

Twist Out Cancer Canada Presents

BRUSHES WITH CANCER

ART CATALOGUE

Toronto | November 2015

WELCOME FROM DAN HADAD, CHAIR TOCC

I am so excited to welcome you all to Brushes with Cancer Toronto, the inaugural event of the newly formed not-for-profit Twist Out Cancer Canada (TOCC).

Five years ago I found myself supporting, as best as I could, my dear friend Jenna Benn Shersher. Jenna was 29 years old when she was diagnosed and treated for, grey zone lymphoma cancer. Until Jenna's diagnosis, cancer was an abstract idea; a terrible disease affecting others. Soon after, my partner's father was diagnosed with esophageal cancer. As I supported both Jenna and Dan, I realized that cancer indeed affects each and every one of us.



Supporting Jenna meant embracing her "twist" on cancer, joining forces with her as she grew her idea into a not-for-profit in the States and taking the lead in developing this organization in Canada.

Which brings us to this moment; an evening with a twist on cancer. We hope you enjoy (and buy!) the art work, meet the courageous survivors and talented artists, and network with a community of supporters.

For more information about TOCC, ways to get involved, or to share your stories and ideas, please contact me at dan@twistoutcancer.org.

May this be the beginning of many twists!

A MESSAGE FROM JENNA BENN SHERSHER FOUNDER OF TWIST OUT CANCER

Gratitude. It has been quite a journey.

A journey measured in moments, markers and finish lines. A journey that may have started with the three words, "you have cancer," 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

TWIST OUT CANCER CANADA

We are pleased to announce that Twist Out Cancer was recently established as a not-for-profit in Canada. Our mandate, approach, and plans are similar to our parent organization but with a Canadian twist!

SO, WHAT IS TWIST OUT CANCER?

Established in Chicago in 2011 as a non-profit 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 take action.

The Background 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, as she was isolated at home due to a compromised immune system. Throughout this quarantine, 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.

Jenna recalls, "as they twisted, I was able to tiptoe out of my room and join the world. 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 Canada's Inaugural Event: Brushes with Cancer TO

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. The subjects share their unique twists on cancer – their stories, feelings and experiences – with the artist, which serves as inspiration for the art. This collaborative process culminates with tonight's event- a celebratory fundraiser showcasing the works of art.

Contributions from this event will allow Twist out Cancer Canada to offer a wide array of programs, educational sessions and community opportunities, including, but not limited to:

- Health and Wellness programming
- Workshops
- Supporting third party organizations and initiatives
- Providing micro-grants to individuals and organizations for cancer awareness, education and support



THE ART



Name of Piece: “Meanwhile, the world goes on”. (Dedicated to Liam + Conor with love.)

Size of Piece: 53 in x 16 in x 2 in

Medium: Encaustic (beeswax/oil paint)/collage (paper, leaves, rosehips, rust, photo transfer, etc.)

Retail Value: \$1900.00

Name of Artist: Andrea Bird

Names of Participants: Andrea Bird’s sons Liam and Conor

Artist Statement

“Meanwhile the World Goes On”

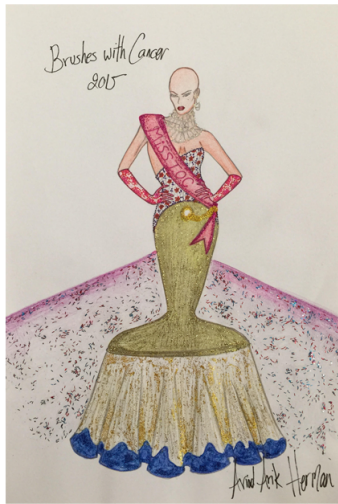
It was synchronistic to be asked to take part in the Brushes with Cancer event... being an artist, and someone who danced through my cancer journey (see 'dancing through cancer' on youtube), it seemed like a perfect fit. My sons' were 21 and 24 when I was diagnosed with breast cancer three years ago. It was a good time to reflect back on what that experience was like for them as caregivers and witnesses. I am grateful for their honesty, courage and love.

I took their answers to the questions and combined it with conversations we've had over the past few years to use as a jumping off point for the diptych. A few of my dreams from that time also made it into the paintings. Having cancer felt like going down into a deep, dark valley – which became a shallow sea in the piece. Each side represents one of my sons, and their thoughts and feelings are there under layers of beeswax. This beautiful way of painting allows for surprises during the creative process, revealing things to me as I worked, tapping into my unconscious.

Encaustic is a medium that incorporates hardened beeswax with pigment, each layer being fused with heat. Layers can be scraped back or covered over, making it an ideal metaphorical way of working. Collage elements, such as: rust, roots, rosehips, leaves, collage, photo transfer, etc. all tell the story of my boys' twist on cancer. I love this piece so much that I'm making a limited edition run of prints to share with a select few. I still have more to learn from it!

About the Artist

Andrea Bird (AOCA/OSA) is a mixed media encaustic artist in love with the creative process, and her chosen medium, encaustic. This involves working with layers of beeswax, and this extremely tactile surface hints at the mystery of what's below. She has been an artist all her life, and her art can be found all over the world. www.andreabird.com



Name of Piece: "Brushes with Cancer 2015"

Size of Piece: 3 8.5 in x 11 in

Medium: Costume Design Sketches

Retail Value: \$750

Name of Artist: Aviad Arik Herman

Participant: Jenna Benn Shersher

Participant Statment

It has been nearly five years since I heard those three words "you have cancer." Five years since my life was put on hold. Five years since I was forced to face my own mortality. Five years since I measured my life in moments, deep breaths, and the ability to wiggle my toes.

