

UNIQUE

ARISE Art & Literary Magazine 2021

CAVERY '18



Constance Avery

"Life's Canopy"

Acrylic Watercolor - 18" x 24"

About the Artwork

Art is an avenue that allows me to channel my feelings and helps me to feel complete. I have always loved colors of nature and the world around us. Having a limited field of vision is a challenge but also a path of creating art. I love Monet, Mondrian and Georgia O'Keefe. Their art is so diverse and interesting so I channel some of their techniques but in my own way.

My disability does influence how I work. A keyhole type vision requires you to look at things in a condensed way. Using my smart phone is a wonderful tool because it takes my large work and puts it into my field of vision so I can view the whole thing not just parts.

UNIQUE

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ARISE

ALL AGES. ALL DISABILITIES. ALWAYS BY YOUR SIDE.

We work to create a world where all people, regardless of disability, have the power to make their own life choices and achieve their dreams.

Since 1979, we have provided opportunities so that people with disabilities can participate in the community and live independently. ARISE is...

Community

...a community of advocates, committed to ensuring that every person, regardless of disability, is able to live a full and independent life.

Independence

...building ramps for families in need so that they can reclaim their freedom and independence.

Opportunity

...connecting employers with qualified workers who happen to have a disability.

Empowerment

...empowering children and families through mental health services.

Adventure

...whether it's flying down the ski slopes or horseback riding at ARISE at the Farm, we're providing access to year-round adventure.

Hope

...from helping families move out of crisis situations to transitioning people out of nursing homes, we're providing security, safety and hope.

Choice

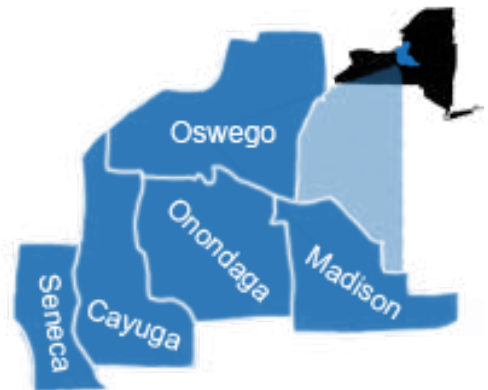
...our person-centered approach maximizes choice and self-determination. Individuals are always at the core of everything we do.

Change

...by eliminating physical barriers and changing attitudes, we're creating a more inclusive community.

You

...we couldn't do it without supporters, volunteers, advocates and friends like you. Together, we can change the world.



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A Message from the CEO



Tania Anderson
CEO, ARISE

*I have two close friends . . .
Here and Now.
Now, Here like Now lives in the moment
On the dot, where and whenever you are.*

That is the first stanza of Jessica Meicht's poem "Here and Now," published within the pages of this UNIQUE magazine. As we continue to navigate the sequelae of a global pandemic and tumult on the economic, political and social fronts, our friends Here and Now demand to be acknowledged. It is more important than ever to be in the moment.

Art is in the moment. As the stories within these pages will tell you, our UNIQUE artists are capturing moments in time, whether it is a 50-year-old memory of a trip to Paris or seeing a bird alight at a backyard feeder. They work in the moment, and their experience of disability informs their work.

ARISE is in the moment, embracing the challenges of these times with the full weight of its experience as an Independent Living Center grounded in the civil rights movement. For more than 40 years, ARISE championed the idea that people with disabilities are entitled to full access to the world and have the power to make life choices and achieve their dreams. For more than 20 years, UNIQUE magazine showcased the power of artists and writers who express themselves through the lens of disability.

For the past year and a half, we have been living moment to moment, wondering what will come next. Without discounting the anxiety of these times, I ask you to embrace the power of Here and Now, which allow us to see the beauty in the differences among us, be grateful for simple pleasures, and give us space to create.

*Sometimes things get hard
And I call on each old friend
Because when we come together
I achieve more than I intend.*

Things have been hard, for each of us in different ways. But we have many friends to buoy us and support us. Those friends include art and poetry. I invite you to look into these pages of UNIQUE, here and now, to find beauty, achievement and comfort.

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Artists encourage us to see and experience the world in ways we might never have considered. Within these pages are works that are joyful and triumphant, full of hope for the future, and others that contemplate the past. There are works that celebrate small moments of beauty found in everyday life, and still others highlighting

interests and hobbies, or family members and friends. Whether abstract or representational, painted, photographed, sculpted, drawn, stitched or written, these works address feelings and experiences familiar to us all. That is the power of art—to connect us with each other. As many of us emerge from periods of deep isolation due to the COVID-19 pandemic, these connections built through art are even more significant.

The Everson Museum of Art is honored to partner with ARISE on UNIQUE, and while we are unable to host an opening reception this year, we look forward to welcoming all artists and their families as they visit the museum.

