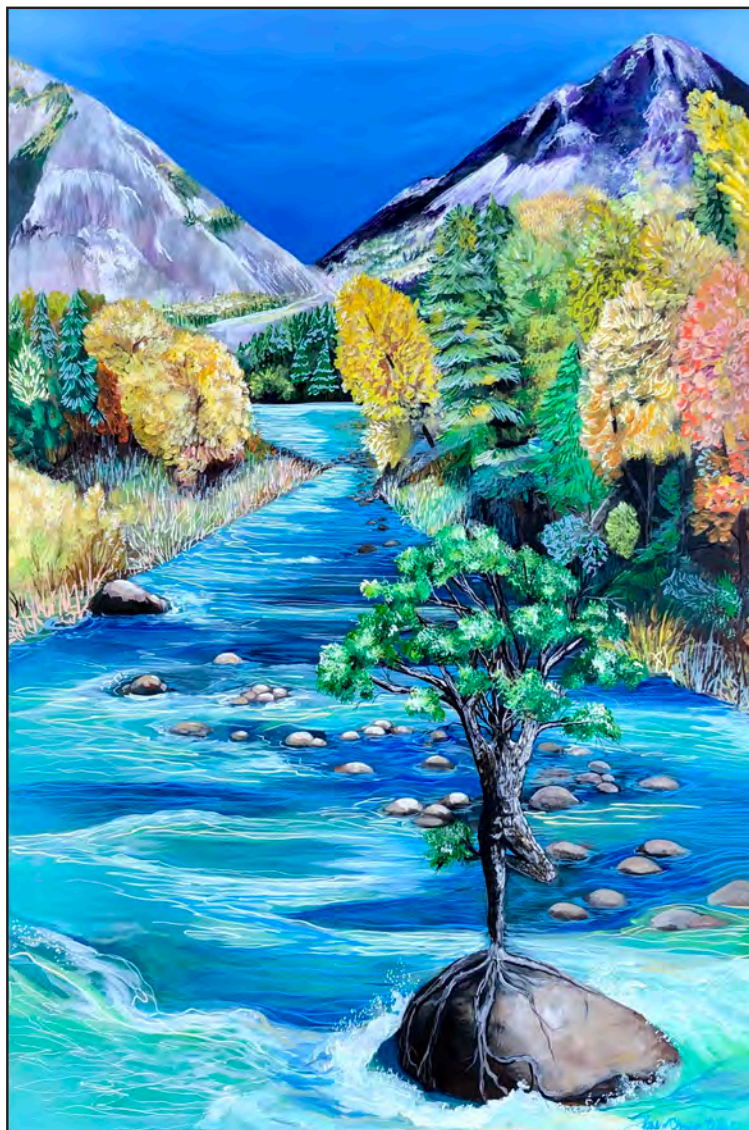
Houston, TX

shawnastroupbillet.com

Artist Statement: In February I had lost my father-in-law to this terrible disease and wanted a way to get me through this difficult time. I saw a “call-for-artists” advertised through a gallery that I show with in Austin, and I immediately took this as a sign that I needed to participate. I was paired with Judy as my inspiration and there was an instant connection. We bonded over our love for travel, family, and exercise. As we began to speak of her battle with cancer, many images began to flood my mind. Her joyful and brave spirit really pushed me to see her path to a positive light. Although her experiences may not have been easy, the work of art clearly reflects the support and love that got her through.

This work is created with acrylic and acrylic inks. The images are a collaboration of symbolism that became clear to me during our conversations. The atmosphere is inspired from Judy and her husband’s “Happy Place” of Aspen, Colorado. Judy is the tree in a yoga pose with leaves blooming and flourishing. Her roots

are strong and are holding on to the rock, which represents her family. The rough waters of the river are a symbol of the cancer that she has overcome and will continue to monitor throughout her life. The symbols came together to unify the piece into a colorful landscape. I am truly moved by this experience and am grateful to Brushes With Cancer for introducing me to my new friend, Judy.



9.
**“Everything that Kills Me
Makes Me Feel Alive”**
Acrylic & acrylic ink
24 x 36
\$500

Courtney Stanz and Cindy Gautschy Goldsberry



Courtney Stanz

Round Rock, TX

Survivor

Twist on Cancer: At age 30, I was diagnosed with ovarian cancer after having grapefruit-sized tumors removed from both ovaries in 2017. After this initial surgery, my husband and I tried to conceive and were unsuccessful - despite every fertility test being normal. Last summer my oncologist removed my right ovary, right Fallopian tube and appendix. She also removed a tumor on my liver and two tumors in my abdominal lining. After recovering, I quickly harvested eggs and had another surgery to remove my remaining ovary and Fallopian tube. My beautiful, kind-hearted seven year old daughter is my mini me, and a talented little artist. She is pure joy and the magic in my life. Our birth dates are two days apart. Being her mom is a gift, and I do not take it for granted that I am still here for her. My husband and I have always wanted another child and our daughter is very excited to be a big sister. My twist on cancer is embracing hope. Being given the chance to complete the egg retrieval process (which thankfully resulted in two frozen embryos) has enabled me to hope throughout this very difficult journey. Hope has made me stronger through each ultrasound, injection, blood test, scan, surgery and recovery - and the physical, emotional pain and anxiety they cause. I refuse to let cancer prevent me from having the second child I have always dreamed of. Our family will eventually be complete with this second baby: my miracle in progress.