It has been five years. This was the goal wasn't it? To make it here. Statistically "out of the woods." No evidence of disease. Cured? So why doesn't this feel like the finish line? When you have lived in the grey zone, teetered between life and death, teetered between sickness and health, medical statistics start to feel irrelevant. When you are 1 of 200 diagnosed in North America, when you are statistically an anomaly, when you are considered an outlier- you learn to make your own markers.

Five years of twisting out cancer. Five years of bringing hope, creativity, and inspiration to those touched by this disease. Five Brushes with Cancer programs. Five years of knowing what love truly feels like. Five years of seeing in hypercolor. These are my markers. These are my finish lines. These are my moments.

Artist Statement

"Brushes with Cancer"

The 3 costumes I sketched are a humoristic collage of elements from Jenna's story.

1st is glamorous Miss Twist Out Cancer, celebrating "Brushes with Cancer" wearing a brush gown.

2nd is a sci-fi warrior, elbowing past her insecurities. She contains the Grey Zone Lymphoma, significant landmarks in Jenna's life, Water as a symbol of healing and strength... Cocktails.... "Kill it in the Butt".... decorating her room with photos of friends and family, the Sun & Sea.... And even dreams of having farmland and opening a small vineyard.

3rd is a Showgirl, saluting the pink ribbon. Defeating cancer together with Mr. Will Power.

About the Artist

Aviad Arik Herman is the official designer for Miss Universe Sweden. He was nominated for Top 5 Best Costumes with Miss Germany at Miss Universe 2014. He was featured in Uptempo Fashion Magazine, Vogue Italy & Malta Fashion Week. Aviad has designed for Miss World Denmark, National Dance Company of Spain, The Washington Ballet, Dominican National Ballet, Israel Ballet, Israeli TV, Royal Swedish Ballet School, Gothenburg Opera Dance Company, and even the world's most famous fashion icon - Barbie, in Mattel's original musical - "Barbie Live!".



Name of Piece: "The Rainbow"

Size of Piece: 14 in x 18 in

Medium: Acrylic paint and collage

Retail Value: \$300.00

Name of Artist: Callie Gray

Name of Participant: Tania Gelling

Participant Statement

I am not going to lie. My journey as a survivor of childhood cancer has not been easy. Five years after my parents landed in Toronto from Italy, I was diagnosed with cancer. I was almost 6 years old. Before I was diagnosed, I was a happy and energetic child. But that happiness faded as I spent more time laying on the couch than playing.

At first doctors did not know what was wrong with me. Finally my parents brought me to Sick Children's Hospital, where I was diagnosed with a Wilm's Tumour- a rare form of childhood cancer. My left kidney was removed within a week. I went through 1.5 years of chemotherapy. I lost all of my hair. I then underwent radiation treatments. I later went into remission. I am now considered cured.

Growing up, we did not speak about my cancer and its affects on my mindset and life. I spent many years feeling as if I was 'different' and that there was something wrong with me. I often contemplated, "why did I get cancer?", which turned into "why was I lucky enough to survive?" After many years of personal growth and self-exploration my perspective changed to "I had cancer!" "I survived!" "Watch me world!"

What a gift life is!!!!

Artist Statement

"The Rainbow"

"Be thou the rainbow in the storms of life. The evening beam that smiles the clouds away, and tints tomorrow with prophetic ray." - Lord Byron

I met my 'match' and was inspired by her story of strength, and wanting to give back after surviving childhood cancer. It made me think of my own, now grown children and what it would have been like to go through a life threatening illness both as a parent and a child.

In contemplation, a child sits on the edge of a precipice looking to an older version of herself, who in turn looks out. She sees a lush untamed flourishing landscape; a metaphor for all that is coming.

The children are a focal point and a narrative into that contemplation...what was that place, that journey like, how did it shape the person that is now? Through all the pain, heartache and uncertainty, there is always hope.

About the Artist

Callie Gray, an award winning international artist creates vibrantly colorful canvasses that are infused with her thoughts, her history, her joys and her pains. To see more of her work please visit www.calliegray.ca



Name of Piece: "Float"

Size of Piece: 30 in x 36 in

Medium: Drawing, Painting, Collage

Retail Value: \$800.00

Name of Artist: Charles Hackbarth

Name of Participant: Jeannine Holwill

Participant Statement

In the past three years, five people in my life were diagnosed with cancer. Two lost their battle. Three are recovering and we are feeling very positive about the outcome.

For someone who doesn't work in the medical profession, I know far too much about cancer. I speak fluently about treatments, side effects, oncologist visits, surgeries and test results. I know the anxiety of sitting in a hospital waiting room, anxiously watching for the surgeon to come by with an update. I've witnessed and felt the heartbreak of a family who said their final goodbyes to their 18 year old daughter.

Cancer has been so prevalent in my life for so long. The losses so significant and the heartbreak so real that I've never stopped to reflect on their impact. The opportunity to share my story with Charles, made me realize the role I've played as a supporter to my friends and family throughout their separate journeys with cancer - one of stability, solace, and love in a time of great uncertainty.

Artist Statement

"Float"

In the painting, Float, a man and a dog are huddled together on a couch, which floats like a life-boat in a vast sea or empty sky of uncertainty. Float is inspired by a photo provided by Jeannine of herself with a friend who was diagnosed with cancer, and his wife and Jeannine's dog Charcoal. The photo like this painting emote the warmth and comfort and hope that family and friends provide at a time when nothing is certain. Being diagnosed with cancer is frightening. Everything one knows is suddenly washed away. An ocean of uncertainty surrounds him/her. Survival depends on togetherness. Dogs are the embodiment of friendship, dedication and faithfulness.

About the Artist

Charles Hackbarth is a Toronto based artist, writer and musician. When he's not engaging in creative pursuits, he works with individuals and groups as a personal transformation coach, expressive arts facilitator and reiki healer. Charles believes that to truly transform the world, we must first go within and heal and transform our own personal and collective wounds.