Congratulations to all exhibiting artists on another beautiful magazine and exhibition!

-Steffi Chappell, Assistant Curator,
Everson Museum of Art

Christina Papaleo was last year's
UNIQUE cover artist.



UNIQUE

FEATURED ARTISTS

FRONT COVER: **Constance Avery**, *Life's Canopy*

BACK COVER ARTWORK: **Kaushik Krishnan**, *Mask*

BACK COVER POETRY: **Elizabeth Pelletier**, *I Will Be*

Kafi Ahmad, *Heaven's Wrath for the Blood of*

Martyrs of the War in Iraq 4

Kyle Allen, *Nature is My Peace*..... 26

Jessica Bero, *Heavenly Free Spirits*..... 19

Sabrina Biggs, *Symphony of the Gee*..... 31

Carol Broome, *Blended Geko*..... 14

Kimberly A. Cavanagh, *Giving Light to New Eyes*.. 9

Aleksandra Chaberski, *Rapunzel's Castle*..... 29

Timothy Coomey, *Blue Cubes Arising* 15

Deborah Darrow, *The Sled of Christopher Robin* 15

Carol Davenport, *The Falling Leaves* 1

Rick DiBianco, *Le Poulpe* 28

Suzanne Ellis, *As We Stand Together As One* 6

Hannah Emerson, *Another Free Blue Vortex* 18

Charles Fitzpatrick, *Green Twilight* 30

Justin Fogg, *Eclipse*..... 16

Gordon Fregoe, *Pine Cone in the Spring*..... 28

Ryan Goldacker, *Flower Delivery* 5

Derek Grindle, *The Bee* 29

Anthony Guarino Jr., *Anthony's Farm*..... 20

Kim Harvey, *Ocean's Blue*..... 2

Elissa Hyre, *A Prayer for Justice*..... 2

Steven Ingerson, *Parisian Afternoon*..... 21

Benjamin K.M. Kellogg, *Surviving the Pandemic*.. 12

David Kirchoff, *The Frame Within*..... 7

Donna Knapp Walrath, *Shout Out Loud*..... 8

Karen Anne Koegel, *When I Thought There was No Hope*..... 20

Jessica Koll, *The Woven Garden*..... 23

Kanishk Krishnan, *Wish List*..... 17

Kaushik Krishnan, *Mask* 19

Sujit Kurup, *Cool Night Mystery* 25

Shawn Mack, *Approaching Storm* 23

Marie Martin, *Growing* 5

Laura Masuicca, *Be Safe-It's a Jungle Out There* 10

Jessica Meicht, *Here and Now* 4

Gary Moore, *Saint Patrick Miracle*..... 30

Linda Morabito Bauso, *Simple Pleasures*..... 6

Jennifer L. Mydlinski, *Footloose-Dancing with a Friend* 25

Elizabeth Pelletier, *I Will Be*..... 13

Jaime Powers, *Acrylic Pour Painting* 27

Joseph Rufo, *Inner Beauty* 27

Addison Samchisen, *Beautiful Faces*..... 26

Margaret Sidoti, *Mazzuno*..... 1

Clark Simson, *Flowing Serenity*..... 7

Peter Smith, *My English Trail Blazer* 24

Alexandra Speller, *The Mask* 22

Nick Spinella, *Waterfalls of Color*..... 8

Robert Szpak, *Four Fish* 3

Jill Talmage Coomey, *Memories of Florida* 22

Leo True-Frost, *Unknown* 3

Karen Voas, *Dr. Seuss Tree* 11

Elizabeth Watson, *Father and Daughter*..... 14

Gloria Williams, *Island Fiesta* 11

Tanner Woodland, *Keep It Lit*..... 16

Bernard Wren, *Cottage on the Lake* 10

Virginia Zabel, *Snowbird* 24

THE FALLING LEAVES

Carol Davenport

Watercolor | 12" x 15"



MAZZUNO

Margaret Sidoti

ACRYLIC | 13" x 10"



Carol Davenport

My parents encouraged me. As a pre-teen I took art classes at the Everson Museum in the summer. I took watercolor classes at Liverpool High School and sketching classes at North Syracuse Middle School. The creativity of all the other class members was inspirational.

Margaret Sidoti

This is a painting I did of my guinea pig, Mazzuno. He is very special to me and makes me happy. Doing art is relaxing for me and I like hanging my art work up in our library.



OCEAN'S BLUE

Kim Harvey

Acrylic on Canvas | 16" x 12"

I pray for the rebirth of Justice,
for it was murdered many years ago.

The murder of Justice still has
people shedding tears, though.

When Justice was murdered,
some people gave up hope.
It was the only way they
knew how to cope.