Cindy Gautschy Goldsberry

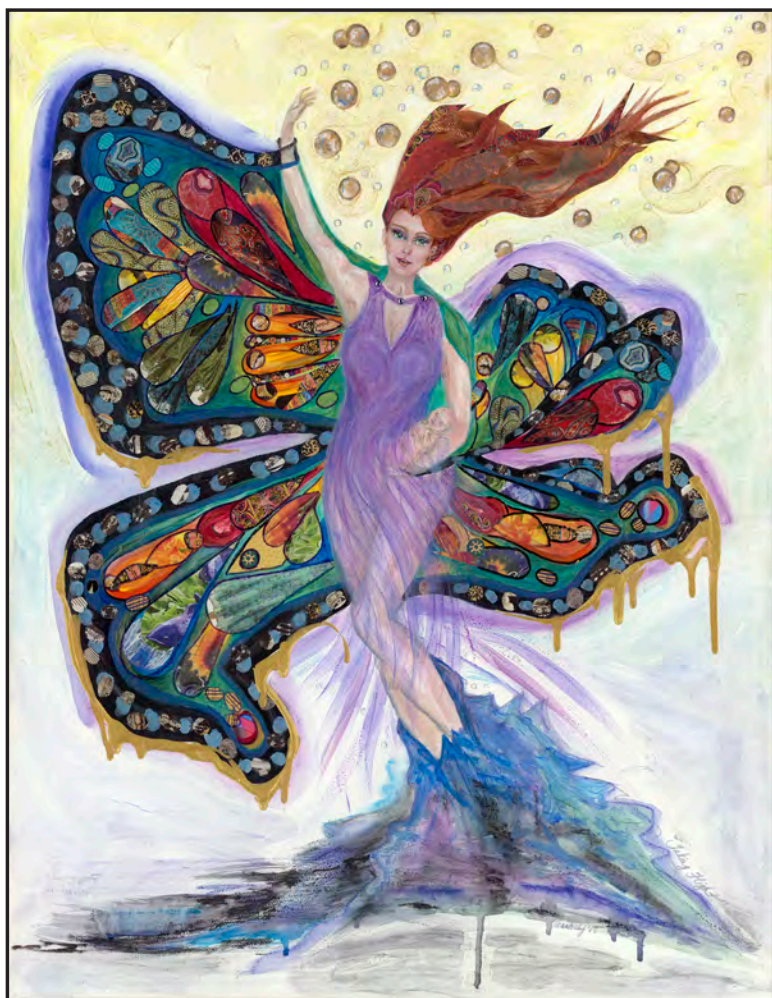
Austin, TX

gautschy.com

Artist Statement: Meeting Courtney for the first time was like reuniting with a long-time friend. What I thought might be an awkward conversation because of differences in age or experiences has turned into a wonderful relationship that has been healing for both of us. Courtney is so fearless, inspired and genuine. She adores her artistic daughter and loving husband. She has survived ovarian cancer and at 32 is determined to have another child through the wonders of science. At the time this statement is being

written, her first IVF from her own embryos is just 3 weeks away!

I am not a professional artist, and really did this project on a whim. I will be forever changed, however, by having been involved. "Taking Flight" represents Courtney's flight out of cancer's dense emotional, physical and mental dross. This is meant to show her beautiful attitude inside and out to persevere and thrive in life. The butterfly wings show how new this emergence from the chrysalis has been, and how much she has continued to deal with. This magical representation of Courtney's journey shows the child that is desired in their family. She is a previvor of breast cancer, and I am a 2x survivor. As mastectomy is likely in her future, I will be there to support her from my experience. We can share that journey. It has been a blessing to meet and grow this special friendship with Courtney.



10.

"Taking Flight"