Name of Piece: "Inner Awareness"

Size of Piece: 36 in x 48 in

Medium: Acrylic on Canvas

Retail Value: \$1200.00

Name of Artist: Chris Crewe

Name of Participant: Lamia Gibson

Participant Statement

I wanted to be a part of this because I have been a caregiver to people living with and dying from cancer. As a caregiver our stories, understandably, are not shared as readily or as often as those living with, struggling and dying from cancer. It should be this way, for sure!, and still our stories are relevant and we need community and a sense of being heard. Being witness to the suffering and pain of cancer has irrevocably changed my life. Those experiences changed me and massively impacted my path and life choices. Because I was allowed to witness and care for my granddad, my gran, my dear friend and my mum in their illnesses and their final days, I have grieved greatly I have also learned that life is SO precious. This preciousness is what I hope to relay in sharing my story. Losing 5 dear ones to cancer is terribly hard, yet each day I am reminded to enjoy the day for the unique day that it is. As my granddad and mum always said "we only have this day once", and I say, let's live fully and honor the lives we have lost.

Artist Statement

"Inner Awareness"

"Life is precious" was the main spirit Lamia passed to me through our meeting. This work takes a look at the role of the caregiver, and the true spirit within.

About the Artist

Chris loves working with the plasticity and permanence of acrylic paint, it lets him bring his ideas into a world where he controls the environment, flow, and colour. He paints quite quickly and enjoys the dance which happens between his brush and the bounce of the canvas. He loves to paint well into the morning because he often feels like he had a small spiritual awakening when he finishes a painting, satisfaction.



Name of Piece: “Memory Cells”

Size of Piece: 30 in x 30 in

Medium: Acrylic and Found Objects on Canvas

Retail Value: \$350.00

Name of Artist: Claudia Korpanoff

Name of Participant: Christina Spencer

Participant Statement

Brushes with Cancer has pushed me to explore the complexity behind cancer in terms of how it affected me, how it affected my dad, and how this persists. The feelings and thoughts that surround the diagnosis, treatment and general impact never really go away. Their impressions are dulled with time, but they are lasting. It's been a thoughtful and overall helpful exercise.

Artist Statement

“Memory Cells”

When visualizing Christina’s story I wanted to take the negativity out of cancer and bring out the positivity. I researched cancer cells and the imagery from the dyes made the cells look so beautiful. This gave me the notion to bring out the positivity in something that was so destructive. I had incorporated many different textures into the painting. I used actual leaves to symbolize the tree of life and the strength that the roots hold going deep into the earth’s core, which also symbolizes fatherly strength. Father’s being so pertinent to mine and Christina’s cancer stories. I then used orb like shapes to symbolize the human spirit. Another texture that I used was black mica flakes, a mineral that can be sourced back to cave paintings, thus reflecting humanity and experience.

About the Artist

Claudia Korpanoff is a multi disciplined artist based in Toronto. Currently, Claudia is working on a new body of work dealing with Abstract Expressionism with the use of colour and the unconscious.



Name of Piece: "Scott"

Size of Piece: 16 in x 20 in

Medium: Mixed Media

Retail Value: \$400.00

Name of Artist: Erik Bennink

Name of Participant: Daniel Fricker

Participant Statement

My dad taught me a lot of things. He taught me how to hug, how to skate, and how to eat peanut butter right out of the jar. He taught me to apply logic to tough situations, to stand behind your choices, to play the cards you're dealt and to create and determine your own success. Dad also taught me that we're all the authors of our own story - chapters begin and end, and characters come and go, but it's our own responsibility to keep the narrative moving forward, and to try to make ourselves happy.

Two years ago, we all said goodbye to a man who wrote himself a really great story. My dad's time ended far too soon. Before the cancer finally took him, it first put him and his family through hell and back. The doctors visits, the drugs, the impossible decisions - literally life or death - and foolishly holding onto hope even when the word 'terminal' hung over my head.

Reliving those ten months with Erik, a near-stranger, in a quiet coffee shop, was a painful yet cathartic experience. Looking back, as difficult as it was, the lessons still hold true and Dad's time here seems all the more valuable. When Dad was first diagnosed he told us how lucky he felt, to have lived such a full and amazing life. He was proud of his time here, and the people he spent it with. Dad told us the same thing right before he died.

Artist Statement

"Scott"

My desire for this painting was to ground it in what I learned about Scott, his family and how they responded to a diagnosis of terminal cancer. The light in the house is my way of symbolizing that frozen, isolating moment that a terminal diagnosis brings. The sunlight on the horizon represents the hope the family felt after the first surgery when Scott seemed to rebound and the family was able to enjoy some quality time together. Unfortunately that light faded all too quickly and Scott passed away shortly after his second surgery. The darkened sky, rising from the earth in a mixture of expressive colours, symbolizes Scott's spirit moving away from earth towards infinity. The glow in the dark stars represents the love and support that Scott received from family and friends.

In this work I wanted to offer a peaceful and hopeful representation for what was a difficult journey for Scott, his wife, children, family and friends.

About the Artist

Erik has been painting for over 30 years and has used the medium as a means to communicate his various thoughts, ideas, reactions, moods and history. He graduated from the Illustration and Graphic Design program at Sheridan College. Erik's work is influenced by: the American Abstract Expressionists Willem de Kooning, Robert Motherwell and Jackson Pollock, as well as Realists Andrew Wyeth and Alex Colville.



Name of Piece: "Floating Within"

Size of Piece: 39.2 in x 31 in

Medium: Acrylic on canvas roll

Retail Value: \$260.00

Name of Artist: Faisal Babajan

Name of Participant: Emma Baril

Participant Statement

Watching people I love come to the end of their lives at the hands of this unpredictable and pervasive illness invited me to feel more suffering and to feel more sweetness than I ever had before. THANK YOU and FUCK YOU cancer. May you be twisted out forever, and may I not forget the lessons that you bestowed.