The murder of Justice,
whom I never knew,

still makes me weep
so my heart rings true.

A PRAYER FOR JUSTICE

Elissa Hyre

Kim Harvey

With this painting I am envisioning the beauty of the ocean. I have always been creative and started painting after my first traumatic brain injury to help with my rehabilitation.

Elissa Hyre

I only know that I was a born writer. Having epilepsy does help me because if I don't like the idea (I can put it in my recycle bag). If I get writer's block I just walk away. My paper will always wait. As always, my parents are my best role models. Celebrity-wise, I don't think I could choose any better people than
2 Maya Angelou and Pete Seeger.

UNKNOWN

Leo True-Frost

Water, flowing quietly into the unknown

Water, drowning into the castle

Water, relaxing me into the unknown

Water, dripping off the edge of the tub, into the unknown.

Water, swizzling into the unknown.

Water, hard sandy waves crashing into the unknown.

Water, frozen, sliding onto the ice, into the unknown.

Water, walking onto the ice like an Olympic ice skater.

Water, dripping onto the ice to never be seen again.

Water, smashing through the big arctic waves, into the unknown.

The soothing sounds of the white noise of the waves.
“SPLASH”, “CRASH!”

The waves eating up the sand, rocks and shells, into the unknown.

FOUR FISH

Robert Szpak

Acrylic | 16" x 20"



Leo True-Frost

I wrote this because everyone can enjoy poetry. I was thinking about what was in my heart. It expresses my feelings about being in Cape Cod with my friends near the ocean and also when I am skiing and seeing the ice and snow melt.

Robert Szpak

I release myself creatively. I try to do something people will enjoy. I started scribbling as a child. Inspiration comes from many artists, people, memories, life and God.

HEAVEN'S WRATH FOR THE BLOOD OF MARTYRS OF THE WAR IN IRAQ

Kafi Ahmad - Acrylic | 14" x 11"



HERE AND NOW

Jessica Meicht

I have two close friends...
Here and Now.

Now, Here like Now lives in the moment
On the dot, where and whenever you are.

When with Here, plans are about location.
When with Now, it was about what time to arrive.
My soul just craves to be mindful
But my passion is what kicks it into drive.

It takes the correct location to be quiet and
you must find time to stop and breathe,
but the last key is inside you.
You may not remember, it's hidden underneath.

Sometimes things get hard.
And I call on each old friend
because when we come together
I achieve more than I intend.

Passion to create at its center,
with Here and Now by my sides.
Deep breathing in my pleasure,
when the three of us coincide.

Kafi Ahmad

I grew up in Baghdad. When I grew up, there was war in my country. I like making arts, crafts and cooking. Whenever I make art it makes me happy and brings me peace and joy.

Jessica Meicht

I wrote my first poem at 7 years old and have been writing ever since. The first poetry books I read were *Where the Sidewalk Ends* and *Falling Up*, both written by Shel Silverstein. My process is definitely influenced by disorder. I tend to not write while having a bad day.

FLOWER DELIVERY

Ryan Goldacker
Watercolor | 9.75" x 8.75"



GROWING

Marie Martin

With you, I got into trouble.
Without you, I'm just trouble.
But what is this phase?
I want to have a one-night stand
to understand myself.
Get drunk, and walk to my
destination without fear, and still
know what I'm doing.
Hell, I used to take rides from strangers.
I almost got pregnant twice.
I almost got high on cocaine.
But I'm still here.
I know, I know, that I'm not the girl next door.
But it's so addicting. Especially if someone likes me. I've
been so good,
and didn't know about the real world,
for so long.
What's next, I wonder.

Ryan Goldacker

Art work is fun and relaxing. My art teacher, Mr. Paben from elementary school, was my role model. When I look at my painting I think of beautiful things.

Marie Martin

I create art to let out my emotions. I started creating art when I was a young child. My disability has its own role. I wanted to submit something daring.

SIMPLE PLEASURES

Linda Morabito Bauso

Painting | 30" x 22"



AS WE STAND TOGETHER AS ONE

Suzanne Ellis

We are American people, our flag red, white, and blue
As we are all different kinds of people
As we stand together as one

We will do our best to keep our country free
As we stand together as one

Tomorrow no-one can see but we will do our best to
make everyday a better one

As we stand together as one

Linda Morabito Bauso

Hobbies were and still are a way for me to relax, express my feelings, accept my disability, and preserve traditions and memories. My disability was and continues to be my inspiration. It sparked my imagination and unleashed my creative talents! My interest in painting began in my later teenage years, with ceramics and china painting.

Suzanne Ellis

I feel President Biden is a good man and will get our country and us back on our feet. As my poem reads, we all need to stand together as one. I am 70 years old, and I love to write poems.

