

Brushes with Cancer

May 13, 2016

Revel Fulton Market

1215 Fulton Market, Chicago, Illinois

Brushes with Cancer provides psychosocial support to those touched by cancer to improve the quality of life for cancer patients, their family and loved ones, through a unique art experience.

TWIST
OUT
CANCER



Brushes with Cancer Leadership

Jenna Benn Shersher - *Founder & Executive Director*
Alana Dugandzic - *Board Chair USA, Executive Board Member*
Tom McNamara - *Executive Board Member, Chair of Logistics*
Emma Peck Block - *Executive Board Member, Brushes with Cancer Mentor*
Noreen Karadsheh - *Advisory Board Member, Chair of Logistics*
Andrew Edelston - *Executive Board Member*
Dr. Katy Heiden - *Executive Board Member*
Jennifer Katz Margolis - *Advisory Board Member*
Deb Fox - *Advisory Board Member*
Eryn Bizar - *Advisory Board Member*
Erin Green - *Advisory Board Member*
Shawn Green - *Advisory Board Member*
David Shersher - *Host Committee Member*
Leeatt Rothschild - *Host Committee Member, Brushes with Cancer Mentor*
Ivan Dugandzic - *Host Committee Member*
August Spree - *Host Committee Member*
Jason Felde - *Host Committee Member*
Amy Berger - *Host Committee Member*
Gerry Landy - *Host Committee Member*
Marilyn Heckmeyer - *Host Committee Member*
Alyssa Judlo - *Host Committee Member, Featured Artist*

Canadian Chapter Leadership

Dan Hadad Aviad - *Board Chair Canada, Executive Board Member*
Dan Fricker - *Board Member - Director of Social Media*
Sarina Rehal - *Board Member- Canada*
Ryla Braemer - *Board Member Canada*
Sharon Marcushamer - *Board Member Canada*
April Gibson - *Board Member Canada*
Paul W. Tye - *Board Member Canada*
Jamie Ellerton - *Board Member Canada*



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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 ended 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.



WHAT IS TWIST OUT CANCER?

Twist out Cancer is a global community for anyone touched by cancer to create, support and inspire.

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 well...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 of thousands of people from across the globe, all twisting. These videos came from people she knew and 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 our website, Brushes with Cancer, Twist-Shops and Health and Awareness Third Party Events.

Website

Twist Out Cancer (www.twistoutcancer.org) is a platform that 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 while you do so. Then share your photo [on social media].” So far, TOC’s online presence has touched nearly 300,000 people across the world – and the numbers keep growing. In a 90-day period alone, there were 7,100 interactions by 6,200 unique users with TOC’s website, creating 2.4 million impressions on Facebook and Twitter.

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, 100 pairs have been matched, 100 works of art have been created, and thousands of people have participated in the celebratory events in the Chicagoland area. In 2015, Brushes with Cancer debuted in Detroit and Toronto, and in 2017 the program will launch 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, 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 organizations, including Yoga for a Cause, Kick Out Cancer, an annual charity soccer match hosted by the head trainer of the Raiders FC, and participation in the Lurie Cancer Walk and 5k. This past summer marked an exciting partnership with TOC and Equinox gyms with the launch of a new series titled “Fit for a Cause”, which focused on exercise during and after treatment. In the winter of 2015, Twist partnered with Whole Foods to provide “Dinner with a Twist,” a vegan and gluten free cooking class that informed participants of how to make healthy choices throughout survivorship.



The Need

“This organization empowers you,” said a 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, with the platform to create, support and inspire. As such, TOC’s 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. Since 2011, TOC has touched over 73,000 lives through its programs and events. A labor of love, TOC is completely volunteer-led, boasting a network of over 200 active volunteers serving as ambassadors in Chicago, Detroit, Tel Aviv, Toronto and Montreal. Committed Executive and Advisory Boards further serve to support through their volunteerism.

GET INVOLVED

Twist Out Cancer is a community that celebrates creativity, encourages engagement, and believes in the importance of giving back.

TOC volunteers, aka, “Tiny Twisters,” 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.

BRUSHES WITH CANCER

Brushes with Cancer strategically matches artists with those touched by cancer to create unique pieces of artwork reflective of their journey. Over a period of 4 months, pairs connect in person, via Skype, on the phone or by email. Their relationships are guided and supported by Brushes with Cancer Mentors with the intention of creating a support system for both the artist and subject. The program finishes on a high note with our signature celebratory art exhibition and gala where the artwork is revealed for the first time. This program is brought to you by Twist Out Cancer with the generous support of the sponsors featured throughout this program.



TONIGHT

ART: TOC paired 43 volunteer artists with 43 survivors, previvors and caregivers and challenged the artists to create original works of art inspired by their subject's unique "twists" on cancer. The artist-subject pairs began their relationships through the TOC website and various social media outlets. Working closely together over a period of several months, these relationships developed into systems of support both on and off the Internet. The resulting artwork, which comes in a variety of media, is the centerpiece of Brushes with Cancer. The artwork will be on display and up for auction at Revel Fulton Market. Proceeds will go towards furthering the mission and vision of Twist Out Cancer.

MUSIC: Palter Ego, Dr. Draw and DJ John Simmons

STORYTELLING: Jenna Benn Shersher and Jonny Imerman will share their twists on cancer and the importance of giving back.

TWISTING: Dedicated twists and calls to action will be put out on social media by survivors, previvors and caregivers throughout the evening.

RULES OF THE SILENT AUCTION

- To sign up to bid in the silent auction, please complete the bid sheet in its entirety.
- 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 10:15 PM, at which time the highest bid on each bid sheet 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.



PROGRAM

- 6:00- 7:00 PM VIP Reception
Dr. Draw Performance
Flamenco Guitar by David DaCosta
VIP Program Honoring Participants
- 7:00-8:30 PM Cocktail Hour &
Music provided by DJ John Simmons
- 8:30-8:45 PM Dr. Draw Performance
Opening Remarks by EMCEE
Jonny Imerman Remarks
Why Twist? Remarks by Twist Out Cancer Founder
and Executive Director, Jenna Benn Shersher
- 8:45-8:55 PM Brushes with Cancer Video
- 9:00-10:00 PM Palter Ego Performs
- 10:00 - Midnight DJ John Simmons Spins
Twist Off/Dedicated Twists/Dance Party
Dance Lesson by Jenna Stworzyjanek and
Jonathan Dyer
- 10:15 PM Silent Auction Closes
50/50 Winners are Announced
Paint by Numbers Live Auction

PARTICIPATING SPEAKERS



Jenna Benn Shersher, *Founder and Executive Director of Twist Out Cancer*

Jenna Benn Shersher is a 34 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 in the United States. 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 of tiny twisters that became invested in her fight. In the course of a year, Jenna battled cancer and started a nonprofit called Twist Out Cancer - a Support Community ... With A Twist. Twist Out Cancer changes the way a survivor shares and the way a community gives. To date over 73,000 have twisted out cancer. Jenna's story was selected as a top ten best read by Mashable. She is a blogger for the Huffington Post and Oy Chicago and has made television appearances on CNN, NBC5, CBS, ABC7 and Fox News. She has also been featured in the New York Times, Mashable, LA Times, Wall Street Journal, Chicago Tribune and Chicago Sun Times. Jenna is a mentor angel with Imerman Angels, and serves on the Patient Advisory Board of Northwestern Hospital. In addition she is an Honored Hero and advocate for Team in Training and the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. When Jenna isn't twisting, you can find her working full-time at the Anti-Defamation League where she oversees young leadership programming, media and PR, and international affairs advocacy.



Jonny Imerman

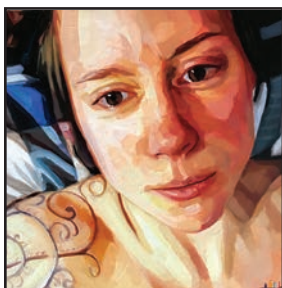
Jonny Imerman is a young adult cancer survivor who strives to make sure no one fights cancer without the support of someone who has already triumphed over the disease. After being diagnosed with testicular cancer at the age of 26, Jonny founded Imerman Angels, a non-profit organization, which carefully matches a person touched by cancer (a cancer fighter or survivor) with someone who has fought and survived the same type of cancer (a Mentor Angel). Imerman Angels now has more than 6,000 cancer survivors and more than 1,500 caregivers in its network, and has been featured by dozens of news organizations.

VIP Reception Speakers



Brushes with Cancer Participants: Janel and Matt Gould

Matt and I both agree that our biggest take-away from our experiences with Cancer (patient and caregiver) is how we look at life or continue to look at life. We have always lived life with no regrets (separately and together) and have never once looked back and said we need to make a list of all of the things that we want to do in our lifetime. Living life for us (with or without Cancer) has always been our top priority. We both feel lucky to have each other and to be traveling our journey together. The following quote sums up how we feel about life in general “Life Isn’t Fair But It’s Still Great”. Never stop living!!!!



Heather Horton

Heather Horton was born and raised in Burlington, Ontario, Canada. She attended McMaster University where she received a Bachelor of Arts in English Literature. She then went on to graduate from the well-respected Interpretive Illustration program at Sheridan College. She has pursued her passion for painting ever since.

Heather’s work can be found in private, corporate and public collections in Canada, The United States, Germany, Australia, New Zealand and The United Kingdom. A selection of her paintings is now a part of the permanent art collection at the Canadian Embassy in Ankara, Turkey. Heather has been profiled by Bravo!Canada on a series called The Artist’s Life. She is represented by Abbozzo Gallery in Toronto, Ontario. Heather currently lives and paints in Burlington, Ontario.

Event Emcees



Marissa Bailey

Marissa Bailey is the weekend anchor of the CBS 2 Chicago morning newscasts and a general assignment reporter for the station. Marissa joined the station in March 2012 as a reporter and was promoted to anchor the station's Saturday and Sunday morning newscasts which began in September 2012. Marissa comes to CBS 2 Chicago from WGRZ-TV in Buffalo, N.Y., where she had been the solo anchor for the 10 p.m. myTV network broadcasts and a general assignment reporter for the 11 p.m. newscasts since 2006. Marissa, who was nominated for a New York State Regional Emmy in 2011, is also credited with launching the station's first Sunday newscast - Daybreak Sunday - in January 2008 where she was the single anchor of a 6:30 a.m.-8 a.m. weekend broadcast which featured hard news, live interviews and extended special coverage of weekend news. Marissa earned a M.S. in Broadcast Journalism from Syracuse University in 2006 and a BA in Communications from Niagara University in 2003. She earned her first on-air job while in graduate school when she served as the Washington D.C. correspondent for KOLR 10 News based in Springfield, Mo., in 2006. Marissa lives in downtown Chicago.