Artist Statement

"Floating Within"

From time to time humans desire and feel the need to be alone, away from people, from everything. We desire a place that is quiet and peaceful so we can think clearly or simply relax. Lake Ontario, for Emma, is that quiet and peaceful spot. The Lake fills Emma with peacefulness so she can momentarily make sense of the world.

About the Artist

Faisal Babajan is a 19 year old student at the American University of the Middle East in Kuwait. He is the recipient of the prestigious second place Argana National Art Competition award. Faisal was previously an art club member.



Name of Piece: "Beautiful, Inside & Out"

Size of Piece: 60 in x 36 in x 10 in

Medium: Sculpture

Retail Value: \$4,900.00

Name of Artist: Gregory Robins

Name of Participant: Haley Higdon

Participant Statement

My mom was first diagnosed with breast cancer in 1998 when I was only 16. Watching my mom fight the disease for the last 17 years has been difficult, but through her strength and courage I have learned and experienced so many wonderful lessons and truths. We have climbed mountains together, canoed down rivers together and shed many tears together.

The mask that you see in the sculpture is the mask she had to wear earlier this year when she completed a round of radiation. She recently had to go back on intravenous chemo, which she hasn't had to do since her initial treatment in 1999. Even without hair for the second time in her life, she has proven to me that she is beautiful both inside and out.

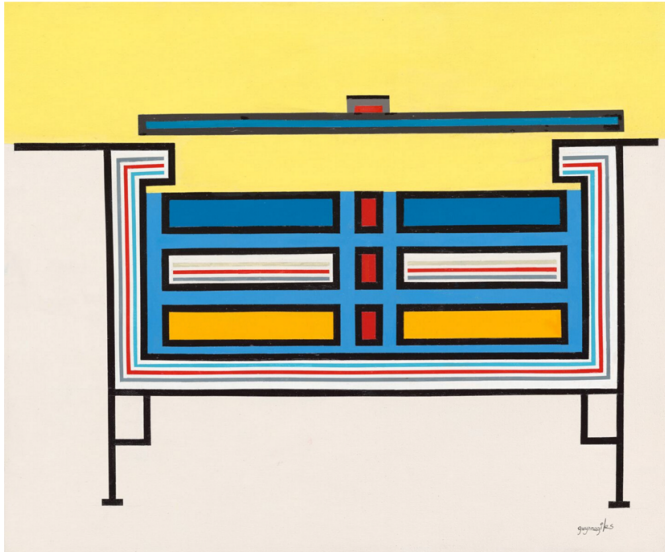
Artist Statement

"Beautiful, Inside & Out"

Haley and her mom believed that a person's physical changes do not necessarily change who they are on the inside. With this in mind, my concept is a wall sculpture that mirrors the mask that Haley's mom had to wear during her cancer treatment. The mask is framed inside the "window" with a planter full of steel flowers and leaves. The viewer will see the mask as if viewing it from the outside looking in.

About the Artist

Gregory Robins is an accomplished Steel Sculptor. He uses steel combined with other materials to create one-of-a-kind functional and non-functional sculptures. His work has been commissioned by organizations such as North York General Hospital, Canada Blooms, Design Exchange, Les Châtres YMCA Hamilton, and others. Gregory has also been featured on Bravo TV and other media.



Name of Piece: "The Memory Box"

Size of Piece: 36 in x 30 in

Medium: Acrylic on Canvas

Retail Value: \$950.00

Name of Artist: Gwynne Giles

Name of Participant: Kelly Fricker

Participant Statement

It was the May long weekend of 2012. We were getting together at my parents' house for a family dinner. That night, outside by the campfire, dad told us he had esophageal cancer. He said he'd fight it. He'd be OK. He had no regrets. We drank tequila and cried.

He started his treatments. We were hopeful and positive but in July, the cancer had spread to his BRAIN. My dad was always the one with the words, the one with the right answers and the witty remarks, but all of a sudden he wasn't. He knew he was still going to fight it. He underwent two separate brain surgeries.

A bunch of us went to Cuba. My dad's best man and my mom's maid of honour, still there by their sides. We rang in the New Year. We laughed. We cried. We made memories.

On March 17th 2013, my dad died. We had no funeral, but a toast in his honour. Friends and family gathered. We celebrated an amazing life. An amazing dad. And we drank tequila.

Artist Statement

"The Memory Box"

When I talked to Kelly she recounted so many wonderful memories of her father that I wanted to create a keepsake for her. So I created the memory box.

'The Memory Box'

A place filled with sunshine that when you look into it - or think about it - all of your memories are remembered. They are happy memories, though some may be poignant, some maybe sad - but they are all yours. Since they are stored in a box, they will last for your lifetime and you will not forget them. They are in a safe place for you to visit, whenever you want.

About the Artist

Gwynne's 'De Stijl School' style allows him to create abstract pieces in bright primary colours. The striking simplicity this creates gives his art a sense of excitement - tempered with calmness.



Name of Piece: "Strength"

Size of Piece: 45 in x 30 in

Medium: Acrylic on canvas

Retail Value: \$1750.00

Name of Artist: Ian Barnett

Name of Participant: Christina Gelinas

Participant Statement

When I was told it was cancer, I could not comprehend what lay ahead of me. I was swept up in a whirlwind that zapped my concepts of time and reason. Huge decisions were made in such a short time. So much suffering to endure.