FLOWING SERENITY

Clark Simson

Colored Pencils | 26.5" x 33"



THE FRAME WITHIN

David Kirchoff

Charcoal Drawing | 24" x 18.5"



Clark Simson

You remember so many minute parts of the things you observe and draw. It helped my other studies as I would get more interested and remember details. I used colored pencils. I wanted the overall design of the artwork to flow one part of the picture into the other.

David Kirchoff

I did this piece a few years ago in high school, but to this day, it remains a reminder of my artistic ability, my attention to detail and my strive for accuracy in reflecting myself. My condition makes it difficult for me to think creatively yet creates a drive within me to find a way to express myself. I've always enjoyed capturing life through my camera then sketching it.

If you can't praise the Lord,
for all He has done.
All the rocks will cry out,
and worship the Son.
All the trees will praise Him,
as their branches wave on high.
Let's put our trust in Jesus,
who lives up in the Sky.

SHOUT OUT LOUD

Donna Knapp Walrath

WATERFALLS OF COLOR

Nick Spinella

Acrylic on Canvas| 32" x 21.5"



Donna Knapp Walrath

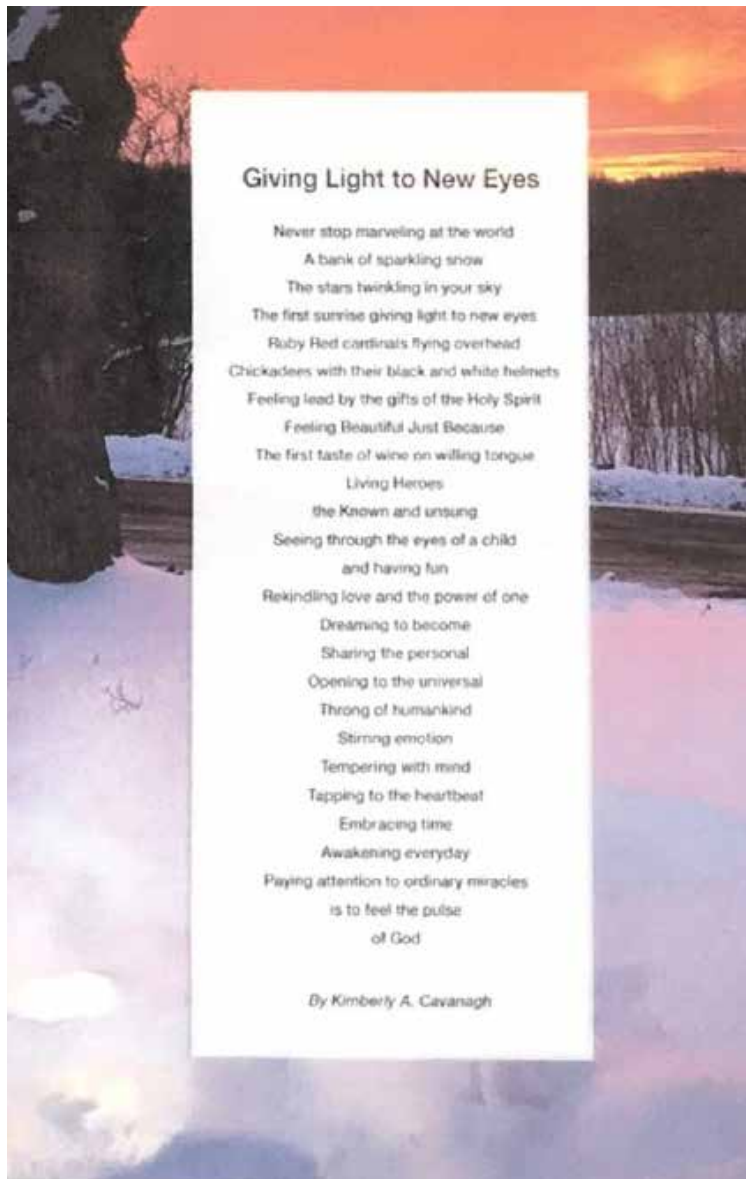
My poem was created so that we can praise the Lord for all He has done. I make notebooks with copies of my poems. It helps to get the word out about the Lord.

Nick Spinella

Nick enjoys painting, he will jump out of his seat to go with the United Cerebral Palsy Art team for pottery class and painting. His art work uniquely resembles colorful water falls in the method he uses to paint.