Justin Jacobson

Justin Jacobson formulated his company while attending the University of Miami. What started as a promotional nightlife company led to numerous marketing events during the "boom" in South Beach. In 2005, Justin Jacobson made his first business acquisition purchasing a Chicago based, entertainment company. Within a few years, Justin rebranded the business, transforming it from a mobile DJ company, to a nationally recognized, award winning event production, event marketing, & event entertainment firm. Since the expansion, Justin has been rapidly producing events all over the country including many events featured on NBC, ABC, etc. Aside from events in Chicago, Justin has produced Product launches & gala's in New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Miami for nationally recognized brands, including the official 125 anniversary for the New York Boys & Girls Club, a launch event for MLB All-Star Weekend, thus quickly giving way to Justin opening his doors to Manhattan's posh patrons, LA's chic crowds, and Miami trend-setters. Keeping Platinum Events' headquarters in Chicago, allows Justin to reach both coasts and numerous Midwest cities simultaneously without missing a beat!

2013 Michigan Avenue Magazine: Chicago's Top Event Guru

2011 BizBash Magazine's Event Producer Of The Year

Entertainment



Palter Ego

Palter Ego is the brainchild of vocalist Jesse Palter and keyboardist Sam Barsh, who combine forces to create their own blend of upbeat pop, jazz and soul. Palter is a 5x Detroit Music Award Winner who has sung with Jeff Goldblum and Billy Childs. Barsh's work with the likes of Norah Jones, Avishai Cohen, Aloe Blacc and Kendrick Lamar has garnered 3 GRAMMY Awards and

reached the top of the Billboard Charts. Together they have headlined major festivals in the US and abroad, and their music has been featured prominently in nationally-aired commercials and television. www.palterego.com



Dr. Draw

Dr. Draw is known as the first violinist to venture from rock and classical into electronic music culture. His style is difficult to describe as his history with music and culture spans an eccentric lifetime. From playing for royalty in Prague to creating near chaos at the Toronto Beaches Jazz Festival to playing luxury brand events like Chloé and Dom Pérignon, Dr. Draw inspires kudos wherever he

plays. Lately, his reputation is growing eastward. Performances have included playing in Singapore, Taiwan, Sri Lanka, and a spate of Louis Vuitton events in Hong Kong, Malaysia, and South Korea. Performing in such frenetic locales energizes the performer time and time again, allowing him to repeatedly “creatively interact with cultures all across the world.” The result is a constantly evolving musical style that brings together the seemingly disparate elements of classical violin, jazz-rock fusion, folk, and pop into a riveting masala that feeds the soul and invigorates audiences.



David Da Costa

David Da Costa grew up in France and is of Portuguese and Spanish descent. He picked up the guitar when he was 14 and started experimenting with music in rock bands. In his 20's, he lived in Sevilla, Spain and immersed himself in the Flamenco scene. Inevitably, his passion for cultures and world music led him to various countries where he absorbed different musical approaches. He perfected his music craft by developing an eclectic combination of flamenco, classical guitar, rock, and balkan music. www.spanishguitarfusion.com



John Simmons, Style Matters DJs/Vocalo DJ Collective

John Simmons is a dynamic people mover with twenty years of experience on the decks. The son of a DJ, he was influenced early in life by the soulful and eclectic sounds played at home. Having a solid foundation in Soul/R&B, Disco, '80s music and early Hip-Hop/Rap, John became immersed in the early 1990s by the dance/electronic music produced by Chicago, New York, Detroit, and international artists. In the mid-1990s he began to make a name for himself as DJ John "Break it Down" Simmons in Chicago. Among many others, John credits the DJs of Chicago's Soul Foundation house music collective as an important early career source of musical inspiration. He has played in New York, San Francisco, Detroit, Paris, Berlin, Ibiza, Cairo, and beyond. John has shared the stage with a countless number of dance music greats and spins regularly at venues such as Simone's, Rodan, Subterranean, and Untitled.



**The Tacky Annie's -
Jenna Stworzyjanek,
Vanessa De La Regatta,
Nina Lambert**

Founded in 2007 by Jenna Stworzyjanek, The Tacky Annie's all-ladies vintage Dance Group sought to bring the joy of vernacular jazz dance to the Chicago community. Specializing in charleston and jazz, the group has performed at many venues across Chicago and the Midwest including Big City Swing, Fizz Bar and Grill, The Galaxie, and Midwest Lindy Fest in Minneapolis. In 2011, they placed 2nd in the Team Division at the Hawkeye Swing Festival. In addition to loving vintage dancing, The Tacky Annie's also love lindy hop, blues, tap, belly dancing, hip hop, sparkly dresses, fishnets, and fake eyelashes.

PARTICIPATING ARTISTS, SURVIVORS, PREVIVORS AND CAREGIVERS

The Matches

Vasiliki (Betty) Vlamakis	Anna Blankenberger	15
Mindy Bergeron	Risa Kleban	16
Tamaira Fuller	Jennifer Stumbaugh	17
Roy Arredondo	Shayna Denburg	18
JulieAnn Villa	David Turok	19
Helene Bizar	Bowen Kline	20
Jacqueline Nalls	Margaret Rejnowska	21
Maya Stern	Erin Nelson	22
Patricia Lundstrom	Lindsey Toman	23
Cynthia Delira	Lindsey Passen	24
Christina Johnson	Jean Sweet Ehlinger	25
Janet Polson	Shalisha Erenberg	26
Erin Richey	Jenifer Miya Standridge	27
Billy Rivard	Lucie-Ann Chen	28
Lisa Blankenship	Joshua Johnston	29
Joe Schneider	Kelsey Tupper	30
Charleen Recto Bacalan	Jacqueline Carmody	31
Vicki Adamczyk	Hayley Serruya	32
Liza Allen	Catherine Chinnock	33
Megan Milano	Neely Benn	34
Anna Duski	Kyle Irving	35
Abby Shapiro	Alyssa Judlo	36
Erin Green	Jestin Robinson	37
Kelly Stars Moncayo	Tova Rothschild	38
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Mary Bielecki	Nate Hoops	40
Lauren Smoke	Jason Felde	41
Nora McMahon	Vikram Krishnamurthy	42
August Spree	Phillip Johnson	43
Janel & Matt Gould	Heather Horton	44
Sara Hurwick	Maya Koenig	45
Nishant Bhansali	Will Meadows	46
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Marie Jarrell	Bowen Kline	48
Kasey Passen	Bowen Kline	49
Bowen Kline	Bowen Kline	50
Suzanne Gauvreau	Brad Young	51
Emma Peck Block	Diana Day	52
Anne Raczkowski	Douglas Jones	53
August Spree	Jason Felde	54
Stephanie Held	Jennifer Stumbaugh	55
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Kathryn Heerwagen	Mark Marianos	57

MEET THE MATCHES

Vasiliki (Betty) Vlamakis and Anna Blankenberger



Vasiliki (Betty) Vlamakis Wood Dale, Illinois

Breast Cancer Survivor

Twist on Cancer: Do not capitalize “cancer”, don’t give it such importance.

Anna Blankenberger Chicago, Illinois

“Με λένε Betty αλλά είμαι η Βασιλική/They call me Betty, but I am Vasiliki.”

Mixed Media on Wood & Canvas

\$325

Artist Statement: “The aim of art is to represent not the outward appearance of things, but their inward significance.” Aristotle (384-322 BC)Vasiliki (βασιλική) means “royal.” In Greek the name Betty derives from the Hebrew name Elisheba, meaning either “oath of God”, or “God is satisfaction.” Vasiliki is a daughter, a sister, a wife, a mother, a grandmother, and a friend. Betty is a dancer, a fighter, an advocate, a lover of daffodils and red carnations, and an adventurer. As she so eloquently describes her experience to me in our first correspondence: “Notice I will never capitalize the c in cancer because it is not an important word! What’s important is what we do about it to never have to mention the c word again.” This project strives to demonstrate Vasiliki’s strength and passion. To never mentioning the c word again, Betty!



Mindy Bergeron and Risa Kleban



Mindy Bergeron Wheaton, Illinois

Caregiver of Mother with Pancreatic Cancer

Twist on Cancer: My family's life was turned upside down in August 2014 when my mom was diagnosed with Stage 4 Pancreatic cancer. We received the same prognosis from two oncologists. They sat us in a comfortable room. They handed out Kleenex.

"It's not good" "You have, on average, 11 months" "Chemo is the only option"

My mom was a strong, fun, life loving woman with a huge support system of family and friends. She went with the most aggressive treatment. Deep down she probably believed she was "terminal", but she did not let anyone else believe it by the way she lived her life.

*"I will plan for the future" "I will keep working at my job which I love"
"I will beat this. And I will keep living while I do so"*

My mom didn't beat it; she didn't even get "average". She died 5 months after her diagnosis. I miss her every day. When I heard about Brushes with Cancer, I knew I needed to do this for her. She was so creative. My mom would have loved this whole process, especially telling her story and working with Risa, a kind and talented artist. So let's Twist Out Cancer in memory of my amazing mom Heidi!

Risa Kleban Lake Zurich, Illinois

"I See Her"

Resistant Dye on Silk 30" x 30"

\$500

Artist Statement: It's art.....and it's a scarf. Display it with love, and listen to the story it tells. Heidi Bergeron was 68 years old when she died of pancreatic cancer. Mindy Bergeron was her daughter and caretaker. This is their story; my scarf is a tribute to them. Through Mindy's descriptions, photos and tales of her mother, I feel I began to know Heidi. But one story stood out. Mindy told me that it was funny how she would "see" her mother in her life. One day the sky

was totally blue, yet all of a sudden there were little yellow flowers floating in the sky like snow. I found this to be such a beautiful and powerful moment that I knew I wished to capture it in my art. Heidi was a wonderful mother, grandmother and had a devoted group of longtime friends. This scarf is about motherhood, sisterhood and being human. It is to be displayed and provide comfort and inspiration to those who see it. Thus it conveys a beautiful, deep and lasting connection. Thank you Mindy, for sharing your mother with me.



Tamaira Fuller and Jennifer Stumbaugh



Tamaira Fuller Chicago, Illinois

Caregiver

Twist on Cancer: The lesson I learned is no matter how long ago cancer may have affected you, and your family you never really get full closure. Sharing your experience can bring a little light into your life like it did for me. Just having Jen there to listen to me sob about the void I experience after having lost my father-meant a lot to me.

Jennifer Stumbaugh Chicago, Illinois

“Verbena”

Acrylic on canvas 36” x 48”

\$500

Artist Statement: For 18 years, Verbena stood strong in the face of breast cancer, refusing to let it slow her down. She lived a full life. Her love, strength, and her belief in her children and grandchildren were a shining beacon.