Looking back it is amazing and fascinating what happened to my body and mind, when the whirlwind carried me to hell and back, pushing me to my ultimate limit. I wanted to break. I wanted to give up. I thought: "Surely my strength lies dormant as I lie here wanting to die." But a little seed of inner strength remained. It emitted just enough energy to not only keep me alive, but to push me to persevere and emerge from the whirlwind a stronger, better version of myself.

The whirlwind has calmed to a gentle breeze, where my newly grown hair is all that gets swept up, and time has returned to the tick of a clock as I revel in my new-found strength to endure anything.

Artist Statement

"Strength"

When Christina shared her story with me I felt the 3 stages of her experience:

1. Health and wonder
2. A whirlwind from hell
3. Calm, strength, and a new perspective

Christina's story proves that no matter what happens in life, no matter what challenge we face, we can, and we will conquer it and emerge more powerful, more beautiful and more connected than we ever imagined.

Christina, thank you for allowing me to paint your life, I am honoured.

About the Artist

Ian applies his artistic mind in all areas of life. He's a large format abstract artist who specializes in capturing his clients stories or energy through commissioned work. During the day he applies his creative mind to designing the future for his clients in his innovation agency called 3C. His art site is <http://ianbarnett.ca> and he can be found on instagram at @ianbarnett.



Name of Piece: "Held"

Size of Piece: 24 in x 28 in

Medium: Oil on Canvas

Retail Value: \$600.00

Name of Artist: Janet Stanley

Name of Participant: Anonymous

Artist Statement

"Held" is about love.

The young woman I was partnered with is surviving a brain tumour. Aside from her radiant smile and generous spirit, what struck me most is how much love surrounds her. Imagine the courage it took to plan a wedding in the middle of chemotherapy. After spending time with her, I fell asleep with the word "cherished" in my mind. To me, surviving cancer is a testimony to the limitless power of love to heal. The power of love found within the support of family, friends, caregivers and the self.

About the Artist

Janet Stanley is a Visual Artist and an Energy Medicine Practitioner currently living in Innisfil. Her artwork is heart centred and reflects her deep desire to promote peace and oneness.



Name of Piece: "Remission"

Size of Piece: 6 ft x 4 ft

Medium: Sculpture

Retail Value: \$Priceless

Name of Artist: Fraser Paterson

Name of Participant: Self-Reflection

Artist Statement

This piece of art was inspired by the Myth of Sisyphus. Like Sisyphus, cancer and remission are up-hill battles, and one must continue to battle the disease, despite the risk, that like the boulder they might fall down again.

The rust represents the growth of cells. The person represents the struggle and the rolling cancer cells the pursuit of good health.

About the Artist

Fraser's sculpture is currently on display at the Muse Gallery in Toronto. In the past his work has been showcased at the prestigious Louise Lipman Gallery and The Point Gallery. He also participates in many solo and group shows.



Name of Piece: "Past Projections"

Size of Piece: 16 in x 20 in

Medium: Photography

Retail Value: \$400.00

Name of Artist: Kyle Burton

Name of Participant: Tammy Faulds

Participant Statement

Every scar has a story.

My story begins as a 6 year-old who was diagnosed with a Wilm's Tumour. As a child, I hated my scar. I was starting school and like any kid, I so desperately wanted to fit in and belong. But instead here I was. A tall, gangly, bald headed girl who obviously did NOT fit in. I felt ashamed. My scar remained hidden from the outside world for most of my life.

Over the years my hate softened to acceptance and then eventually turned into gratitude. I realized the multitude of lessons my diagnosis gave me. It taught me the power of family, community, love, friendship, playtime and laughter. But most importantly, it taught me the power of sharing your story and of owning your truth.

Scars mean you lived. Scars mean you survived. And scars can serve as a beacon of hope for others who are walking a similar path. Which is precisely why I decided to 'unveil' mine to you here, to show you that there's no need to hide. Speak your truth, own your story, and love your scars.

Because the truth is, my scar is badass and deserves to be shown off.

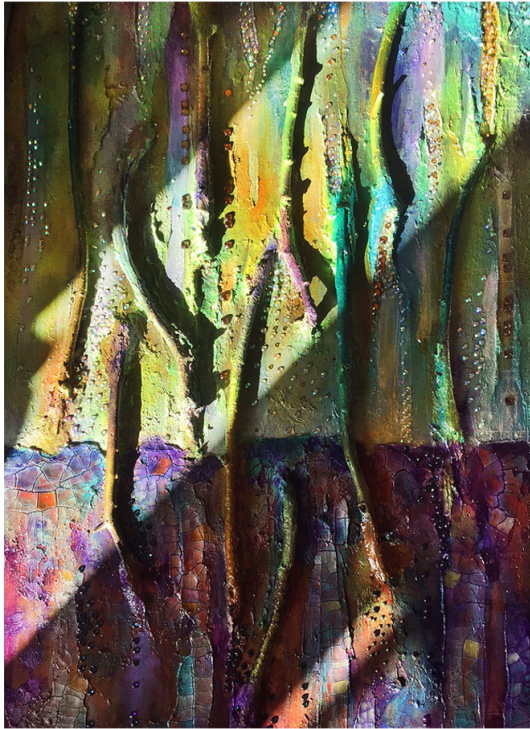
Artist Statement

"Past Projections"

Through photography, my passion and profession, I wanted to capture Tammy's strength and courage by literally shining her past on her. And so, in a darkened room, I projected an image of 7-year-old Tammy onto her scar.

About the Artist

Kyle Burton is a photographer, videographer and artist. He is the owner of Sift, a photo studio and vintage boutique located at 246 Queen Street E. in Old Town Toronto. www.siftvintage.com



Name of Piece: "Both Sides"

Size of Piece: 35 in X 24 in

Medium: Mixed media

Retail Value: \$1300.00

Name of Artist: Maria Grossbaum-Fondler

Name of Participant: Amanda Honigsberg

Participant Statement

I have been impacted by cancer since I was a child. I have witnessed my aunt, cousin, grandmother and both parents fight different types of cancer. My mother is the only survivor.