Acrylic and special

papers

30 x 24

\$750

Carrie Stewart and Nathan Nordstrom



Carrie Stewart

Austin, TX

Survivor

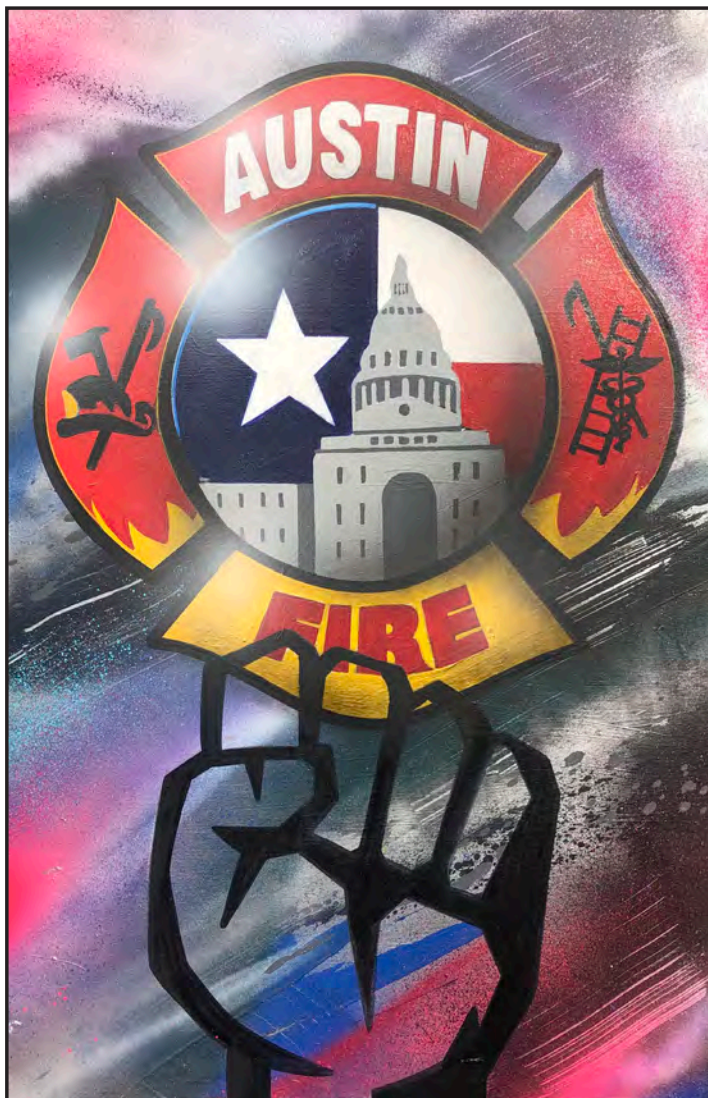
Twist on Cancer: As a firefighter who has fought cancer, there have been obstacles unique to the job and working for a City entity while there are protections and presumptive law. My cancer was covered as a Worker's Compensation illness, because of the increased risk for firefighters and cancer. I was also sued for those benefits, and that also created a unique experience. And if I take profession out of my experience, I think we all have to be respectful of the different perspectives that can exist with different diagnoses and illnesses. I didn't have to go through chemo or radiation, and I realize that even though I've had cancer and will think about it every day for the rest of my life, that others have experienced a much different and more difficult path than I had to go down.

Nathan Nordstrom

Austin, TX

Slokeone.com

Artist Statement: I was deeply moved by Carrie's story of overcoming the challenges and surviving cancer. I was unaware of the risks firefighters deal with everyday with the burn off from fighting fires. Carrie's story to me is a story of courage, perseverance, and triumph. Carrie is still a firefighter and leading a life of service making others aware of the dangers and risks involved with burn offs. My piece represents a local hero whose advocacy is standing up for firefighters rights.



10.

“Service to Others”

Spray paint and acrylic

24 x 36

\$1000

Kim Kass and Amanda Walker



Kim Kass
Austin, TX
Survivor

Twist on Cancer: Cancer was a sucker punch to the gut when I was diagnosed. It's been a scary journey that I never would have chosen to go on. Cancer has also done a great deal of good. It's given me confidence, an appreciation for who I am and the life I have and I will never take myself, the life that I'm living or the people in my life for granted again. I am a wife. I am a mom. I am a daughter and granddaughter. I am a sister. I am a friend. I am a fighter. I am a cancer survivor.

Amanda Walker

Austin, TX

[instagram.com/teratologystudio](https://www.instagram.com/teratologystudio)

Artist Statement: Making this artwork to tell Kim Kass's story has been an honor for me. Kim compared having breast cancer and chemotherapy as like "being in a volcano," and that was the starting point for the piece: a figure rising out of a volcanic and smoky hell. Every image here was inspired by her story of fear, love, faith, determination, and bravery.

The text in this piece is from an original 1878 medical textbook, the star map is an original from 1903, and the eyes are Kim's. The embroidery was done by hand.

Kim told me that the central message of her piece should be "cancer will not defeat me;" and there is no doubt that such a strong figure with such powerful wings, so much determination, and so much love, will pull free of the volcano.



12.

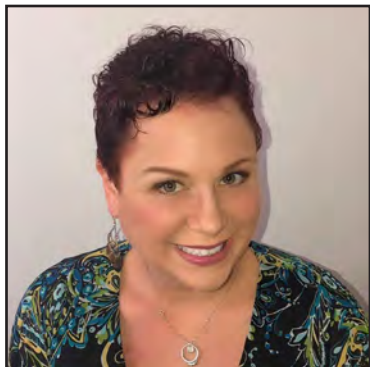
“All'alba Vincero”

Silk hand embroidery, collage, barbed wire, poster board, acrylic paint on canvas

28 x 37

\$2500

Keryn Hawthorne and Sylvia Arabian



Keryn Hawthorne

Austin, TX

Survivor

Twist on Cancer: Cancer, for me, has been a process of learning to slow down, listen to my body, and respect myself. I've cherished the support I've received and experiences I've gained from my family and community, but in order to do so I've had to learn how to give up control, trust others, and accept help. I've also learned that sometimes it's ok to let things go. My learning curve for these life lessons has been long and slow, but I continue to try to live them everyday. Most of all, this journey has been about adjusting my priorities, learning to appreciate small things and little wins, and finding my zen.

Sylvia Arabian

Austin, TX

sylviaarabian.com

Artist Statement: This portrait of Keryn represents the legacy of her past, a moment of the present, and a prediction of her future. Pulling techniques, symbolism and styles from Renaissance illustrated manuscripts and Art Nouveau artist Gustav Klimt (noted for his painting "The Kiss"), Keryn is surrounded and dressed in the vibrant colors of royalty. Behind her is a small amount of gold coin shapes while she looks to the sky at her gilded future. The gold coins represent prosperity and success while circles symbolize unity and life. Squares portray stability, and the triangles illustrate strength. The waves in her clothing refers to the highs and lows of her life, while the bold colors represent her power. This painting is a celebration encompassing the trials and successes of Keryn's past, and the inspiring force she brings to her future.