As an anthem to her name, the verbena flower becomes the focus of this piece. Its healing properties have been celebrated throughout history. The verbena flower is resilient, coming back year after year in brilliant shades of purple—a color that symbolizes healing.

At times creating art is easy; other times, it is the hardest thing. It requires resilience, hope, and acceptance. In creating this piece, I had to face some painful places within myself. I wanted so badly to walk away. Those elements, that struggle, became part of the texture and images that developed on the canvas.

Healing rarely looks the way we want it to. Most often, we need to journey through the dark and the shadow before we see the beautiful unfurling of light. Sometimes the healing happens in our bodies, and sometimes it happens in the hearts of those left behind.



Roy Arredondo and Shayna Denburg



Roy Arredondo Aurora, Illinois

Stomach Cancer Survivor

Twist On Cancer: My Twist on cancer is simple - I learned not to let the little things get me down. I learned how to control my emotions and focus on the positive. I learned that life is just too short to sweat the small stuff. Yes I may still have my moments but they are far and few between. Unfortunately for caregivers, especially young adult caregivers, there isn't a support group to help them through the darkest hour. We are

taught from a young age that we should be strong and that we have been trained to handle anything. The reality is we all need a shoulder to cry on. We all need our rock. We all need our support circle. There is nothing wrong with asking for or accepting help. We just need to let go of our pride and accept help when it is offered or go out and seek it if it isn't. I learned that it is time to stop letting time slip past me. I need to stop and pay attention to the wonderful world around me and enjoy the moments and the people that come across my life. I've already been scared to within an inch of my life. I don't want to miss the blessings that Mother Nature and my wife have given me.

Shayna Denburg Brooklyn, New York

“Masked “

Oil on canvas 12” x 16”

\$500

Artist Statement: Masked aims to explore the discrepancy between one's outer appearance and one's authentic, inner experience. It seeks to acknowledge the struggle of hiding our “negative” emotions and at the same time, validate their existence. The “true” picture is thinly veiled beneath a mask of happiness but cannot be completely buried. I ask the viewer to look beneath the surface and appreciate the mess of emotions, to know there is layers underneath, to recognize that feature within themselves and unmask their own emotional complexity.”



JulieAnn Villa and David Turok



JulieAnn Villa Arlington Heights, Illinois

Osteosarcoma and Colorectal Cancer Survivor

Twist on Cancer: I believe in moving forward, maintaining momentum. I was and am an endurance athlete and know my ability to own every mile in front of me with grace, courage, and gratitude is essential to being able to thrive as a cancer patient. I am in debt to my friends, family, and extended family of “Team in Training” that taught me to be comfortable with being just a bit uncomfortable.

David Turok Chicago, Illinois

“Empowered”

Acrylic, Mixed media, Canvas 48” x 36”

\$2,000

Artist

Statement:

Meeting JulieAnn and hearing her story, the first word that came to mind was “strength”. Rather than allow herself to be weakened by her cancer, JulieAnn is empowered. JulieAnn has had more



experiences with cancer than any person should have to face in a lifetime. In getting to know her, it is very apparent that overcoming these battles with cancer is what has shaped her into the strong woman she is today. The challenge was trying to take the vast scope of her experiences and do it justice in a single painting. But JulieAnn really is a superhero. And as soon as the image of Wonder Woman came to mind, there was no turning back...

Helene Bizar and Bowen Kline



Helene Bizar Los Angeles, California

Breast and Melanoma Cancer Survivor

Twist on Cancer: I shouldn't be here!

No, really, having had simultaneous surgeries for advanced skin cancer and Stage 3 breast cancer with lymph node involvement, I shouldn't be here! If it wasn't for an incredible medical team, the love and support of family and friends and an "I will conquer this" mindset, I wouldn't be here! Ironically, my 86 year old father, who I absolutely cherished, was diagnosed with cancer the same month I was. We took such different paths facing this demonic disease. During my chemo and radiation treatments, I cared for him in his last 5 months of life. Focusing on my Dad and his needs, distracted me from the often painful side effects of my treatments and it helped get me through my journey. Thankful for his failing eyesight and my natural looking wig, he never knew about my battle with cancer and I never told him. At the time this occurred, our daughter was a senior in high school, about to go away to college. For me, there just never, ever was any other option than survival! Now, every day is a much appreciated gift and every morning when I awake, I thank God for having taken me through the night to see the light of a new day. I'm grateful to say, I'm 10 years cancer free!!

Bowen Kline Romeo, Michigan

"The Sun Queen"

Oil/Acrylic/Collage/Gold Leaf 33" x 40"

\$2500

Artist Statement: "On the western coast, where the land appears to be swallowed by the sea, there reigns a Queen. She stands regal looking over her world. She is power. She is resilience. She is the Sun Queen and her story is secret. I only came to know it by chance. That one moment when you are in the right place at the right time and your personal legend is changed forever."

I would like to introduce you to Helene Bizar.

She is a breast cancer survivor. She was diagnosed in 2003 and just one month after, her father was told he had terminal cancer. Being so close to her father and standing behind his decision not to receive treatment, brought her to choose not to disclose her own diagnosis. During the next 4 months before his death, while going through her own chemo treatment, she disguised her pain. She took constant care of him, making sure he had everything. She refused to give into cancer. I wanted to paint Helene in a regal manner, adorned in gold and jewels, to symbolize the great lengths she went to disguise her pain. She is covered in her blue cape with her back forward to reinforce the hidden cancer. She is a powerfully determined woman that will live on.



Jacqueline Nalls and Margaret Rejnowska



Jacqueline Nalls Richton Park, Illinois

Bladder Cancer Survivor

Twist on Cancer: Having cancer has been one of the best & worst things to ever happen to me. Best because I finally quit smoking...it's amazing that quitting was one of the hardest things to do, but upon hearing those 3 words, it was by far the easiest thing to do. And it was the best-because I'm alive and I'm blessed to help others on their journey, giving hope is an incredible gift, and being a hand to hold is so rewarding. My mantra through my journey was "No Fear ~Just Faith". I'm forever grateful for the gift of life & I thank God every single day.

Margaret Rejnowska Chicago, Illinois

"Jackie"

Photography, giclée print, rag paper 12" x 12"

\$675

Artist Statement:The photo represents resistance of facing difficult fights in life. Jackie's skin is gold, a reminiscence of a royal armour. She comes out victorious and triumphant as she steps from the shadow into the light again.



Maya Stern and Erin Nelson



Maya Stern Toronto, Ontario

Survivor of Childhood Cancer - Wilms Tumour

Twist On Cancer: Cancer does not end when you enter remission or are considered cured. The treatment for cancer carries with it risks for other health problems, not to mention the psychological impacts of facing your mortality and feeling betrayed by your body. The long-term effects of cancer are a huge issue for survivors of childhood cancer, because chemotherapy causes extreme damage to developing bodies. Though I was in remission at the age of four, I am dealing with the long-term effects of chemotherapy over twenty years later. Because of chronic illness, I have often had to put my life on hold. The most devastating part of this is not being able to work towards my goals and take full advantage of every opportunity I get. However, I eventually learned how to get through the daily routine of being sick by setting small goals to strive for. These small goals gave me something I was able to achieve each day, and helped me change my mentality from focusing on what I could not do. With help (and A LOT of time) I learned to accept my circumstances and adjust my life around them. My twist on cancer (which has been developed with the help of my doctor, family and friends) is that since a cancer diagnosis may affect a person for the rest of their lives, it is important not to dwell on the “what if”, but instead to focus on healing.

Erin Nelson Portland, Oregon

“Out from Underneath”

Acrylic, mixed media

36” x 24”

\$500

Artist Statement: A portrait of a spirit that refuses to yield amid tumult and uncertainty. This is a work that calls on underlying layers to show through, because no matter what, we do not exist today without our pasts.



Patricia Lundstrom and Lindsey Toman



Patricia Lundstrom Homewood, Illinois

Stage IV Breast Cancer Survivor

Twist On Cancer: Cancer is a crazy journey. Cancer is not a “gift,” and it’s not a cute, pink ribbon. Cancer sucks. It’s hard, and it hurts and it’s mean and it whips the people you love into a frenzy. It’s confusing, it’s in a different language, and by the time you have to deal with it, you’re already losing.

But cancer isn’t the boss of me: I have a crack team of experts who manipulate my body into a cancer-fighting machine. My family walks with me from one challenge to the next. I also have a group of superheroes who support my life and my being. There aren’t enough words that could be strung together into one sentence or a hundred that would express the feeling of being held in the palm of everyone’s hand, safe, warm and loved.

Lindsey Toman

“Take Steps to Cross the Bridge”

Oil on Canvas

28” x 22”

\$695

Artist Statement:

A lifespan has many obstacles that present



themselves at random times. Good and bad obstacles challenge you throughout life. To overcome obstacles you must chose a path and continue to take steps that move you forward. Patricia is a thriving woman, an employee, a friend, a wife, and mother of two. Taking steps for Patricia is represented as a typical bridge scene. There are many steps up to a bridge and those steps are several stresses she overcame throughout her treatments. The bridge symbolizes her foundation of support by the medical professionals caring for her. There are five light posts that represent her close friends who gave her comfort and energy for life. Patricia is thriving because of all these structures. The biggest foundation for her, without a doubt, is her family walking along her side. She carries a binder in her hand, symbolizing how she, “organized cancer to death.” Patricia has been and has continued to be devoted to taking step after step, to overcoming the endless hassles of a life lived with stage IV cancer. I heard a inspirational quote for facing challenges, “build a bridge and get over it.” That is the metaphor that spoke to me after getting to know Patricia’s story of cancer.