"When we long for life without difficulties, remind us that oaks grow strong in contrary winds and diamonds are made under pressure." Peter Marshal

Artist Statement

"Both Sides"

This painting tries to emote the fragility of life. Amanda, my match, reminded me of how fragile life is, and that regardless of one's age or success it can be taken away. I hope this piece inspires others to enjoy life as much as possible, because you do not know how much time is left.

About the Artist

Maria Grossbaum - Fondler is a Fine Art graduate. She considers herself a very lucky person, having been blessed with the opportunities to pursue passions in life that are important to her. As an extensive world traveler, she gets her inspiration from places she visits all over the world. Through her art, Maria transports the viewer to distant lands.



Name of Piece: “Cold Water”

Size of Piece: 15 in X 16 in

Medium: Photography

Retail Value: \$500.00

Name of Artist: Morgan Wallack

Name of Participant:

Samantha Banks (Caregiver)

Shelli Klayman (Survivor)

Participant Statement

What took place at High Park on September 25, 2015 before the sun came up, is an experience I will always remember and treasure for the rest of mine and my daughter's lives.

I am a cancer survivor.

I am also a grateful and proud mother of a very special person, my daughter, who has taken this journey with me.

The morning of September 25th could have been cold. It could have been raining. There could have been many reasons why an outside photo shoot wearing only lingerie, walking in the pond, and feeling totally out of my element should not have happened.

But the morning was perfect. The elements cooperated. The photographer, Morgan Wallack, was talented, fun, professional and sensitive.

I was nervous. I felt naked walking in the pond. Joggers and dog walkers, even the park warden told us we were not allowed in the water, but being with my loving daughter, gave me the courage to relax and embrace this once in a lifetime adventure.

The photo shoot ended as the morning sun began to shine. We drove the talented Morgan Wallack to her hotel. My daughter and I were overwhelmed with gratitude for what the last few hours had meant to us: a photo shoot that captured in such a beautiful way the commitment of love and family.

Artist Statement

Specializing in black and white analog photography and silver gelatine printmaking I take a particular interest in studying Latin American culture and rituals. Water being an extremely important element in my work, my subjects and I could not have found a more fitting ground to capture their relationship. The mother daughter duo laughed and danced in the pond as I stood watching from the waters edge. The thick mud clung to their feet as they held on to each other stepping over logs and onto slippery rocks. The water compelled them, joining them with nature as swans gracefully drifted by.

As they stood facing the sun with their reflections intertwining with the clouds like a Van Gogh painting, it suddenly dawned on me the meaning "blood runs thicker than water".



Name of Piece: "After the Storm"

Size of Piece: 9 in X 12 in

Medium: Mixed media on canvas.

Retail Value: \$500.00

Name of Artist: Nahúm Flores

Name of Participant: Jamie Irvine

Participant Statement

I am a childhood cancer survivor. When I was 11 years old I was diagnosed with acute myelogenous leukemia. The cancer was caught late. The doctors gave me a 40% chance of survival. My treatment included two unsuccessful bone marrow transplants followed by an experimental treatment called donor lymphocyte transfusion. The donor lymphocyte transfusion saved my life. I am now in my 16th year of remission.

I know that without the support of my family, friends and my dog, Judy, I would not have survived. During and after treatment I often asked myself, " why is this happening to me?" Through self-reflection and the passage of time, I discovered that " things happen, and later we give it a reason."

I currently volunteer with cancer organizations and share my cancer experiences with the hope that it will inspire and empower others.

Artist Statement

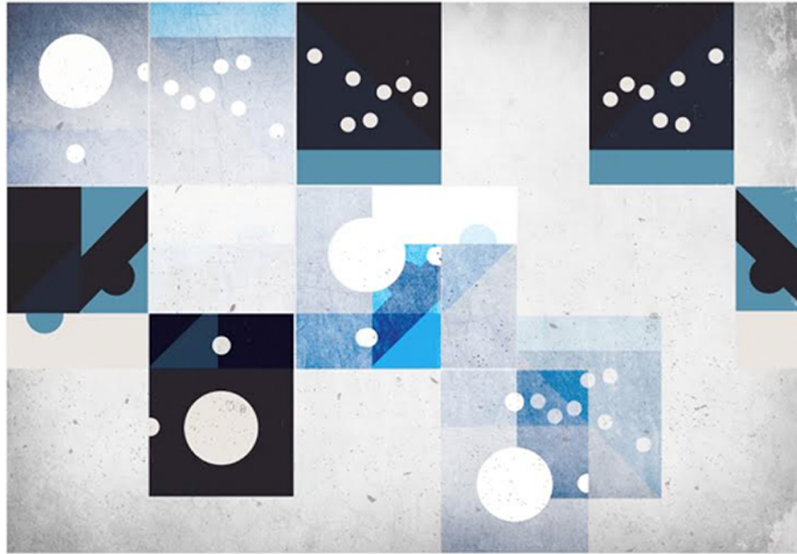
"After the Storm"

This piece is a celebration of Jamie's life and of all the elements - unity, love, care, empathy, and community, that give humans strength when facing adversity. Without these elements, it is impossible to overcome situations like the one Jamie endured.

I applied multiple layers of water-based materials, such as acrylic polymer, gel medium, acrylic paint, ink and transfers. These mediums reflect a sense of harmony and history. Through the use of intricate shapes, lines, marks, and colour, I visually voiced in a poetic sense my response to Jamie's personal story.