13.
 "Inspired by Keryn"

Acrylic on wood

24 x 36

\$1500

Amy Newton and Linda Dumont



Amy Newton
Dripping Springs, TX
Survivor

Twist on Cancer: Trauma creates changes you don't choose. Healing creates changes you do choose. Also, putting on lip gloss and doing a cartwheel helps!

Linda Dumont
Austin, TX
dumontfinearts.com

Artist Statement: From the initial studio visit, Amy moved past the large abstracts that are my signature. Not until this project was complete did she and I fully understand how much Amy needed me to express her feelings beyond canvas to three dimensions, declaring that she would like for the journey to no longer be defined by sadness and fear that once had silenced her.

Chronic myeloid leukemia is a rare blood-cell cancer that began in the bone marrow and engulfed Amy's whole body; creating a torso seemed natural. Amy's spirit and strength are symbolized by the feminine, but it is a torso filled with holes representing the pain from cancer - isolation, unexpressed feelings, and of continuing symptoms from daily chemotherapy.

The torso rotates from the subtle pink shoulder to a bathing suit that contains and cups life itself. As turned, a swath of blue with dots represents new adventures. This is a woman meant to be seen, heard, and to bloom with new life.



14.
**“Torso With Silent
 Conversation”**
 Clay sculpture
 22 x 15
\$3000/ea



Angela Fuller and Erin Greganti



Angela Fuller

Austin, TX

Survivor

Twist on Cancer: On October 23, 2013 I was diagnosed with stage II Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma. I was also 10 weeks pregnant. I was told by two oncologists, a prenatal specialist, and my OBGYN that my chances of surviving the pregnancy through term was around 20%, because my type of NHL was very rare and spreading rapidly. Our daughter, Sydney, was 5 at the time, and all I could think about was that I need to live for her. My husband and I wanted this baby so very much, but after the four different opinions, we decided to terminate, so I could begin chemotherapy right away. I gave up a life so I could live. No words can describe that decision until it is yours to make. Cancer has taught me that even though it's something none of us plan for, or ever want, it affects all of us in one form or another. Through lots therapy, I've accepted my decision, and the consequences, but that doesn't mean I'll ever forget or be the same person I was on the day I was diagnosed. It's taken 6 years, and I'm still trying to learn who the new me is, but I do know for certain that I am a SURVIVOR. I never wanted this title, but with the words inscribed on my wrist, I make sure I earn it every day. I survive for my family and friends who stood by me, and for the ones I have lost along the way.

Erin Greganti

Austin, TX

erg-art.com

Artist Statement: My inspiration has an astonishing story full of trauma and triumph. The fact she survived cancer is amazing, but the fact she survived her story is nothing short of a miracle. The choices put in front of her were unfathomable. Ultimately, she chose life, not only for herself but also for her incredible husband and her wonderful daughter. Knowing her story really encouraged me to find a way to honor her survival and not her struggle. This piece is inspired by a story she told me. I recalled her saying "It was a perfect moment, no stress from work or family, just a blissful moment alone." In that moment she seemed to be completely comfortable, something I myself am always struggling to find.

So, I named this piece “One Foot in Front of the Other” It is meant to highlight that every day can be a struggle, but happiness is found in those perfect little moments, where one is momentarily comfortable in their own skin.

My experience with Brushes with Cancer has been remarkable, the sharing of the story was cathartic, but the time spent creating this piece was unbelievable. I pushed my capabilities to new heights. I loved the fact that there weren’t any restrictions. It really allowed me to think outside the box and be creative with my solutions, while exploring new mediums.



15.

“One Foot in Front of the Other”

Acrylic and multimedia

48 x 48

\$2500

Rakefet Laviolette and Sherri Lipman McCauley



Rakefet Laviolette

Austin, TX

Thrifer

Twist on Cancer: Breast cancer has been my most profound teacher. I've learned how to be vulnerable and open, how to request and receive with grace, and how to let myself feel the love of my community without guilt. The cancer journey has given me a new sense of purpose in life. I'm starting graduate school for Mental Health Counseling so that I can help others navigate their lives with more joy and ease.

Sherri Lipman McCauley

Lakeway, TX

SherriLipmanMcCauley.blogspot.com

Artist Statement: Spending time with Rakefet is a joy. She is inspirational and courageous. Her journey has included ups and downs, and has not always been easy. I tried to capture her easy-going personality with the stress of her cancer diagnosis and treatments. No voyage has a straight pathway. Finding a doctor you trust and a treatment plan you can live with is a challenge. Nothing is black and white. My intent is to depict cancer as a darkness, that with treatment, can emerge into a lightness, encompassing color and joy. If you look closely, the upper left section of this piece of artwork has the word cancer cut up and redistributed in an incomprehensible manner. I have incorporated shades of black and gray to depict this. The piece then morphs into colors that Rakefet favors-turquoise, blue, yellow and purple. These colors travel an irregular path as the artwork travels from darkness to joy. Note the inclusion of circles and spirals, shapes we both favor, as they change in shape from irregular to orderly. The irregular shapes remind me of the chaos that comes with the initial diagnosis, changing to the semblance of order as treatments are set in place. Even in happy times, there may be a touch of darkness alongside the joy. I like to think these colors will continue to bring healing light and happiness to Rakefet, and all others that come to deal with cancer. My work is abstract in design, but my sentiment is sincere in content.