Cynthia Delira and Lindsey Passen



Cynthia Delira Chicago, Illinois

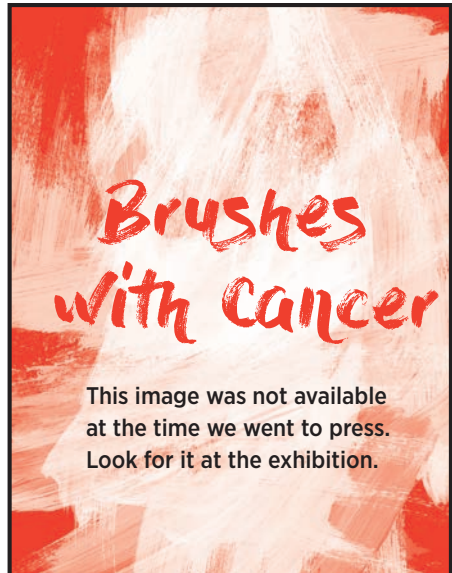
Multiple Myeloma (plasmacytoma) Survivor

Twist on Cancer: When I was 22 I was diagnosed with a very rare form of cancer that was found in my tonsils. It went undetected for months and when it was finally found it seemed like my life had turned to chaos that I could not control. My cancer turned my life into one big question mark but with time began to make me prioritize what it was I really wanted out of life. I am a young

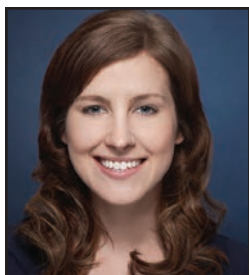
mom and The first thing that came to my mind was my daughter. So, I finally went back to school. It has always been my dream to be a lawyer and I decided this was the time to go for it. I could not let this cancer take everything from me. I lost my job, friends, health, and even sanity at times but it showed me the only think that matters is making the best out of every day- Carpe Diem. I hope to share my story with others to inspire them to never let anything stop them from achieving their dreams no matter the diagnosis. I believe much of the battle was within myself at times and trying to stay strong. I couldn't have gotten through my journey without faith, the love of those closest to me, and of course my inner warrior. Cancer is not the end. Cancer is the chance to acknowledge what is most important in life and gives us the opportunity to seize it.

Lindsey Passen

Newport Beach, California



Christina Johnson and Jean Sweet Ehlinger



Christina Johnson Chicago, Illinois

Metastatic Colon Cancer Survivor

Twist on Cancer: My cancer journey began at the age of 26; I had a promising career, a blossoming relationship, and a relatively care-free life. Once diagnosed, I felt as though everything was put on hold; from the moment I heard those words ‘You have cancer’, my life was forever changed. I have experienced many emotions: fear, anger, sadness and uncertainty. I’ve found that, although not always easy, living each day to its fullest and focusing on the present moment has been the best way to live while battling cancer. My personal twist has been to find the good that’s come with my battle: the people I’ve met, the opportunities I’ve been given, and the gift of a new, more fulfilling way to live.

Jean Sweet Ehlinger Chicago, Illinois

“Shining Through”

Photography/Composite 27” x 30”

\$650

Artist Statement: “Shining Through” is a portrait depicting the strength of character and personality of Christina Johnson. The three faces reveal Christina’s fun-loving nature, natural beauty and spiritual aura. The bold statement of the color blue in this portrait montage is balanced by Christina’s warmth and charisma reflected in the colors of the sky at sunset. Christina’s enduring positive thinking and focus on “living in the moment” shines through a difficult personal journey as she faces various treatments as a cancer survivor. I am blessed to be matched with Christina Johnson as she teaches me much about focusing on one’s positive inner spirit to continually enjoy life supported by the love of God, family and friends.



Janet Polson and Shalisha Erenberg



Janet Polson Orland Park, Illinois

*Survivor - Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma Primary Bone (2015)
Breast Cancer (2013) Skin Cancer (2002)
Cervical Cancer (1996) Sarcoma (1994)*

Twist on Cancer: The reaction when I tell someone that I have had 5 different types of cancer ranges from shock to uncomfortable silence. Up until I lost my hair while getting treatment for NHL this past fall, I never looked 'sick'. I raised 3 kids with my very patient and amazing husband. From my first diagnosis

at age 38, thru my breast cancer surgery and radiation treatments 2 years ago...I pretty much just ignored cancer. With each new cancer I put my head down and plowed forward determined to live my life. But in July 2016, with a diagnosis of Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma, a rare form of cancer that is all but guaranteed to come back, I decided to twist my reaction to cancer. Now I have to acknowledge it! It is a part of my life, from my impossible 'puppy hair' regrowth, to the congestive heart failure, and quarterly PET scans. It is now impossible to ignore so I am shining a light on it - Bright and warm. Now my attitude is one of joy, of looking at every day as a blessing. I have also learned how empowering the word 'yes' is...I don't say no to anything anymore. Run the Princess 5K at Disney, go to Aruba with girlfriends, go to the Alabama vs LSU football game the day after my last chemo...Hell Yes! Yes, I have cancer. Yes, I have side effects. Yes, I go to the doctor more than most people go out to dinner, but damn it I am alive and I am enjoying life on my terms.

Shalisha Erenberg Chicago, Illinois

"SFU ("So F#cking Unfair")"

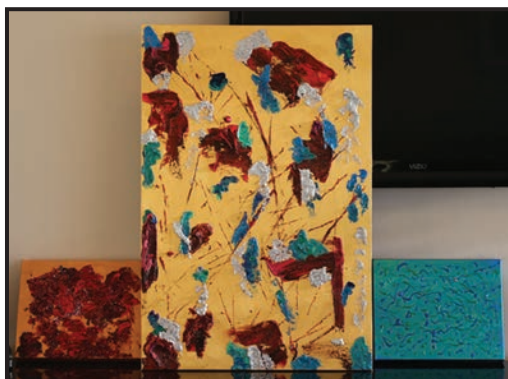
Acrylic and glitter

24" x 36", 14" x 11" & 14" x 11"

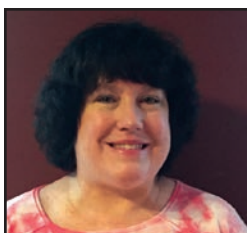
\$2,000

Artist Statement: Janet's story moved me deeply. I wanted to create a work that both expressed the range of feelings and emotions she experienced, as well as showcased her vibrancy and indomitable spirit. In creating "SFU" I was inspired by her tenacity. Janet suffered through misdiagnosis, doctors who didn't listen and life that felt like it was spinning

out of control. In my work, the red hues represent the battle being waged on an inner molecular level and the spiraling out of control that she felt. She told me that she loves being near water so you'll see the vibrant blue, juxtaposed and in contrast to the red. Life is both struggle and a joy and I wanted to show how she draws strength and calm from the water. Through everything, Janet remains strong, positive and deeply connected. She taught me many valuable lessons, one of which is - whatever you are going through, you can always have an amazing attitude. White is light. It's essentially all the color hues combined. That is what Janet brings to life - a lightness and joy that spreads outward into the world and colors incredible difficulties with an immense and radiant energy. She is all colors, she is light.



Erin Richey and Jenifer Miya Standridge



Erin Richey Kankakee, Illinois

Breast Cancer Survivor

Twist on Cancer: My cancer journey has kind of been a full circle experience. Having dedicated my professional life to raising money to cure cancer for the last 17 years, I worked for an organization that helped fund the researcher that developed Herceptin which was the drug that saved my

life after being diagnosed with HER2 Positive breast cancer in October 2014. Cancer has just reaffirmed to me that life is short, don't take anything for granted and to appreciate all we have been given in this life. Make your moments into memories as often as you can!

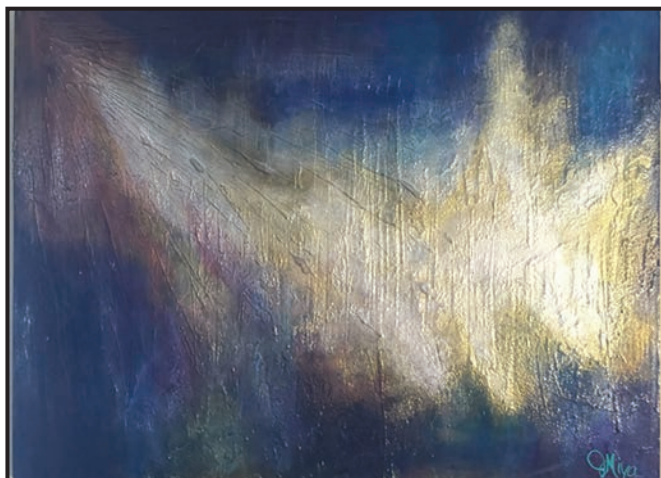
Jenifer Miya Standridge Tampa, Florida

"Her Spirit Shines"

Acrylic 24" x 18"

\$175

Artist Statement: I'm honored to have been paired with Erin who was diagnosed with breast cancer on September 30, 2014. She was first touched by cancer at the age of 11 when her mother was diagnosed with breast cancer. She's a wife and mom to four amazing children and has always been involved with those fighting cancer, spending 14 years as a Regional Director with the ACS and now working with Cure Search for Children's Cancer.



Through our conversation, I found myself drawn to her warm beautiful spirit shining through it all with a smile that lights up a room. I felt myself drawn to her spirit, which is being depicted in this painting.

Billy Rivard and Lucie-Ann Chen



Billy Rivard Three Rivers, MI

Leukemia Survivor

Twist On Cancer: Having cancer gives you a different outlook on life. It makes you appreciate everything you have because you know some people were not as lucky as you were to be called a survivor. It also provided me with an interest in science and was lucky enough to make it into a career teaching Biology and Anatomy to high school students. Maybe because I was diagnosed

at such a young age but everything I am today and all my interests I can blame cancer for. It forced me to fish and care about the environment and now I play with sharks and stingrays every year. My experience with cancer made me who I am today, allowed me to meet a great bunch of people that I most likely would have never crossed paths with. Yes, I could do without some of the side effects from everything but I cannot imagine my life any other way.

Lucie-Ann Chen Chicago, IL

“Waves”

Ink on canvas
40” x 30”

\$350

Artist Statement:

What struck me the most about Billy during our conversations was his zest for life and his passion and love for anything related to the water – water



sports, fishing, spending time at the lake with his family, marine biology, swimming with sharks, etc. I wanted to capture the ebb and flow of his journey and the sense of peace I felt from him, even when he was talking about the difficult parts of his life. There are the “messier” parts of the piece that symbolize the treatment, surgeries, multiple diagnoses and subsequent health issues stemming from treatment that he went through, but these are all surrounded by calming and peaceful waves. The waves symbolize Billy, his love for the water, his amazing support system and his never-ending quest for the next big catch.

Lisa Blankenship and Joshua Johnston



Lisa Blankenship Chicago, Illinois

Breast Cancer Survivor

Twist On Cancer: I am a medical student who expected to be on the other side of the cancer conversation, only to end up as a patient instead. I hope my future patients will be well served by my new understanding of what it's like to be the person in the hospital gown, rather than the white coat.

Joshua Johnston Romeo, Michigan

“Breathing Hope”

Mixed Media 14” x 11”

\$150

Artist

Statement:

The profile of a woman breathes out hope and joy toward a caduceus. Lisa, a medical student, radiates joy despite her battle with cancer and is currently sharing that joy and hope with another going through the same thing.



Joe Schneider and Kelsey Tupper



Joe Schneider Chicago, Illinois

Burkitt's Lymphoma Survivor

Twist On Cancer: Cancer has had a major impact on my life. It is not who I am, but it defines the man I am today. My outlook on life has completely changed and cancer is the reason I live such a rich, fulfilling life. I have so much to live for, so many things left undone, so many goals and dreams that I would fight until there was no more fight left in my body. I love how life is full of surprises, good and bad, because that is what makes life so worth living. The unknown. I don't want to be stuck in life, I want surprises! Life is a precious thing.