About the Artist

Nahúm Flores holds a BFA from OCAD University. He has consistently created artwork and exhibited across Canada and internationally since 2001. Nahúm has received grants from the Toronto Arts Council, the Ontario Arts Council, and the esteemed Pollock-Krasner Foundation from New York City. He has participated in artistic residencies in Serbia, Croatia, Austin Texas and Honduras. His studio art practice consists primarily of drawings on paper and found objects, and mixed media paintings that investigate his history and identity. Nahúm employs an intuitive approach that allows for spontaneous production and authenticity. <http://nahumflores.com>



Name of Piece: "Walk on Water"

Size of Piece: 40 in x 30 in

Medium: Digital & Acrylic

Retail Value: \$750.00

Name of Artist: Pascal Chiarello

Name of Participant: Matt Ellerton

Participant Statement

Some people will tell you what they think you want to hear. Fuck that.

I don't know what to say.

Fighting cancer has been the worst thing I've ever had to go through in my life. The physical pain and constant state of feeling nauseous is frustrating beyond belief. The prognosis when I was first diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma was good. The prognosis was also good the second time I fought it. But everyday I have to fight this disease is one day I am robbed of.

There's a fear from cancer that follows and haunts you. When my cancer was in remission there was a sense of dread, "when is it coming back." With the support of my family and friends, I was able to move forward beyond the the constant sense of worry, only to be surprised when it returned.

People don't know what to say to someone who is battling this disease, the same way they don't know what to say when seeing someone who's lost a loved one at a funeral.

Everyone's battle will be different. There is no right thing to say.

Artist Statement

This digital/acrylic painting of an abstract ice rink is composed of many geometric shapes to allow the viewer to create their own visual experience. The cool hues react with each other when layered, causing optical illusions.

Matt has an adoration for ice hockey/coaching - his greatest passion. 'Walk on water' refers to the extraordinary task he faces of fighting cancer.

About the Artist

An accomplished creative thinker with a keen eye for detail and a boundless enthusiasm for love, life, design, and photography. Pascal Chiarello is a designer/photographer living and working in Toronto, Canada.



Name of Piece: "Together"

Size of Piece: 20 in X 30 in

Medium: Photography

Retail Value: \$300.00

Name of Artist: Renita Fillatre

Name of Participant: Renee Kaiman Levy

Participant Statement

In March of 2015 my life took a turn when out of the blue, I was diagnosed with breast cancer. Facing this life changing diagnosis as a 34 year old mother of two, I decided to take a positive stance, by being open and documenting my journey with cancer on my blog: www.mysocalledmommylife.com.

The saying: "No Day But Today" from the musical RENT, along with my amazing support system of family, friends and acquaintances helps me get through the tough days. These amazing people have supported me from the beginning and keep my spirits high. So I am excited and looking forward to living life once I finish my current rounds of radiation! Thank you to everyone who is supporting this wonderful event!

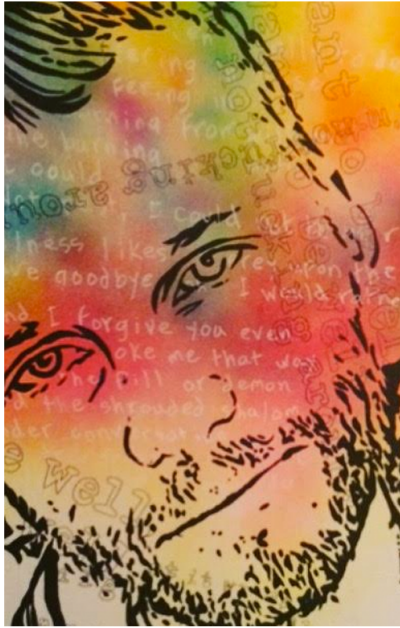
Artist Statement

"Together"

In trying to come up with an image, it became apparent that Renee's family was her strength. Her two beautiful children, Sloane and Griffin, along with her husband, Sam. The first concept was to have a simple family photo with their hands piled one on top of another, resting on Renee's shoulder. The photos that resulted not only highlight the concept of family above, but also captivate Renee's courage as a mother. Like a mama-bear, she appears wise and stoic while being surrounded by her two cubs and her husband. The image is one of family unity, support and maternal strength.

About the Artist

Renita Fillatre is a visual artist. Since moving to Toronto in 2005 from Corner Brook, Newfoundland, she has worked both as a professional photographer and as a manager for a local not-for-profit. In 2012 she became an Expressive Arts Therapist. As an Expressive Arts Therapist



Name of Piece: "Victory"

Size of Piece: 30 in x 60 in

Medium: Acrylic Paint and Spray

Retail Value: \$750.00

Name of Artist: Tanya Zbili

Participant: Tim Richardson

Participant Statement

When I was 22 chemotherapy was the first time I discovered that there is not one, but two worlds: the world of Health and the world of Sickness. You can only live in one of these worlds at a time. When you live in Health, Sickness is a faint idea in the back of your mind, something you see in the news, and worry about at night before you fall comfortably asleep. When you live in Sickness, Health is a distant utopia - a world you once belonged to and to which you might never return. Time moves slower in Sickness - a week feels like a month, six months feels like a few years. Sickness becomes your master, your prison, the only reality you know. All your ideas, philosophies, hopes and desires shrink to a single mantra, repeated endlessly: "I want to be well."

When I recovered from chemotherapy and returned to Health, I was in a state of euphoria. I cried with joy at sunsets and at music. Time passed effortlessly and imperceptibly. The world of Sickness began to feel like a distant memory. I am left with a new mantra, a gift I keep forever. It is this: "I am well. That is enough."

Artist Statement

"Victory"

What struck me about Tim was the realness of his experience and his suffering. He admitted to feeling defeated by chemotherapy – to feeling like an ailing patient rather than a fighter, actively conquering his cancer. He called himself "A bad sufferer".