16.

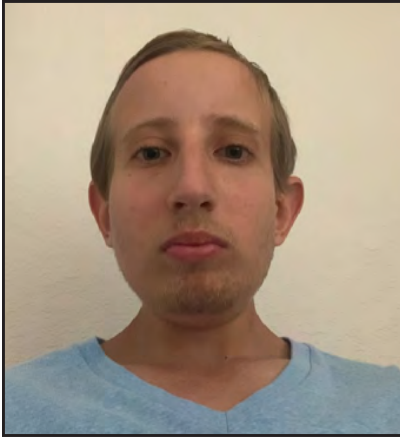
"Inspired"

Fiber

33.5 x 29.5

\$1450

Adan Zylberberg and Annie McAulay



Adan Zylberberg

Austin, TX

Survivor

Twist on Cancer: Cancer was and still is what reminds me that If I was able to survive such a horrible thing, then I can get through anything life wants to throw at me.

Annie McAulay

Spring, TX

fineartamerica.com/profiles/annie-mcaulay.html

Artist Statement: Upon speaking to Adan, I learned that he was very young when he had his brush with cancer. Even though he knew something was going on, he was too small to understand the grand scale of things and spent time watching television, sports, and playing. Play is so vital to a child's life that I wanted to create a piece that delved into the imagination he enthusiastically described.

In my piece, the child, Adan, plays with his superhero toys while his imagination and dreams for the future swirl above him. One of his favorites, Dr. Strange, spins his powers and slows time so that the boy can just be a kid. Animal shaped clouds play above his spot of shade and thoughts bubble up and develop into his ideal universe. I incorporated his dreams and favorites of Taekwondo, Supernatural, Marvel, DC, dogs, and sports along with more bubbles which represent his future dreams and aspirations. I hope my vision for Adan's piece incorporated the wonder, imagination, and joy that it truly was to be paired with him and create this art.



17.
“Escape into Imagination”
Oil paint on gallery canvas
30 x 48
\$500

Shelly Bain and Arielle Austin



Shelly Bain
Austin, TX
Survivor

Twist on Cancer: Cancer seemingly came out of nowhere to wreak havoc on my body, my mind and my family in 2014. At the age of 38, it had never crossed my mind that I could be diagnosed with stage 3 breast cancer. It profoundly shifted my life and the life of my husband and young children. But out of the difficulties of the journey we endured, there were many hidden graces and beautiful lessons. I learned to always look for the silver linings; they're often there if you seek them out.

Arielle Austin

Austin, TX
arielle-austin.com

Artist Statement: From a life of busyness to a full life of beauty, the heart of Shelly Bain is a true one. The curve and splatters are both a reminder of the sweet moments found while being mindful of the gift that is the present. Despite the feeling of enclosure breast cancer brought on, Shelly gained strength in the moments she rested in the truth that she was never truly alone. The warmth of the emerging colors simply reflect her heart and the beautiful company kept during her battle and bursting victory. Proof that, with an amazingly supportive community of family and friends to uplift you, stand by your side, and speak nothing but life and light over you, you cannot lose. It's no wonder that Shelly has been an open book of love and support to the women around her fighting the same fight. "Leave a trail of lights so others may find their way."



18.

“Trail of Lights”

Acrylic, graphite, pastel on canvas

24 x 30

\$675

Karen Hidalgo and Gino Greganti



Karen Hidalgo

Austin, TX

Survivor

Twist on Cancer: “Dance like nobody is watching”

It never crossed my mind that losing my father to cancer was only the beginning of my own dance with cancer...

When faced with my own battle years later, I believe that I survived and thrived by dancing, breath, movement and from the daily love and endless support of my tribe. Breakdowns turned into breakthroughs and I was ultimately given an opportunity to be a new version of myself when that chapter with cancer had closed. My greatest hopes today are that my daughters grow up feeling inspired, strong and courageous towards anything life puts in their way...and that they always choose to dance!

Gino Greganti

Austin, TX

bassdrive.com

Artist Statement: Karen’s story is one of pain, hope, determination, strength, and resilience. A part of Karen’s story that resonated with me was about having to let go of the person that she used to be before the cancer, and having to decide who she was going to be now. Karen’s confidence, strength and compassion lifted my spirit in ways I didn’t expect.

There is no real way to actually experience what Karen went through, but I do know what it feels like to have something happen that is out of your control. Karen did not get to choose to have cancer, but she did get to choose to survive. This must have taken a mastery of patience. The word Patience resonated heavily with me as I began to get ideas for the piece.

I wanted to eliminate the chance for procrastination, so I decided to do a process piece. I wanted the experience to be an art as well as the composition. This took an incredible amount of patience, as I created

the many elements. I used 100's of layers of drawings to illustrate the layers of ourselves that are not permanent. The many "layers" of life experiences that affect us do not make up our being. I believe at our core lies a spirit. That spirit is impenetrable, and we don't know what it looks like. The layers of life do not define us, our spirit does. I encased the piece in resin to make it permanent like the spirit.