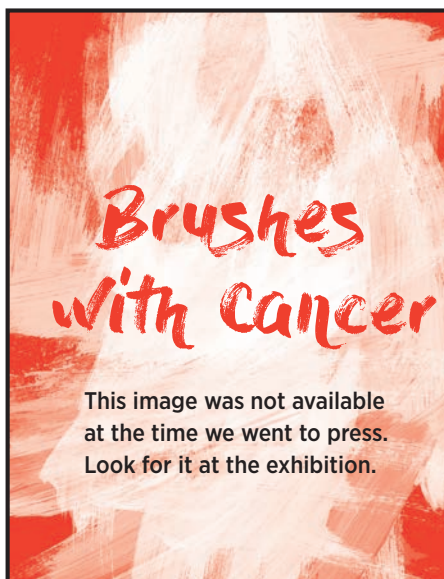
Kelsey Tupper Chicago, Illinois

"fan fada ar ailse"

Mixed Medium 22" x 30.5"

\$400

Artist Statement: At only 18 years old, Joe Schneider was diagnosed with Burkitt's non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma, a rare and fast-growing cancer. He was put through intense, aggressive treatment, the isolation of his hospital room, and the trauma of losing a new friend with the same cancer as his, and losing his sense of self. He is now a survivor and a huge advocate for the cancer community. This piece explores the psychological toll Joe experienced- an incredibly difficult trial for any person, much less a teenager. However, that time of darkness ended up leading to the light of his life; his precious, spunky daughter Riley. I wanted to pay respect to the depth of Joe's experience; on both ends of the spectrum of despair and joy, and all the shades of gray between. As a woman who has unfortunately experienced loss and cancer in her family, Joe's strength and vulnerability touched me. My hope is for Joe to reflect upon his experience and see the incredible impact his tenacity has had on his friends and family, the cancer community, and of course, Riley. I want others currently fighting cancer, survivors, and their support systems to know their light is there, too. Even if they haven't found it yet. With respect and admiration to you all, fan fada ar ailse. (Fuck cancer.)



Charleen Recto Bacalan and Jacqueline Carmody



Charleen Recto Bacalan Chicago, Illinois

*Hodgkin's Lymphoma Survivor
Caregiver to husband with Stage 4 Urothelial Cancer*

Twist On Cancer: Cancer has been my best friend and worst enemy. It has given me a lot of grief and pain throughout the years but has also given me the most beautiful moments and experiences of my life. I am a survivor of Hodgkin's Lymphoma and was the caregiver of my late husband, Jason. Jason was diagnosed with Stage 4 Urothelial Cancer in early 2015 and lost

his heroic battle that same year. My own battle with cancer taught me the value of life and to pursue my dreams. But, fighting for my husband's life brought me to a deeper level of existence. Our journey with his cancer showed me what true love is... something that I have always struggled with. Cancer showed me what it meant to love someone unconditionally. It's the kind of love that has no boundaries and conditions. And during our struggle, we were able to tear down the walls between us. Though he is no longer here for us to continue to experience this deeper connection, I am thankful that we had a brief but wonderful experience of loving each other unconditionally. But without the pain and struggle we went through, I would not be able to share this LOVE with all of you. With this, I hope you all find beauty in your struggles. Have faith that the pain you are feeling now will fuel your desire to find meaning and purpose, and know that not everyone has the chance to do so. There will always be light no matter the outcome. Love will always prevail.

Jacqueline Carmody Chicago, Illinois

"Together"

Acrylic on Canvas 30" x 30"

\$1500

Artist Statement: The artwork that I created reflects the relationship between Char and her late husband, Jason, while she was his caretaker. During the last few months of his battle with cancer, Char expressed they had reached a level of intimacy that was new and unlike anything they had shared in the past years of their marriage. This intimacy went beyond physical needs, it was the purest form of love and personal connection that Char had ever experienced with Jason. The art piece is a tribute to their relationship and portrays my perception of the type of bond that was formed. The two colors that are used in the piece were added onto the canvas separately, but as they dried, they blended together and were no longer two distinct colors. The process of the painting was not planned and the outcome was unpredictable. It allowed me to gain perspective on creating something that I could not control and that I could watch develop and value its uniqueness.



Victoria Adamczyk and Hayley Serruya



Victoria Adamczyk Flower Mound, Texas

Breast Cancer Survivor (CHEK2 carrier)

Twist On Cancer: I got some of my dad's traits - his love of camping, classic music, and movies; perhaps even his (healthy, I'd like to think) sense of impatience! I sometimes see him in myself, as well as in my sisters. A bit over a decade after my dad passed away from cancer at age 52, I discovered something else I got from dad when I was diagnosed with breast cancer at 33. I learned I carried a genetic mutation,

CHEK2, that increases risk of many types of cancers such as breast, ovarian, and prostate. Throughout my diagnosis, treatment, monitoring, and now, my experiences with *Brushes with Cancer*, I think about my dad and all of the other of men and women who weren't as fortunate as I have been. I think about those whose experiences my generation has the benefit of learning from. I think about my dad, and so many other like him, who left us too soon. I think about how I'm not going to be like him on this one. I want to be here a while.

Hayley Serruya Chicago, Illinois

"Fighter"

Mixed Media 15" x 15"

\$50

Artist Statement: "Life is full of incredibly hard situations but how we get through those difficult times defines who we are."



Liza Allen and Catherine Chinnock



Liza Allen Mendota Heights, Minnesota

Breast Cancer Survivor

Twist On Cancer: On July 31, 2013, when I was diagnosed with breast cancer, I felt stunned and then terrified. My mother had died of colon cancer when I was a teenager, and the memory of her struggle was clear and overwhelming in my mind. Two weeks before my diagnosis, I traveled to Poland with my siblings and cousin looking for details about our parents' survival during the Holocaust. I had hoped the trip would help me understand my parents' lives, so I could fully see my life as separate from theirs. The trip sparked a process of separation, but it was my cancer diagnosis that anchored me in my life and body. After my surgery, I focused on my own survival--getting well and nurturing my body and spirit. When I felt stronger, I began to push myself physically. I discovered dragon boat paddling through the Dragon Divas, an amazing group of breast cancer survivors in Minnesota, and have been training with them ever since. (It turns out that there are over 140 breast cancer survivor dragon boat racing teams internationally). Through my cancer experience, I learned to accept uncertainty. I've tried to be kinder to myself--to trust more and fear less. Staying connected with other cancer survivors has been a great support for me.

Catherine Chinnock

Chicago, Illinois

"Integration"

Mixed Media 24" x 24"

\$150

Artist Statement: My identity as an art therapist is clearly present in my approach to art making.

I find my work often explores concepts of containment, storytelling and personal growth. My art is a release of things unknown to me; a communication with myself. It takes various forms and develops intuitively. I let materials guide me in the way the need to be formed to manifest thoughts, feelings and experiences for which I lack words. I explore various media and often find myself focused on a material or subject matter. At times it is the process of creation that provides me with physiological release. Other times it is the messages in my imagery communicating to me.



Megan Milano and Neely Benn



Megan Milano Naperville, Illinois

Caregiver of mother with stage IV breast cancer

Twist On Cancer: “Resilience--the ability of something to return to its original shape after it has been pulled, stretched, pressed or bent.” Cancer changes you forever--it creeps into your life with the potential to break you or to strengthen you. Yet, with a willingness to conquer fears, accept heartbreak, welcome laughter and share in unconditional love, cancer turns those who allow it into beautiful human beings.

These resilient human beings come to feel love and know life on a deeper, more fulfilling level. My heart ripped out of my chest that moment I lost my mother to breast cancer in September of 2015. Twist Out Cancer has allowed me to reflect on her resilient 11 year battle.

Neely Benn Chicago, Illinois

“The Show Must Go On”

Photography 38” x 26”

\$1500

Artist Statement: All the world’s a stage! Megan’s story? One show. Her sisters, mother, father, merely players.

One lady in her time plays many parts. At first, the infant. Precious!

Loving and attached to her mother, a sweet little girl. Endearing. Shy.

Then, the tormented school-girl! A gregarious daughter crippled with worry. Yearning for family and her safe place; home. And then, the protector of her young sisters. Then, a joker. With a laughter that resonates like a soul dance!

Alas, what’s past is prologue.

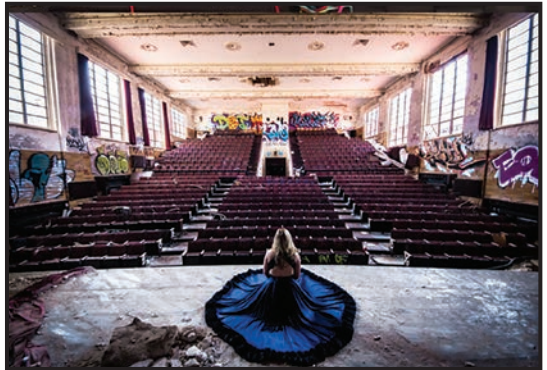
And, Megan plays her parts. This part shifts amidst an unexpected curtain call. Her supporting cast, aching with illness, exiting the ensemble. Her mother’s final bow has passed, her father’s closing night, approaching. Megan, once the leading lady, now a swing – the actress who plays multiple roles when other cast members cannot perform. Infant. Daughter. Sister. Now Caregiver.

Even in the face of absence and death, Megan remains compassionate, ambitious. Megan takes center stage, reminding the audience that this play is not a tragedy! Rather, An evolution of resilience and bravery in a world far too complicated.

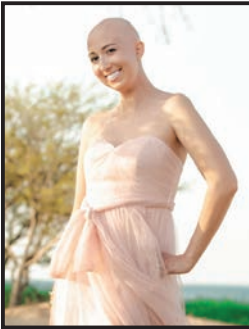
And, a promise that the show must go on.

Hence, come now and hush! The lights will soon dim. Quiet in the wings!

And now...from the top –



Anna Duski and Kyle Irving



Anna Duski Chicago, Illinois

Breast Cancer Survivor

Twist on Cancer: It may sound unbelievable but the year I had cancer in many ways was one of the best of my life. Don't get me wrong, it was without a doubt the worst year ever. But when you are faced with death and your own mortality, your senses go into hyperdrive, everything becomes brighter, and bigger and more intense, which can be beautiful. Cancer can be a gift in the way that it simplifies all your goals to one thing: living. It gave me an insight to

how much my life has touched other people's- something every one's life does - but something that I am not sure one normally gets to know about while still alive. It has given me some of the most real, beautiful moments of my life and shown me my truest friendships, a respect for living in the moment, gratitude for each moment big and small, and an immense appreciation for each extra day I am alive. So yes, in many ways, the worst year ever, the year I had cancer, was an awe inspiring year full of blessings. I would never wish cancer on anyone but I am proud of the survivor it has turned me into and I cherish the lessons it has taught me.