GIVING LIGHT TO NEW EYES

Kimberly A. Cavanagh, Oil-Watercolor-Poem | 7" x 5"



Giving Light to New Eyes

Never stop marveling at the world
A bank of sparkling snow
The stars twinkling in your sky
The first sunrise giving light to new eyes
Ruby Red cardinals flying overhead
Chickadees with their black and white helmets
Feeling led by the gifts of the Holy Spirit
Feeling Beautiful Just Because
The first taste of wine on willing tongue
Living Heroes
the Known and unsung
Seeing through the eyes of a child
and having fun
Rekindling love and the power of one
Dreaming to become
Sharing the personal
Opening to the universal
Throng of humankind
Stirring emotion
Tempering with mind
Tapping to the heartbeat
Embracing time
Awakening everyday
Paying attention to ordinary miracles
is to feel the pulse
of God

By Kimberly A. Cavanagh

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Kimberly A. Cavanagh

I love to create art because of its transformative and healing power. I began writing poetry and telling stories when I was in elementary school. It was clear that I had a God given talent at an early age. My artistic role models are my sister Lynda, William Lee Draper, and Julia Cameron. I believe that my disabilities enhance my creative process and do play a role in my artwork adding passion and drive to the work itself. I write for myself first, but it is a dream of mine to inspire others and encourage "inspiration ideation" as I call it.

COTTAGE ON THE LAKE

Bernard Wren

Oil Painting | 11" x 14"



BE SAFE - IT'S A JUNGLE OUT THERE

Laura Masuicca

Crochet | 12" High

Bernard Wren

My inspiration comes from PBS painter Bob Ross. All of his pictures, winter scenes, nature, water are inspiration to me.

Laura Masuicca

COVID-19 gave me my inspiration for this piece. Being quarantined for the past year I started making quarantine critters to see how many I could get done during that time. Hopefully, it tells people the importance of staying safe during this time by wearing their masks. Each animal has his own mask specially made to fit them.

ISLAND FIESTA

Gloria Williams
Painting-Collage | 17"x 21"



DR. SEUSS TREE

Karen Voas
Sculpture | 12" High



Gloria Williams

Pineapples are one of my favorite fruits. They are tropical. I wanted to create a burst of sunshine, joy and excitement you would feel in an Island Fiesta.

Karen Voas

I love the David Clark Learning Center, not only have they taught me a lot of stuff they have helped me out! I watched a lot of Doctor Seuss films and wanted to create something fantabulously awesome and wondrous.

I was very confused and stressed
That first week the pandemic hit.
The news came suddenly to me,
And before I really had a grasp of what was going on,
My normal routine was abruptly disrupted.
When I was finally able to get out of my house,
I had to adjust to wearing a mask everywhere.
It took a bit of time before I found a comfortable one,
And even the masks that do work well with me
Have affected certain sensitivities,
Such as straps around my ears,
And the feeling of always being a bit smothered.
Other areas of life that have been easier to make suitable
for adjustments for.
I now make zoom calls with friends,
Rely on streaming services for all my entertainment needs,
Eat most meals at home,
And walk on my home treadmill for half-hour daily.
My occupation and as a freelance writer
Has not changed in nature one iota,
Which I consider a true blessing.
I can feel myself regressing in some ways, however,
Likely due to the forced isolation.
The most social interaction I tend to have
Most days is with my parents.
I consider my relationship with my mother and father
To be a strong anchor.
I can trust them to understand
My every concern,
And our mutual love and respect
Is most comforting.
Still, it would be nice to have more contact
With my friends and extended family
Beyond the odd visit, zoom call,
Or social media mention.
Isolation is still very real,

And any interaction beyond my immediate
Inner circle good for my well being.
Remaining productive has been my prime
motivator each day.
Diving into my work and making it worthwhile
Is always a top priority,
But even I have begun to tire of doing that,
After being cooped up for so long.
It has been hard. For me
Having to deal with so much change period
I am weathering the storm,
But I will gladly welcome normalcy.

SURVIVING THE PANDEMIC

Benjamin K.M. Kellogg

Benjamin K.M. Kellogg

I write to express my inner self and show what my life with autism is like. My love of writing began in school as a teenager and has blossomed into a fulfilling career. My writing role models include Lewis Carroll, Jack Prelutsky, and Shel Silverstein. My autism greatly affects everything in my life, including every step of how I write, from conception to execution all the way to publication. It is the primary subject of my poetry at this time.

I WILL BE

Elizabeth Pelletier

I will be your eyes
I will lead the way

I will be your ears
so you can hear what they say

I will be your courage
when you are afraid

I will be by your side
each and every day

I will be the light
that shines so bright

I will be the one
to kiss you goodnight

You are my younger self
so scared and afraid

I wish I could have told you
that you would be OK

I am here now
to hold your hand
To help you make sense
of things you don't understand

It is OK to cry
to feel afraid
As long as you smile at the end of each day

As I look back
at that little girl
I couldn't have known
she would conquer the world

Head strong and tough
is what she has become
She will make it her mission
to get things done

With love in her heart
and a pinch of fear
She is the person
that will always be there

She will pick you up
when you are down
She will turn that frown
upside down

She will cheer you on
and listen when you are sad

She will walk beside you forever
holding your hand ...