19.
"Lifts Your Spirit"
Mixed media
32 x 38
\$1500

Bob Kaufman and Bryan & Liz Kuntz and Ricky Kimball



Bob Kaufman

Austin, TX

Survivor

Twist on Cancer: Stage IV Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma in January 2009. After six months of traditional therapy, I was equally surprised to learn that the cancer had returned. Following a successful stem cell transplant in 2010, I wrote Replenished, as a way to provide hope and encouragement for others facing blood cancers. I believe the what-to-expect story for those considering stem cell transplants has helped others in their own battles with their disease. This was my way of giving back to the cancer community that was so supportive of me during my fight

Bryan and Liz Kuntz with Ricky Kimball

Round Rock, TX

bryanKuntz.com

Artist Statement: We met our inspiration (Bob Kaufman) one evening for a brief introduction, he told us about his experience with stage 4 Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma. The three things that most impressed us about his story were the strong motivation to walk into the hospital and to walk out of the hospital after his treatment, that he wants to help others by telling his story, and that he now intends to live his life to the fullest extent. We used this inspiration to think and brainstorm over the following weeks. One night Bryan had a dream that was the main inspiration for the sculpture. The man is a figurative representation of Bob and his walk from cancer to cure. The words on the first page are Bob's words, taken directly from his book Replenished. These represent the unpleasant and challenging parts of his story. The second page is also Bob's words that represent the positive good days and outcomes of his story. And finally we named the sculpture Walking In, Walking out because that was a very profound part of Bob's story. It represents his strength and courage to follow through with the fight to beat his cancer.



20.

“Walking in Walking Out”

Mixed 3D

17 x 12.5 x 8

\$1800

Patricia Totten and Angela Navarro



Patricia Totten

Austin, TX

Survivor

Twist on Cancer: The moment that I stopped seeing myself as a victim of cancer, I found my purpose. Once I re-phrased the question from a helpless, “why did this happen to me?” to an empowered, “how can I use this obstacle to make my life better?”, the fear dissipated, and courage took charge. Cancer became an opportunity for me to put all of the motivational quotes that I had been speaking over the years, and put them into action. This was my chance to LIVE by faith, hope and strength while navigating through one of the most challenging times of my life. My first goal was to limit what cancer was going to take from me. Surgery took part of my breast and the chemo took all of my hair, but I refused to let it steal my positive attitude, my love for family and friends, or my passion for health and fitness. In fact, cancer to this day, continues to fuel all of the important things in my life. Cancer did change me. It made me a better person by putting me in touch with my mortality. I learned to be grateful for every moment I get to be with the people that I love. I am more present than ever and I certainly do not waste energy on negativity. Cancer solidified my faith in all things good, and put me on a mission to spread hope, love and strength to other cancer fighters and survivors around the world.

Angela Navarro

Austin, TX

angelanavarroart.com

Artist Statement: The first time Tricia and I spoke about her cancer treatment, she said: “When this is over, I am going to the beach!” It came with a big smile and a hand gesture. That was my starting point.

I found most inspiring how, from otherwise looming circumstances, Tricia extracted empowerment and joy. She saw the dot at the end of the line as an opportunity to embrace life.

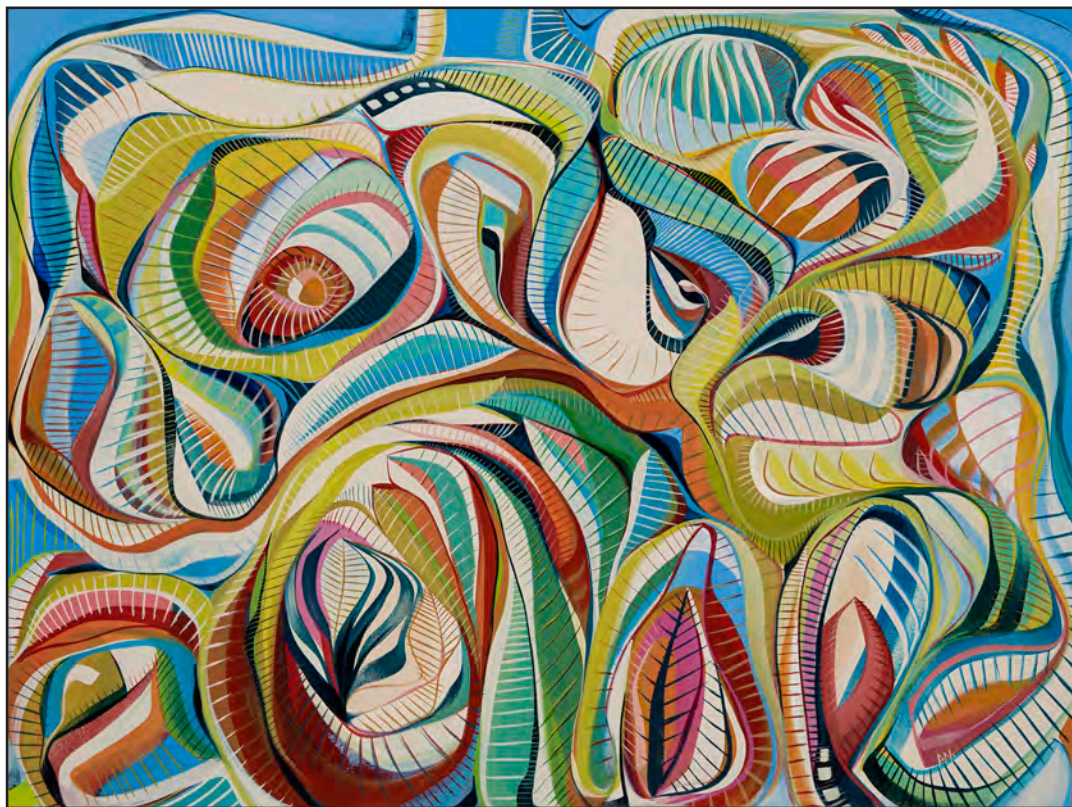
My painting is about how one’s journey, while complicated and full of twists and turns can be embraced as an adventure worth every turn. In this case it is a journey to Tricia’s happy place: the vacation by the sea!