Kyle Irving Detroit, MI

Ink and Paint on Canvas 24" x 18"

\$350

Artist Statement:

This image is a very gestural and impressionistic style depicting Anna's story so far. A free figure in the foreground represents her as she moved through this confusing and up and down story.



Abby Shapiro and Alyssa Judlo



Abby Shapiro Washington DC.

Osteosarcoma, 16

Twist On Cancer: “I don’t live on the edge, I jump off it”.

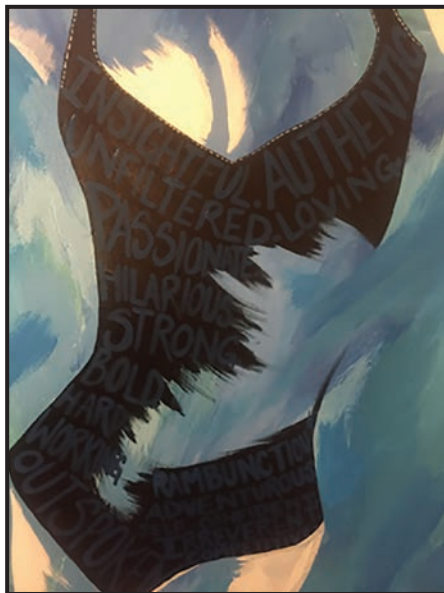
Abby was the type of person who did things her own unique way and that’s exactly what she did when she was diagnosed with Osteosarcoma. She stopped watching TV, as she felt it was not a productive use of her time. Instead she spent her days creating artwork, bonding with her family and friends and building relationships with the entire hospital staff, always asking them about themselves, their relationships and their lives. She was incredibly loving, she was witty, she was strong and she was kind before and during her battle with cancer.

Alyssa Judlo Chicago, Illinois

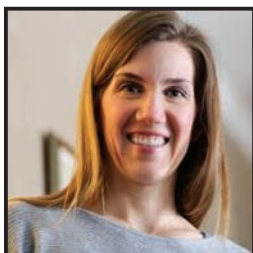
Mixed Media 30 “x 40”

\$1500

Artist Statement: Competitive swimmer Abby Shapiro was diagnosed with cancer at the age of 16. She was passionate about swimming, was a very diligent student and a friend to many. Known for her bold personality and vivacious spirit, Abby embraced each day with excitement and a positive attitude. When she became bedridden a month after her cancer diagnosis, Abby turned to art as a new way to express herself. Day after day, she would sit in bed and work on her creations. In conjunction with her humor and the love of family and friends, art became part of Abby’s “medicine” for her soul. This piece of art represents who Abby was before and during her battle with cancer. It represents her heroism and the legacy she left behind. She was a beautiful, courageous, strong and loving soul, who will forever continue to inspire all whose lives she touched.



Erin Green and Jestin Robinson



Erin Green Chicago, Illinois

Caregiver for Husband with Brain Cancer

Twist on Cancer: As a caregiver, a cancer diagnosis is a journey that is full of emotions. I've learned to take things one day at a time, make time for myself, and believe that it will lead us to a stronger, better place.

Jestin Robinson

Romeo, Michigan

“Through Still and Storm “

Acrylic water based ink

24” x 30”

\$850

Artist Statement: My painting represents Erin’s experience as the ship keeping her family afloat by sailing through the storm into the sunset. Her family, friends and her faith in God have stayed fast with the ship, through still and storm.



Kelly Stars Moncayo and Tova Rothschild



Kelly Stars Moncayo Fort Lauderdale, Florida

Breast Cancer Survivor and BRCA1 Carrier

Twist On Cancer: Cancer does not discriminate based on age, race or gender. Everyone I meet has been touched by cancer in some way. Please be aware, please be familiar with your own body and please advocate for yourself!

Tova Rothschild Highland Park, Illinois

Glass Beads 24" Long

\$180

Artist Statement: My necklace is dedicated to Kelly and her life story. A story that affected Kelly as young girl and continues to impact her as a young adult. I chose to bead this necklace with many red beads because red is the color of blood and blood is the symbol of life. After hearing Kelly's story and learning more about her I wanted to convey her beauty. I felt that having a flower in the center of the piece would serve as the best representation of this young, beautiful adult. I wish Kelly health and that her dreams be fulfilled.



Heather Densmore and Jessica Montalbano



Heather Densmore Indianapolis, Indiana

Breast Cancer Survivor-Stage 2B Her2+

Twist on Cancer: This has been the worst and best thing that has ever happened to me, now that is a twist. It's crazy to even say that. I've learned so much though and met amazing people along the way. You certainly learn who your true friends are during such a difficult time, but you also see people come together that you wouldn't ever think of. I

learned my sister, my caregiver, is my true soul mate and will forever be by my side. The sorrow that I saw her go through seeing what I was going through, was heart-breaking. This made me a stronger person though and more of a believer. Now, I want to see beautiful things and really appreciate life in a way I never thought about before. I never want to take life for granted ever again. If I could give any advice at all, I would say, don't give up hope. It's okay to have bad/dark days, but don't get stuck there. You've heard that saying, "this is a bump in the road" and it used to make me mad hearing that but it's true, this is a bump in the road...a huge bump in the road but you are a survivor and that is something special!

Jessica Montalbano

Denver, Colorado

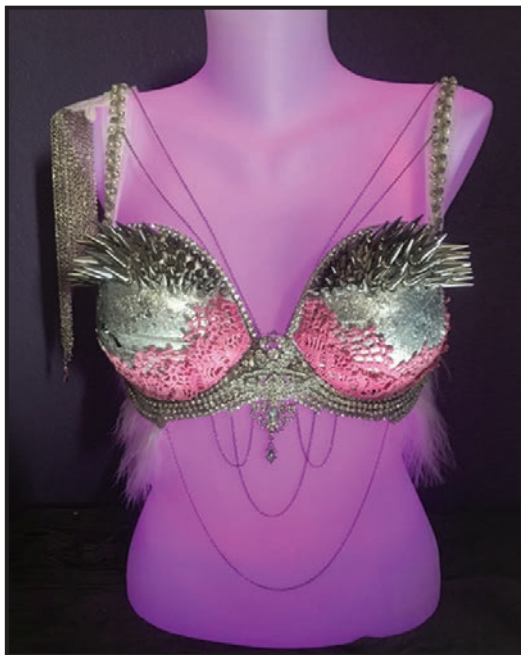
"Freedom to Shine"

Bra Art 16" x 21"

\$700

Artist Statement: I used a bra because Heather is a breast cancer survivor who had a double mastectomy. I added the metal

fringe over one shoulder because she had lymph nodes affected on that side. Her strength and perseverance really spoke to me so I wanted to make this really badass to represent that, and the softer elements like feathers and the bird-like shape of the jewels on the front are because she mentioned being inspired by freedom of flight and I pictured her as a beautiful bird flying away into the sky. I also added a small angel among the spikes over her heart to represent her sister's support.



Mary Bielecki and Nate Hoops



Mary Bielecki Mount Prospect, Illinois

Caregiver for Father with Pancreatic Cancer

Twist On Cancer: My father was diagnosed when I was 26. The experience taught me that life is unexpected and that you need to say and do all things you feel because you never know what tomorrow brings. I also learned to not be afraid to take videos and pictures of my father. I wish that I had him write letters to my unborn children. I was too scared to ask and didn't always want to accept that my dad was not going to meet my children. Having video and pictures have filled the gap of not having my

dad around but I wish I did more.

Nate Hoops Chicago, Illinois

"Oh Danny Boy"

9" x 12"

Watercolor

\$500

Artist Statement: When I heard Mary's story, what stood out to me the most was her relationship with her father and what that meant to her. Even more specific was his presence at her wedding despite his diagnosis. I hope that this piece will capture a few moments of that special day.



Lauren Smoke and Jason Felde



Lauren Smoke Chicago, Illinois

Breast Cancer Survivor

Twist On Cancer: Even though I was diagnosed with cancer during my first pregnancy last year, I'll still remember it as the best year of my life. I remember it as the year of love. The year surprised myself with my own strength. The year I fought back with my miracle baby, Nico. I am grateful for every second with the little warrior who saved my life.

Jason Felde

“VICTORY”

Medium: oil, watercolor, wood

36” x 36”

\$650

VICTORY! That is not a word that you get to hear associated with cancer very often. In the case of Lauren Smoke, it is a word that has multiple meanings. Getting married and becoming a mother are two days that most women have thought about at some point in their life. And no women expect to be diagnosed with breast cancer at the very beginning of both of those dreams. About a year into her marriage and about 8 weeks into her pregnancy, Lauren was diagnosed with stage 2 breast cancer.



“Is my baby ok?”, “What did I do to cause this”, “But I am young , healthy, and in great shape”, “What about my baby and Chemo?”

These were some of Lauren’s immediate reactions to her news. These two wonderful new adventures had just been derailed with one simple phone call. This little person who had just began his preparation for our world, had no idea what he was in for. At this point he was just the size of a peanut, but was stronger then anyone knew. His name was to be Nico which translates into VICTORY! Little did he know that he would be the strength for Lauren to achieve a victory of her own.

“I feel like being pregnant actually saved me. I had something positive to focus on. Something extra to fight for. I loved imagining what he would look like, what he would sound like.”

It was like she had pregnant super powers, Lauren has told me. I really wanted to create a piece that represented her strength, her struggle, her love, her support, her passion, her anger, her anxiety, and her stress, but most importantly I wanted to represent her VICTORY!!

Nora McMahon and Vikram Krishnamurthy



Nora McMahon Chicago, Illinois

Ovarian Cancer Survivor

Twist on Cancer: My cancer diagnosis was humbling. It is an ongoing struggle, but does not define me. I prefer the term “Cancer Graduate” over “Cancer Survivor”, because “survivor” seems limiting- you either survive or you don’t. I prefer “thriver” or “graduate”, because those terms suggest that life can be full and beautiful and lessons can be learned, post diagnosis.

Vikram Krishnamurthy Cleveland, Ohio

“The Scene”

Canvas with Pencil, Acrylic, Spray Paint and Screen Printing 46” x 48”

\$750

Artist Statement: This piece features imagery that is commonplace to urban-dwellers that also references unique elements from Nora’s life. Her past experiences in San Francisco, Chicago, and Philadelphia intersect to form the core the piece. Its’ content and style are influenced by Nora’s time as a dancer and her love of street art, graffiti, pop art, and photography.