Elizabeth Pelletier

This year I did not reference my MS in my poetry as I always do. Instead, I focused on my childhood trauma that I endured. I wrote about how it made me feel and how I learned to cope. Childhood trauma/abuse often leads to anxiety, depression and self-hate, which can become the perfect storm for a mental illness and disability.



FATHER AND DAUGHTER

Elizabeth Watson
Oil Pastel | 24" x 18"



BLENDED GECKO

Carol Broome
Acrylic-Collage | 21" x 27"

Elizabeth Watson

When I was creating this piece, I was thinking of the love between a father and daughter and the caring bond they have between each other.

Carol Broome

My gecko piece is so inspiring to me. I love geckos, their colors jump out at you and make you very happy! They are a lizard that can change their color and blend into their surroundings.

BLUE CUBES ARISING

Timothy Coomey
Sculpture-Painting | 22" x 16"



THE SLED OF CHRISTOPHER ROBIN

Deborah Darrow
Collage | 11.5" x 1" & 21.5"



Timothy Coomey

I wanted to create a unique and interesting 3-dimensional structure using cubes. Something you can look in and through and from different angles. I love blue and so I used acrylic to add color and pattern to the cubes. No pattern is the same.

Deborah Darrow

The sled was created by using a paper casting technique. I then collage on the artificial snow and the rope. I'm a member of the David Clarke Learning Center.



KEEP IT LIT

Tanner Woodland

Painting-Collage | 16" x 16.5"

ECLIPSE

Justin Fogg

Digital Art | 10.5" x 8"



Tanner Woodland

In these tumultuous times, this painting represents the need to always keep hope alive!

Justin Fogg

I specialize in Dragons in many of my designs. I acquired many of my skills while attending Madison-Oneida BOCES graphic arts program, which I graduated from in 2016.

WISH LIST

Kanishk Krishnan

Today I wish for
Wanted list
Of people
Dear to my
Heart
Forever and ever
To end of time
And beyond
To cherish and
Hold dear
Till I desire
To let go

Today I wish for
Everlasting peace
That can stretch
And shrink
As my life
Demands with
Suffering no
Holes or rips
Wanting no breaks
Until I am eternally
Adorned with that
Peace it can no
Longer be apart

Today I wish for
Beauty in all
To grow beyond
Bounds of I or
Mine and find
The weave of love
Holding the fabric
Of universe together
Through eons of
Goodness and evil
Fighting timeless
Battle waiting
For the hidden
Love to be
Found for nurturing
One and all

Wanting wishes
To be granted
Wanting tirelessly
Dreaming and waiting
Patiently for the
Answers to be
revealed

Kanishk Krishnan

My artistic inspiration comes from the constant agony my autistic mind puts me through. My mom and my mentor, Austin, are my artistic role models. I wrote this poem because of the current climate of events including the pandemic. It expresses my thoughts on where humanity is heading and what the universe would say to us.



ANOTHER FREE BLUE VORTEX

Hannah Emerson

Acrylic Painting & Poem | 16" x 20"

Another Free Blue Vortex

Love to float	get your great	that is trying
in the blue	great freedom	to take us
of your soul	that you try	to another free
yes yes - love	to swim in yes	place where we
to swim in	yes - please try	can become
you're thinking yes	to help me swim	one yes yes -
yes -please try	the way you go	please try to let
to give me	to the cause	go to help
permission to go	that you need	yourself keep
to the swimming	to find in your	from going down
with you yes	great great great	the drain yes yes-
yes please try	thought yes yes -	
to help me	please try to go	
	to the vortex	

Hannah Emerson

The painting is inspired by the poem Another Free Blue Vortex. The poem describes the painting, and now they are one.

MASK

Kaushik Krishnan
Clay Art & Poem | 12" x 8" x 2"



MASK

Wearing a mask
Everyday we all
Walk around
Posing as
Someone
We are not
Real beauty
Hidden behind
The artificial
Veneer waiting
To be unveiled
With all our
Might we resist
The unveiling
But one day the
Mask falls off
On its own

HEAVENLY FREE SPIRITS

Jessica Bero
Acrylic on Slate | 4" x 4"



Kaushik Krishnan

I create art because I am finding peace in my heart and it makes me very happy. I started when I was five in kindergarten. Both my mom and my brother Kani are my artistic role models. My mind and my emotions are heavily influenced by autism, and that clearly influences my creativity.

Jessica Bero

I like all different kinds of birds. I see a lot of birds at our bird feeder. It was fun to paint the birds from their pictures. One of my favorites was the snowy owl because it reminds me of the one I saw at the zoo. It was really cool to paint on slate.