The marine like shapes on the painting represent the changing complexities of life that require us to adapt

and change to move on. On the painting the shapes grow and transform in the space. Like Tricia surrounded by family and friends, following her treatment, living every day of her life with freedom in the heart and a joyful sense of adventure.

The colors on the painting transmit the indulgently relaxing feeling of the warmth of the sun in the skin, the sounds of the sea and the seagulls, kids playing on the shore and juicy colors of summer paraphernalia.

Enjoy it!



21.

“At the beach”

Acrylic on canvas

36 x 48

\$2850

Krystal Lucero and Erin Harris



Krystal Lucero
Austin, TX
Survivor

Twist on Cancer: Surviving cancer at such a young age, people have often said “you are so strong”. I’ve never truly felt strong! Then I realize there are a number of ways to BE STRONG. I’ve been STRONG by accepting support from others. One of the STRONGEST things I’ve had to do is learn my limitations. And it takes STRENGTH to choose to celebrate life. I’m being STRONG by sharing my story, and love doing it in such a unique way with Brushes with Cancer. Let’s all continue to BE STRONG!

Erin Harris

May, TX
harrishandcrafted.com

Artist Statement: Upon meeting Krystal, it was obvious that she carries a light within her. She has an amazing personality with a huge smile to match. Hearing her story of being diagnosed at an early age not only put a few things in perspective for me, but showed the strength she possesses. I lost my mother to cancer, and getting the opportunity to create this soundwave and meet Krystal has helped me tremendously. It was truly an honor to be able to create this piece in celebration of Krystal’s story. Sound plays such a vital part in our world, and I create soundwaves to help capture moments in time. This soundwave is made from a recording of Krystal saying “Choose Love”. It features a multi-colored soundwave on a walnut backing board. Those two simple words have great meaning, and instead of looking towards the negative, choose love and see where it takes you.



22.

"Choose Love"

Wood

10 x 41

\$545

Christina Bain and Adri Baker



Christina Bain

Austin, TX

Survivor

Twist on Cancer: Over the four years since my diagnosis we have gone from thinking cancer would be over in six months to finding out that mine is incurable. It has not been easy for my loved ones to hear this news or see me decline. What has blown me away is the people who have shown up and been able to bravely face this with me - from old friends who treat me the same as always, to new acquaintances who choose to run towards my crisis. Cancer brings the best people into your life.

Adri Baker

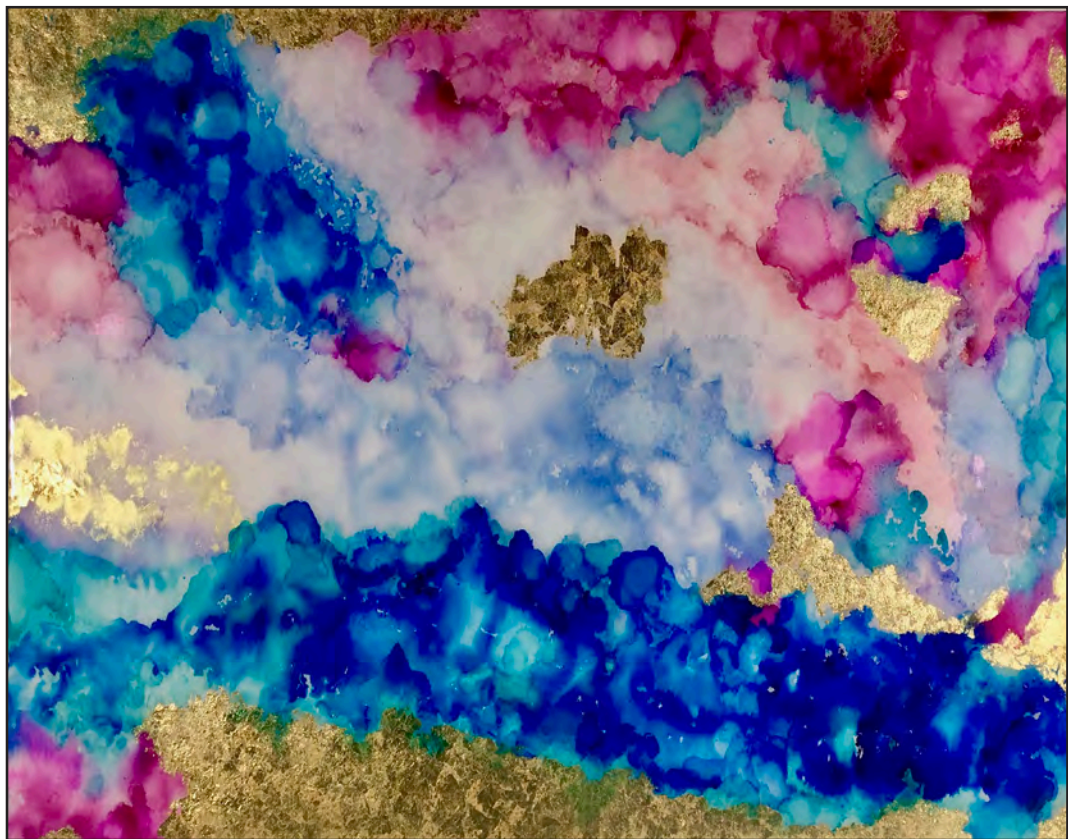
Austin, TX

artbyadri.com

Artist Statement: The piece I made is in honor of my friend, Christina Bain. "Pretty in Pink" portrays many of the different layers in life through various pops of color. Christina's favorite color is pink, which is the color of universal love of oneself and of others. Pink represents friendship, affection, harmony, inner peace and approachability.