Nora is a self-proclaimed “cancer graduate” of ovarian cancer, which generally carries a poor prognosis. Fortunately, she was diagnosed and treated at an early-stage, but still required invasive surgery and harrowing chemotherapy. This life-altering event shed light on Nora’s new perspective. The transit train in the piece

represents a moment during the early stages of her diagnosis, one that prompted the realization of living in the now. Nora, thus, chose to re-direct the spotlight towards connecting, educating, and sharing her life.

Nora is now entrenched in the “cancer scene,” and although forever altered like the liberty bell, her message still resonates loudly. This piece is about standing proudly on your feet after seemingly insurmountable odds. For more insight into this inspiring woman, visit Nora’s blog at “get-better.net.”



August Spree and Phillip Johnson



August Spree Romeo, Michigan

Caregiver for Grandmother who died of Stomach and Lung Cancer

Survivor of Myoepithelioma

Twist on Cancer: I shared some of my grandmother's spirit with my artist, Phil. She passed away after I had already gotten through my own battle with cancer, and she had raised me so it was particularly difficult for me. She was a tough, stubborn, bright, beautiful woman and cancer never changed that. She was the rock of our family, and I am happy to have her memory honored here with Brushes.

Phillip Johnson

"Lady Jewel"

Digital Manipulation
32" x 27"

\$600

Artist Statement: Originally working in the fashion industry and was in the process of creating his own clothing line he discovered his burning passion for graphic art. As he developed graphic designs which was originally intended for his clothing line this led to



the birth of the portfolio which will be seen on textiles, canvas, fabrics, and in entertainment. Having no formal art training and being self taught on specific computer software he is ironically on the cutting edge of graphic art. The inspiration of his work comes from famous pop artist like Lichtenstein and Warhol. Phil D. uses his fairy tale imaginary mind to create specific characters while using bright multi-colors that appeals to all ages. He also uses photography, video, and any medium that will spark a new outlook to art enthusiast and collectors. Lady Jewel is a look into the life of a caring woman who is strong passion for helping others impacted so many lives she came across in her life. Using original photos from her personal family photo book Phil D. composed a piece that embodied Lady Jewel's strength and charisma. Lady Jewel is also a celebration that will remain being told in the present life for a long time.

Janel and Matt Gould and Heather Horton



Janel and Matt Gould Chicago, Illinois

Janel = survivor of a brain tumor (Oligodendroglioma & Matt = nasal cancer (SNUC) – currently undergoing treatment

Twist On Cancer: Matt and I both agree that our biggest takeaway from our experiences with Cancer (patient and caregiver) is how we look at life or continue to look at life. We have always lived life with no regrets (separately and together) and have never once looked back and said we need to make a list of all of the things that we want to do in our lifetime. Living life for us (with or without Cancer)

has always been our top priority. We both feel lucky to have each other and to be traveling our journey together. The following quote sums up how we feel about life in general “Life Isn’t Fair But It’s Still Great”. Never stop living!!!!

Heather Horton

Toronto, Ontario

“Portrait of Janel and Matt”

Oil on wood panel
18” x 12”

\$1,600

Artist Statement:

I wanted to capture Janel and Matt’s bond and their connection whilst still showing that they have been on their own individual journeys with cancer. It is a portrait of two separate people who share a deep connection on many levels.



Sara Hurwick and Maya Koenig



Sara Hurwick Chicago, Illinois

Caregiver of Dad with Brain Cancer

Twist On Cancer: You are so much stronger than you think and can overcome pain and struggles

Maya Koenig New York City

“Threshold”

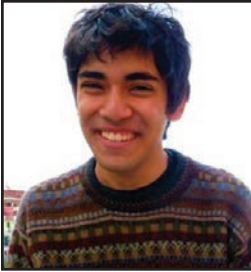
Acrylic and Urethane on Linen 30” x 25”

\$600

Artist Statement: Sara describes a feeling of having lived two lives: a life with a father, and a life without one. The struggle arises when the second life is able to evolve and stay relevant, while the first life remains in the past, unchanged and more unfamiliar each day. This piece explores the nature of that frozen life, by investigated the familiar structures and places that hold witness to that past. Walls, windows, and doors; these are all shells alive with memory. In the title, one also examines the threshold between two lives, and how through the frame of a painting of a scene that was once occupied, one can move more freely between the two.



Nishant Bhansali and Will Meadows



Nishant Bhansali Stanford, CA

Hodgkin's Lymphoma Survivor

Twist On Cancer: Everyone deals with cancer in their own way. Mine was to think about it one treatment at a time and to not let it define me. I was fortunate enough to be enrolled in college while being treated. Being a student and taking classes was incredibly helpful to keep my mind busy and not worry about the next session of chemotherapy.

Will Meadows Stanford, CA

"Eye on the Stars"

Photography 36" x 24"

\$1,000

Artist Statement:

When Nish and I first talked about his cancer experiences, we were photographing stars in the woods of Northern California.

It was the beginning of our friendship and our fascination with the stars led us to discuss time, listening to nature, and tough

times. Nish would cut off his hospital band each day he was in the hospital. During chemo, he continued to take engineering classes at Stanford, not letting his illness define him. I was always inspired by his ability to "keep his eye on the stars" and to remind those around him what is important. These were the photographs we took.



Traveling Exhibition from the Ann Arbor Voices Gallery

Dr. David Shersher and Bowen Kline



Dr. David Shersher Chicago, Illinois

Caregiver

Twist On Cancer: Cancer has no boundaries. It is the ultimate societal equalizer. As a caregiver at home and someone who treats cancer at work, I am humbled by its many faces. And behind each diagnosis is a human spirit and a will to persevere. Each day I bring this home and am grateful for the job I have.

Bowen Kline Romeo, Michigan

“David with Red Square”

Oil/Acrylic 18” x 25”

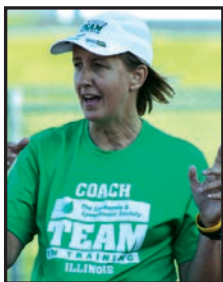
\$1500

*Previously on Display at Voices Gallery,
University of Michigan Cancer Center*

Artist Statement: This is a portrait of Dr. David Shersher, the husband of Twist Out Cancer’s founder Jenna Benn-Shersher. I chose a pose of contemplation. As a surgeon, daily stress and exhaustion are normal. This painting is one of respect and is a testament to all the Doctors and Nurses around the world.



Marie Jarrell and Bowen Kline



Marie Jarrell Chicago, Illinois

Breast Cancer Survivor

Twist On Cancer: I heard the words...well actually they didn't have to be said. My doctor said "I have your biopsy results" and I said, "They are positive, right?". I was diagnosed with breast cancer. Much like Jenna, my twist on cancer was to dance through it. One of my favorite mantras is "Life is not about waiting for the storm to pass, but learning to dance in the rain." and dance, literally and figuratively, I did. To me each milestone was a reason to party. I

had a pre-mastectomy party at Hooters and had another celebration when it was time to shave my head. Of course, the best celebration of all was my one year post-chemo anniversary when I had a dance party to say thank you to all of the wonderful people who supported me during my treatment. My other twist was to "Roar". As I learned more about breast cancer I taught. I used Caring Bridge and Facebook to educate anyone who cared to listen about cancer prevention, treatment and the experience in general. Cancer slowed me down but never stopped me. I am a marathon coach for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. This picture is very poignant to me because it was taken exactly one week after my mastectomy. I still had my drains in, but I was back on the track doing what I loved to do. To me it symbolized my putting cancer in it's place.

Bowen Kline Romeo, Michigan

"I want to peel away the false layers one builds up over time to shield themselves from the world and show how similar we all are to one another"

"Kaleidoscope"

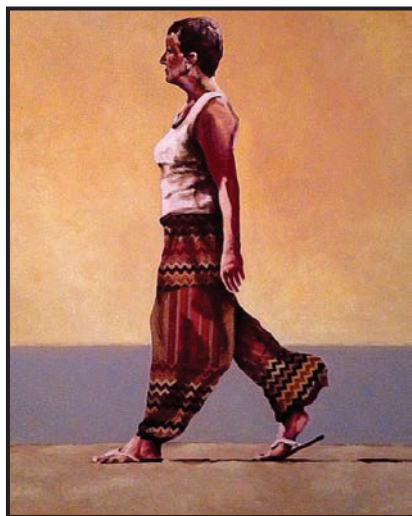
Oil/Acrylic/Collage 30"x38"

\$1500

Previously on Display at Voices Gallery, University of Michigan Cancer Center

Artist Statement: "Life is a Kaleidoscope of challenges, hardships, and destinations. In other words, it's chaotic. How you choose to walk the paths, defines who you are."

I want to introduce Marie Jarrell. She was diagnosed with Breast Cancer over a year ago and has recently completed her treatment. Although she may never know if she will truly be cancer "free", this has not broken her stride. I chose to depict Marie at her moment of "self-realization". This point in time when retreat was not an option. Instead of running away, she turns with head up and shoulders back to meet her adversary. You can almost hear her say "You will NOT take me off my path. I still have a lot to do."



Kasey Passen and Bowen Kline



Kasey Passen Chicago, Illinois

Supporter

Chicago, Illinois

Twist On Cancer: Sometimes the best medicine is simply being there for your loved one. You can't take away their suffering and you can't change their diagnosis. But you can listen to their deepest fears. You can dance with them in their hospital room as the chemo drips into their port. You can sing with them, go to temple and pray, laugh and cry with them. Just being there and being real offers so much comfort and healing.

Bowen Kline Romeo, Michigan

“Kasey”

Oil/Acrylic 20” x 25”

\$1800

Previously on Display at Voices Gallery, University of Michigan Cancer Center

Artist Statement: “Kasey” is a painting of Kasey Passen. She is one of Jenna’s greatest friends. Her stare is hypnotic and compassionate. Her eyes are made larger to reinforce this idea.



Bowen Kline and Bowen Kline



Bowen Kline Romeo, Michigan

Supporter

Twist on Cancer: Every morning I wake and every night I retire, I pray for my family, friends, and for a purpose. As artists, we strive for a meaning in what we do. Over the years I've come to understand a connection we all share with one another. That life is shared by us all. That differences lead us to our similarities. I've spent half my life on the outside looking in, observing people and the world that circulates around me. We are not alone, we have each other.

TOC's "Brushes with Cancer" affords me another opportunity to understand life. Bringing to the fore front the pain, sadness, and struggle as well as the strength and perseverance that makes us human. Twist has shown me that cancer brings us closer to life. My involvement with "Brushes" has transformed my work and brought a new importance to the phrase "Every breathe is precious, every sight is magnificent, Live, Live, Live!"