But Tim is the kind of person who came out of it with a focus on using the pain of the past and the fears of the future to see and appreciate the world. He has managed to extract beauty from his struggles, and in this way has become victorious.

The colours of this painting reflect Tim's journey from gloom and darkness to the psychedelic colours of his happiness and gratitude. They are wound through with quotes from Sufjan Stevens' "I Want To Be Well" – a song that resonated with Tim, and gave him a break from the isolation of his suffering.

For your honesty and bravery, for your understanding that pain can make you strong – Tim, you have inspired me.

Bio

Tanya Zbili is a Canadian Artist who specializes in painting, live art performance and teaching. She studied at the Trevor Allen School of Arts as a child and the Yazi School of Art as a teenager. This past month Tanya opened up "Tanya's Studio" an Art School located in North York. She is currently working on a collection called "Five Books". Check her out on Instagram: @tanyazbiliart



Name of Piece: "Red"

Size of Piece: 24 in X 36 in

Medium: Photography on Canvas

Retail Value: \$500.00

Name of Artist: Tia Winters

Name of Participant: Rita Silva

Participant Statement

My dad battled cancer for fifteen years. First it was skin cancer. Years later it was prostate, which he beat. Then it was multiple myeloma. He was a fighter and one of the strongest people I have ever met.

My dad lived his life to the fullest. He loved his family and his friends. One of his favourite things was the Harley-Davidson Motorcycle. He went on many motorcycle trips with his friends and with my mom riding on the back of his bike. Even when multiple myeloma got worse and his shoulder was in constant pain, he would still find the strength to get on that bike.

My dad loved motorcycles so much that he decided to build his own. He would spend hours in the garage including evening and weekends putting the pieces together. When he got really sick, I heard him say how he was going to get better so he could ride his motorcycle.

He never got the chance to finish his bike. After he passed away my brother finished it for him, the way dad had planned to do.

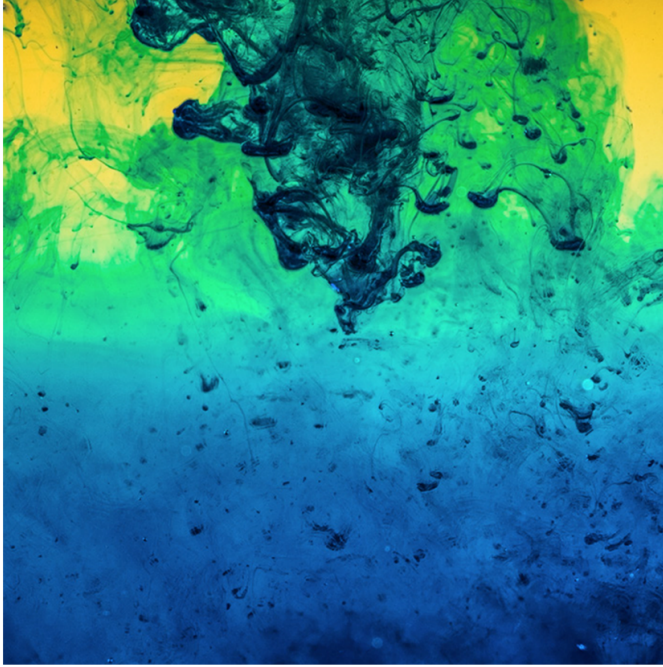
Artist Statement

"Red"

Unlike most inanimate things, this bike has an 'essence'. It's a little hard to explain, but it's there. You don't even have to look for it. It's a shocking cherry red and the family has named it 'RemembeRED', "Red" being Rita's father's nickname. I chose to make the image black and white so that the focus would also be on Red's helmet and the way the light just naturally bounced off of it. It felt so symbolic, the way the light shone on the helmet and the way the surroundings were reflected on it's surface. The open road, the clouds and the trees, all splayed out in the image as if limitless. To me, this image immediately evokes a sense of nostalgia. Fond memories, moments and reflections.

About the Artist

Tia Winters is a fine art, wedding and lifestyle photographer based out of Guelph. She works as a full time photographer and lives with her husband, son and soon-to-be new daughter. Along with her background in photography, Tia double majored in Studio Art and Art History at the University of Guelph and obtained her B.Ed from OISE at the University of Toronto.



Name of Piece: "Code Blue"

Size of Piece: 18 in x 18 in

Medium: Giclee print

Retail Value: \$750.00

Co-Creation:

Tony Mustra & Christina Gelinas

Participant Statement

It's all like a dream, really.

I was in a suspended state of survival for a year from the moment I was diagnosed until the final days of my treatment:

Excising the culprit.

Poisoning my cells every 21 days, my body spiraling to the brink of death.

Radiating the scene of the crime.

Some damage is irreparable.

Some damage I have yet to mend.

Some damage was, in hindsight, very much needed. It afforded me the luxury to take stock of my life and sort through the rubble. Discard and walk away from some pieces of my life and my self. Recognize the valuable pieces and cherish them, nurture them.

I am now two years out from my diagnosis and so absolutely fortunate to categorize it as a past, dream-like, life experience, and slowly release the fear that gripped me along the way. Although this cancer dream will forever haunt me, I am content to know it remains in its suspended state.

Shared Statement

"Code Blue"

Code Blue represents a defining moment in our cancer experience. We couldn't have imagined our lives would be shaken up any more than they had the day we were told I had cancer. But the Code Blue event forever altered our lives as individuals and our life as a couple. It set the scene for how we each dealt with subsequent situations during my treatment and how we are now dealing with our life together, post-cancer.

THANK YOU

BRUSHES WITH CANCER COMMITTEE

April Gibson
Chad Rogers
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Dan Hadad
Daniel Fricker
Erin Cohen
Jamie Ellerton
Jenna Benn Shersher
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