I feel so fortunate that I was paired with Christina through this wonderful organization. She is an amazing young woman, mother, wife, and daughter just to name a few. She has been a joy getting to know and I look forward to making many more memories with her.

Christina is conquering her diagnosis...It is a layer in her life but this does not define her. Her positivity and grace through all that she endures is so admirable. She reminds me to live each day to the fullest and be grateful for all of life's layers, regardless of what each day brings.



23.

"Pretty in Pink"

Ink, gold leaf, and resin on birch panel

24 x 36

\$750

Alana Dugandzic and Kenzie Slottow



Alana Dugandzic

Austin, TX

Survivor

Twist on Cancer: My Twist On Cancer continues to evolve. The truth is, we never stop thinking about how the words “You have cancer” have impacted us, but the power of that statement changes how we approach life. I firmly believe that having cancer has brought me a richer life than I could have ever imagined. Everything happens for a reason and the cancer road brought me blessings that I am forever grateful for. Bravery, Confidence, Friendships, Appreciation, Love, Family, Respect, and Humility.

Kenzie Slottow

Austin, TX

kenzieslottow.com

Artist Statement: What struck me most about Alana’s outlook on life is the gratitude and positivity she exudes, not in spite of her two cancer diagnoses, but because of them. I was also moved by Alana’s willing vulnerability as she shared her experiences and deepest fears with me. She attributes her appreciation for all the little things in life to her journey with cancer. This is the main focus of the music I wrote for her. Alana’s journey with vulnerability and accepting support continues, and I touch on the nature of strength and support with elements of the piece as well.

The song uses simple harmonies, with subtle variations to the progression that color it more reflective, discordant, optimistic, etc. Most of the melodies are more vocal than instrumental in their range and movement, to reflect an inner monologue trying to make sense of pain, fear, and uncertainty. The same main melody sings over subtly varied chords, changing in character as it does so. This illustrates how a shift in perspective can alter one’s experience of life’s realities.

Dissonant guitar notes serve as transitions in the piece. These are reminders of pain and hardship, or possible future pain and hardship, that never completely go away - but that are also always opportunities for growth. “Support” is depicted as a flute melody that sounds like multiple individuals holding together a single thread, and it is approached with both apprehension (is it easier and better to be “strong” alone?) and with acceptance in the piece.



24.

“The World Looks New”

Music (Flute & Guitar)

Original Song to be presented at the event

Nancy Carpenter and Morgan McBride



Nancy Carpenter

Austin, TX

Survivor

Twist on Cancer: “You have stage 4 breast cancer.”

Those words changed my life in unimaginable ways. Instantly, the world became black and white. All that was important was in sharp focus. All that was insignificant quickly faded away.

The weeks following my diagnosis were an emotional roller coaster. I was overwhelmed with cancer talk and all consuming tests, radiation and chemotherapy. Life as I knew it seemed forever changed.

Adversity comes in many forms. One can decide either to master their circumstances or let their circumstances control their life. I quickly decided not to succumb to being a full-time cancer patient. As best I could, I was not going to allow the cancer label to define my identity. Cancer and I are going to have to find a way to coexist as I intended to live as I had been.

There have been many ups and downs over the years. People often ask “how do I cope”? I have accepted my fate, but refuse to resign to its finality. Throughout, I have remained defiant even when told I had three months to live, one year ago. I have learned to cry with a smile and hold fast to hope for more time.

The enduring love of my amazing husband, and the support of family and friends have been my greatest source of strength. Without them, I would not be celebrating seven years of life with cancer.

Morgan McBride

Austin, TX

muggsstudio.com

Artist Statement: From the first time I met Nancy, I have been struck by the way she lights up when she talks about something interesting or exciting. I did not feel this way because I had a preconceived idea of how her demeanor would be due to the cancer, but because the light that comes from her is unique to her.

You can't miss this one-of-a-kind radiance in her face, and her eyes. As I learn more about her, several things always come to mind, but the first is this. Her determination and the joy she finds in continuing to grow, to share, to learn. So, it was clear from the beginning that the piece I made would incorporate light.

Incorporating the agave as the physical inspiration for this work represents its qualities as a highly adaptable species capable of living in a wide range of environments that are inhospitable to life. When I brought the idea to her about the agave, she said it was one of her favorite plants, so the idea stuck. Nancy once said that she and her disease were going to have to "learn to live together". She continues her commitment to thriving, keeping her light, in the most difficult of conditions.

I am honored to know her.



25.

"Agave"

Clay

15 x 12 x 12

\$395

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**In Loving Memory Of Our Inspirations Who Are No Longer With Us
May Their Memory Always Be For a Blessing**

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Lauren Hubert Smoke

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Andrea Farqhar

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Brushes with Cancer Art Exhibition

Trinity Hall
October 20, 2019



Heal Differently