WHEN I THOUGHT THERE WAS NO HOPE

Karen Anne Koegel

Abstract Acrylic | 20" x 16"

ANTHONY'S FARM

Anthony Guarino Jr.

Acrylic | 18" x 24"



Karen Anne Koegel

Recently on Good Friday, I had a car accident and currently have been diagnosed with a traumatic brain injury. The outside colors (of this artwork), yellow and white, represents the time after the car accident "hope." The yellow and orange are the way to hope. The miraculous medal is the source of protection.

Anthony Guarino Jr.

I create art for different Holidays and seasons. I created art since I was a small kid. My role model is Bob Ross because I like how he mixes colors to make unique colors. I feel my disability plays a role in my artwork sometimes because I paint myself in a wheelchair and at different places.

PARISIAN AFTERNOON

Steven Ingerson

april in the city of light
doing the tourist thing -
notre dame, versailles, the louvre -
and finally the eiffel tower.
while you went up to enjoy
the city spread before you
i stayed in the park below
enjoying the people enjoying
a spring afternoon.
there was an old man
feeding birds
he wore a tattered coat and worn beret
and had a sparrow perched on his hand.
i might have envied you
the view you enjoyed
but i've never regretted
choosing an old man and his birds
over a postcard paris.

Steven Ingerson

My poem is based on a trip to Paris with my wife and a couple of our friends almost 50 years ago. One day, while they went up to the Eiffel Tower, I stayed in the park below watching the people. My attention was caught by an old man feeding birds. He had at least one land on his hand. I was fascinated and watched him for a long time (I lost track of how long). This image has stayed with me over the years and inspired me to write this poem.



MEMORIES OF FLORIDA

Jill Talmage Coomey
Collage | 15" x 20"

THE MASK

Alexandra Speller
Photograph | 9.5" x 7.5"



Jill Talmage Coomey

I would endlessly walk the beach in Florida where my parents have a home. I would pick up gems like the shells, crabs, steam starfish and driftwood. I created this because it gives me a warm and awesome feeling.

Alexandra Speller

I am taking a photography class in high school. I like learning how to use a camera. I can take pictures all by myself! Masks can be beautiful.

THE WOVEN GARDEN

Jessica Koll

Dream Catcher | 2' x 2'



APPROACHING STORM

Shawn Mack

Collage/Painting | 17" x 38"

Jessica Koll

I make art to relieve myself of the negative feelings of my daily life. My mom was one of my artistic role models because she encouraged my art. Another role model in my life are my uncle and friends. Lastly, another inspiration is Salvador Dali because he's so wild and unique which is inspirational to me.

Shawn Mack

I did the painting and collage on a dark background to create night. I used bright white, blue and pink to create the lightning and the storm clouds. The look of rain on the bark was created with gloss medium. I have always loved owls. They can turn their head 180 degrees, and they are powerful. They can soar and ride out the storm.

SNOWBIRD

Virginia Zabel

Three Dimensional Collage |

8" x 8"



MY ENGLISH TRAIL BLAZER

Peter Smith

Relief Sculpture | 11" x 14"

Virginia Zabel

This piece has a lot to do with my Dad. He taught us about wildlife. He would take us around to many different places. I look out my window every day to see what wildlife is out there.

Peter Smith

I came to the United States in 1974 when I was 24 years old. Growing up in England all us kids would ride our bikes all the time. We would go to see the remains of Beeston Castle. We would have races where we would ride up the hills on dirt trails.

FOOTLOOSE- DANCING WITH A FRIEND

Jennifer L. Mydlinski | 12.5" x 14.5"



COOL NIGHT MYSTERY

Sujit Kurup
Acrylic | 17" x 38"

Jennifer L. Mydlinski

I wanted to show everyone my moves, so I danced with Alexa, a staff worker at the David Clark Learning Center. I got up out of my wheelchair, I wanted to show everybody I can do stuff. I can walk and dance! I use a wheelchair for long distances.

Sujit Kurup

My vivid imagination is reflected in my paintings. This painting is my attempt to show how sometimes my dreams come back to haunt me. Thinking it through, often wishing make believe dreams, that fade away easily with time come back to haunt from the past on a "dark cool night."

BEAUTIFUL FACES

Addison Samchisen

Collages:

13" x 9"

11" x 8.5"

7.5" x 7.5"



NATURE IS MY PEACE

Kyle Allen

Acrylic | 11" x 7"



Addison Samchisen

I like to draw but began looking at magazines and saw many different faces and try to think of a way to use them. Putting all the faces in a collage was a great way for me to display them.

Kyle Allen

I started creating art during the pandemic. My mom did not know I had this talent. I started giving my art away to random people during the pandemic to make people smile. I now sell my art and donate the money to charity. So far, I have painted over 150 paintings, and I even have some in Canada and England!