Bowen Kline
Romeo, Michigan

"There is Peace in Every Storm"

Oil/Acrylic 23" x 23"
\$1800



Previously on Display at Voices Gallery, University of Michigan Cancer Center

Artist Statement: This piece is a self-portrait. It shows a battle between my two selves. There is me and who I want to be. There is a quiet storm that I struggle with every day. Always on the outside looking in, ever the observer. Hoping to find my place in this world.

Suzanne Gauvreau and Brad Young



Suzanne Gauvreau Roseville, Michigan

Breast Cancer Survivor (3 times)

Twist on Cancer: Seek information and speak to people who have gone before you. You need to make the decisions that are best for you.

I was 36 years old at first diagnosis.

Brad Young Almont, Michigan

“Healing Harp”

Reclaimed wood 24” x 34”

\$1000

*Previously on Display at Voices Gallery,
University of Michigan Cancer Center*

Artist Statement: Music is the magic of this world. It heals people in so many different ways. Suzanne’s story inspired me to make a piece that highlights her healing music.



Emma Peck Block and Diana Day



Emma Peck Block Chicago, Illinois

Caregiver for Mother with Breast Cancer

I thought that my mom would get kidnapped or in a car accident before she would get cancer. And yet April 9th, 2012 she told me and my sister that she had a lump in her breast that was cancerous. She had a lumpectomy on April 18th and the surgery went smoothly. The initial surgery set the precedent for the rest of treatment. Every time something could have gone wrong it didn't and we were okay. We found out she would need chemotherapy and after the initial panic we were okay. She was calm when we shaved her head. We were okay. After each stage we were okay. One of the things I learned throughout my mom's treatment was that the friends I kept closest were the ones who not only asked how my mom was doing but asked how I was doing. These friends validated my fears and sadness and were present to me during a time of much uncertainty. What impressed me most about my mom was how she needed so much care and yet in some way continued to care for me. I did not need to be at every chemo treatment. Sometimes I think she would have preferred if I had not come and yet she let me be there because she knew that I needed to be there. I needed to see that she was okay each and every time.

Diana Day Munnith, MI

“Out of Our Vulnerabilities Comes Strength”

Photo-Artistic Print
14” x 11”

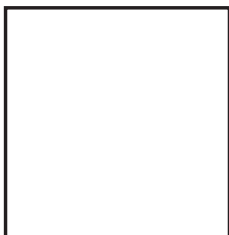
\$50



Previously on Display at Voices Gallery, University of Michigan Cancer Center

Artist Statement: My art genre is photography and creating digital artwork with photos. I was matched with Emma Peck Block, who was a caregiver throughout her mother's struggle and survival over cancer. Because Emma and I do not live in close proximity, I was unable to take a photo of Emma and her mother with which to create a project. Through email correspondence and speaking with Emma on the phone, I learned of Emma's and her mother's story. From the selection of digital photos Emma sent me, I chose a photo and quote that I felt best represented the family's strength and triumph over the disease, with which to create this simple inspirational poster.

Anne Raczkowski and Douglas Jones



Anne Raczkowski Chicago, Illinois

Caregiver of dad with brain cancer

Twist On Cancer: You are so much stronger than you think and can overcome pain and struggles

Douglas Jones New Jackson, Michigan

“Finding Light Within for Anne”

Acrylic 36” x 48”

\$700

Previously on Display at Voices Gallery, University of Michigan Cancer Center

Artist Statement: My name is Doug Jones and I believe in the transformative, therapeutic nature of art.

Several years ago, I walked these same halls with a heavy heart, in support of a family member. I found peace in the hospital's vast collection. I am privileged to share this sacred space with Anne. Anne continues to battle. I paint her brightly. In the background are hidden faces and dark colors that represent the propensity to fall into the dark concerns and reactions of others rather than that intrinsic inherent light inward. Anne conquers the well intentioned darkness of others as she continues to live and fight.



August Spree and Jason Felde



August Spree Romeo, Michigan

Survivor of Myoepithelioma

Twist on Cancer: I was diagnosed with myoepithelioma at 27 years old. I was 8 months pregnant at the time, and like many people, I was afraid of the word “cancer”. I shared with Jason how in the beginning I wanted to separate myself and who I was from the disease I carried, and so instead of saying “I have cancer” I always said, “I have a lump that is cancer.” That way, I attached the cancer to the lump and not to me. This made it easier to fight and be strong because I was fighting a lump, not myself. My twist on cancer is to not let it define everything you are. I am so much more than that.

Jason Felde Jackson, Michigan

C@#CER

Watercolor 22" x 28"

\$700

Previously on Display at Voices Gallery, University of Michigan Cancer Center

Artist Statement: In talking with August about her experience and fight with cancer, she told me some advice she was given very early in her diagnosis. She was told not to own the cancer. Not to tell people that “I have cancer”. By saying that statement over and over, she would be owning the cancer



a little more every time. Instead she should associate the cancer with the lump. Let the lump own the cancer, and let's get rid of the lump. So to instead tell people “I have a lump, and that lump has cancer”. The way we word things can have a very significant impact on the way we react to certain things, and I think we all know that in the fight against cancer we can use any bit of positive thinking possible. So in my painting, I decided that the word cancer needed to be treated as a bad word that should not be used and we should be prevented to use it.

Stephanie Held and Jennifer Stumbaugh



Stephanie Held Chicago, Illinois

Caregiver for Grandfather with Melanoma

Twist On Cancer: My grandfather passed away from Melanoma almost a year ago. He was my hero, and most giving person I have ever come across. My experience with cancer has been to always keep fighting for the cure. My grandfather fought until his body no longer could, and kept his integrity with him the entire time. I would like everyone to know that a person is still themselves with cancer, and wants to be treated the way they always have before cancer. I only hope there is a cure for all cancer one day so more people get to keep their heroes in their lives longer like my grandfather.

Jennifer Stumbaugh Chicago, Illinois

"I'll let you go now"

Acrylic/paper/collage 30" x 40"

\$750

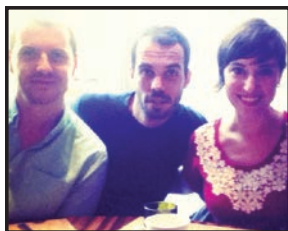
*Previously on Display at
Voices Gallery, University
of Michigan Cancer Center*

Artist Statement: As a daughter, sister, wife and mother of 4, I wear many hats. My creativity can strike at any time and takes many forms. I dabble in clay, paint, fabric, charcoal, food... I'm a lifelong student and love learning new things. I don't know



anyone who's life has not been touched by cancer... It's a privilege to take part in honoring survivors, caretakers, and those who have gone before us. This piece speaks to a special relationship between grandfather and granddaughter. Moved by the words that Stephanie wrote to honor her grandfather, I decided to use them as the foundation of this mixed media collage, celebrating the life he lived and the people he loved. Stephanie and her grandfather had an undeniable, unique bond, and spoke to each other every day on the phone. I called this piece "I'll Let You Go Now" - this was how he would often say goodbye at the end of their conversations... I thought it fitting, because ultimately, there's a letting go that has to happen before healing can begin.

Dan Hadad Aviad and Joshua Johnston



Dan Hadad Aviad Toronto, Ontario

Caregiver

Twist On Cancer: What to do? What to say? Two questions that are always on the minds of those closest to individuals touched by cancer. In too short a time frame, two of the people closest to me have had to deal with the consequences of cancer. My best friend Jenna

was diagnosed with Grey Zone Lymphoma and just a few months later my partner Daniel's father, Scott was diagnosed with esophageal cancer and later passed away. Keeping Jenna & Daniel smiling, laughing, hoping was my part in what was the hardest times of their lives.

Joshua Johnston Romeo, Michigan

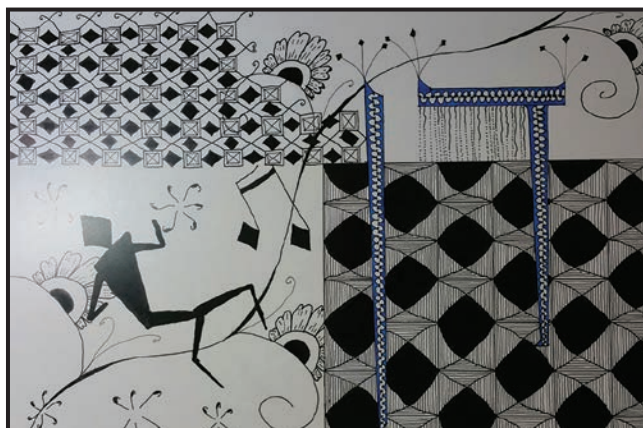
"Shema"

Pen and Ink,
Watercolor on
Gessoed Panel
9" x 12"

\$150

Artist Statement:

Dan Hadad's story of dealing with supporting several people through cancer inspired this Zentangle-inspired



art. In the bottom left is a dancing figure surrounded by sparkly shapes. When Jenna had cancer, Dan supported her with a video of dancing with his dog, and later joined her in founding Twist Out Each Zentangle pattern has a name. Intended to represent both Jenna and the joy he felt when she went into remission, the sparkly pattern is 'Joy'. The pattern threading up into the rest of the painting is part of the Hebrew word 'Shema,' meaning 'hear' or 'listen.' Listening was a big part of how Dan coped with his partner's dad's fight. He realized he needed to really listen in order to be there and support. 'Shema' also refers to a ritual prayer in Judaism; this journey didn't end in joy, but in his partner saying a memorial prayer. The lines coming off the Hebrew letters are both part of the 'Shema' and reminiscent of tassels on a prayer shawl. Dan was born in Tel Aviv, raised in Canada and considers Hebrew beautiful. I therefore represented him with his name in Hebrew. Dancer or solemn prayer, listening runs through everything.

Kathryn Heerwagen and Mark Marianos



Kathryn Heerwagen Chicago, Illinois

Caregiver to Lung Cancer Survivor

Sharing my story, and my mother's story, with Mark was a great experience. In truth, it was the first time I really sat down and told someone every detail while reflecting on my mom's experience as well. Being confronted with cancer was a tremendous test of my mom's strength, and of our strength as her family members. I continue to be inspired by her journey and her courage throughout. Seeing this strength and courage reflected in Mark's piece was beyond moving. Cancer is an ugly disease, but this experience helped me to see the beauty and bravery in survival.

Mark Marianos Chicago, Illinois

"The Giving Tree"

Acrylic 40" x 28"

\$250

Artist Statement: The piece is about maternal sacrifice. It honors mothers who give of themselves selflessly for their children.



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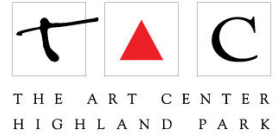
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