INNER BEAUTY

Joseph Rufo

Acrylic | 16" x 12"



ACRYLIC POUR PAINTING

Jaime Powers

Acrylic | 10" x 8"

Joseph Rufo

I create art to express myself so that others can discover something about me through my work. In this picture I tried to capture the woman's inner beauty.

Jaime Powers

I was watching them make these paintings on YouTube and wanted to try it. I love to create new things, and this was one of them.

LE POULPE

Rick DiBianco

Acrylic/Copper leaf | 10.75" x 16.75"



PINE CONE IN THE SPRING

Gordon Fregoe

Photograph | 9.5" x 7.5"

Rick DiBianco

My painting did not start as a defined idea. I let myself wander. The octopus has motion of its tentacles. Infinite possibilities. Its camouflage is chameleon like and incredible. Its brain chemistry is very similar to humans. I have always respected animals of the deep sea.

Gordon Fregoe

I like taking pictures with my phone. We walk around school and look for interesting things to take a picture of.

RAPUNZEL'S CASTLE

Aleksandra Chaberski

Drawing | 10.5" x 8"



THE BEE

Derek Grindle

Collage | 27" x 22"

Aleksandra Chaberski

The loneliness I experienced after my husband died was similar to Rapunzel's loneliness in the Castle tower. The picture expresses the loneliness of the past and the hope of the future. The tower of the Castle has a Vine around it that can be climbed down from, and the Castle itself has a door to come and go through. I am no longer a prisoner of the past.

Derek Grindle

This piece was created a few years ago after I found out about the plight of the honeybee and the impact they have on our environment. They are crucial to our environment and supplying us with our flowers, fruit and vegetables through pollination.

SAINT PATRICK MIRACLE

Gary Moore
Acrylic | 12" x 9"



GREEN TWILIGHT

Charles Fitzpatrick
Acrylic | 16" x 20"

Gary Moore

I really enjoy painting, and the little girl in the painting got what she wanted which was a family.

Charles Fitzpatrick

This 16- by 20-inch acrylic painting is my interpretation of Twilight. I like to paint natural settings.



SYMPHONY OF THE GEE

Sabrina Biggs

Pastel Painting | 32.5" x 30.5"

Sabrina Biggs

I created this pastel piece as an OCC project. The theme was to create a composition of an item that carries great sentimental value to me. It's a TY Beanie Baby named Gucci, a jellyfish. I've had him since I was 13, a long time ago. I had to repeat this item in a pattern that best reflected the theme.

THANK YOU!

The UNIQUE Editorial Board thanks all of the artists who submitted their creations this year!

DO YOU WANT TO SUBMIT TO UNIQUE?

UNIQUE is published annually to display the creative work of people with disabilities living in Central New York. We welcome submissions of written and visual art. Guidelines and deadlines for UNIQUE 2022 will be announced in February 2022 and will be available at ARISEinc.org.

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ALTERNATIVE FORMATS

UNIQUE Magazine is available as a PDF
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(315) 671-5438.

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MASK

Kaushik Krishnan

Clay Art & Poem | 12" x 8" x 2"

"I create art because I am finding peace in my heart and it makes me very happy. I started when I was five in kindergarten. Both my mom and my brother Kani are my artistic role models. My mind and my emotions are heavily influenced by autism, and that clearly influences my creativity."

MASK

Wearing a mask

Everyday we all

Walk around

Posing as

Someone

We are not

Real beauty

Hidden behind

The artificial

Veneer waiting

To be unveiled

With all our

Might we resist

The unveiling

But one day the

Mask falls off

On its own



I will be your eyes
I will lead the way

I will be your ears
so you can hear what they say

I will be your courage
when you are afraid

I will be by your side
each and every day

I will be the light
that shines so bright

I will be the one
to kiss you goodnight

You are my younger self
so scared and afraid

I wish I could have told you
that you would be OK

I am here now
to hold your hand
To help you make sense
of things you don't understand

It is OK to cry
to feel afraid
As long as you smile at the
end of each day

As I look back
at that little girl
I couldn't have known
she would conquer the world

Head strong and tough
is what she has become
She will make it her mission
to get things done

With love in her heart
and a pinch of fear
She is the person
that will always be there

She will pick you up
when you are down
She will turn that frown
upside down

She will cheer you on
and listen when you are sad

She will walk beside you
forever
holding your hand ...

I Will Be

Elizabeth Pelletier

"This year I did not reference my MS in my poetry as I always do. Instead, I focused on my childhood trauma that I endured. I wrote about how it made me feel and how I learned to cope. Childhood trauma/abuse often leads to anxiety, depression and self-hate which can become the perfect storm for a mental illness and disability."