

Night of Aphasia Arts 2026

MORE THAN WORDS

*VISUAL ARTS
BOOKLET*

Thank you for sharing your art!

Check Out the Full Show on
our website and / or our
YouTube Channel!





Silent Bloom

Photo by Jules Bryant

After my brain injury, I drifted like a ghost through a garden I barely knew, finding that photography could speak where my voice could not.

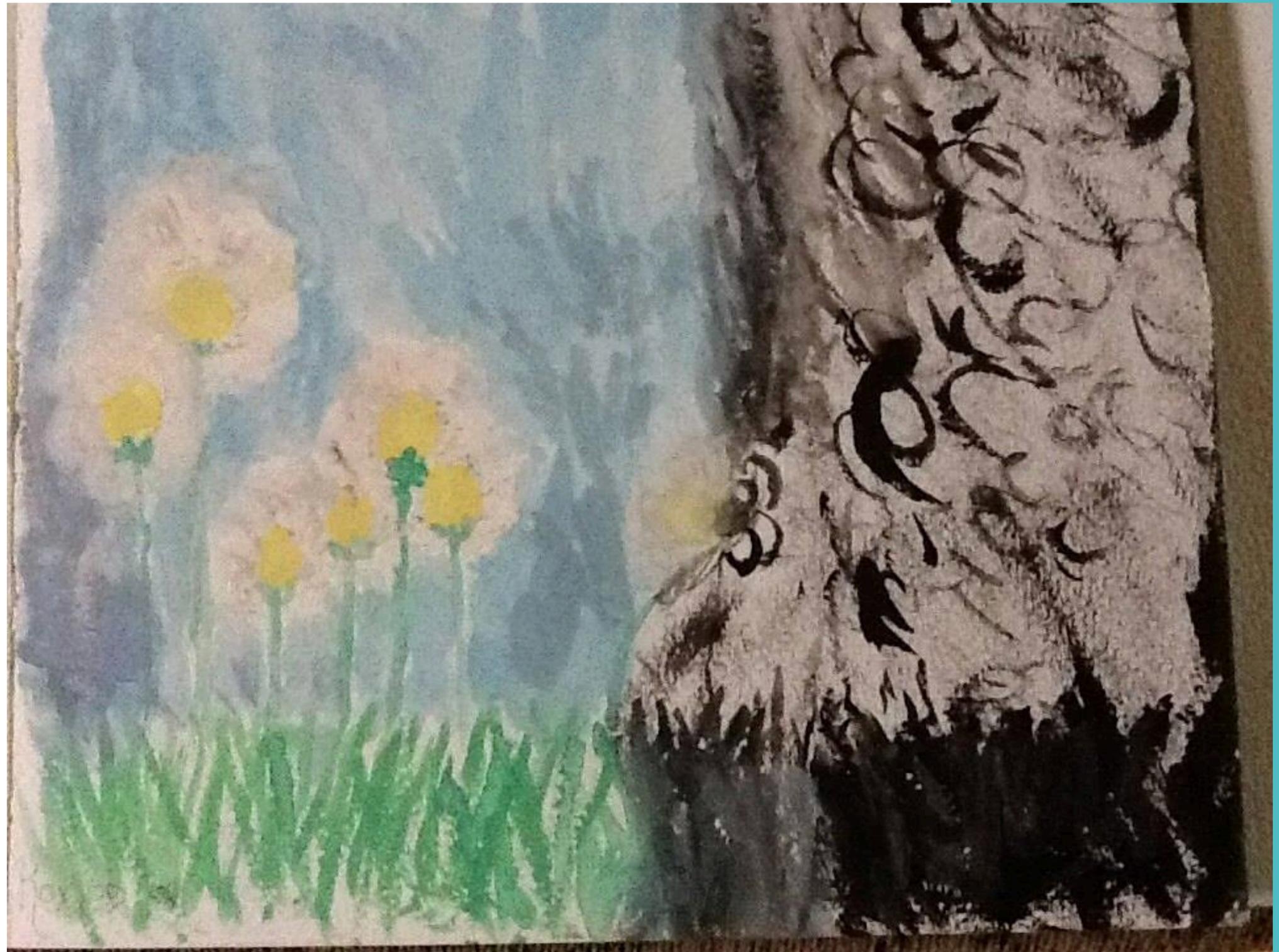
In Between

by Renee Aylesworth

This is a painting that my wife painted in May of 2014 shortly after her stroke to describe what she feels with aphasia.

On the left you see 6 flowers standing tall and in the sunshine. They represent me and our 5 kids. If you look close you notice another flower in the middle, leaning into, almost consumed by the dark, stormy area. That flower is Renee, and the dark area represents aphasia and her inability to communicate and connect to the rest of us. While the rest of us stand straight and tall, hers is bent and weak. Her flower starts in the bright side and bends into the darkness. It's as if she's in this "in between" place. Her mind is stormy and dark because of the aphasia caused by her stroke, while part of her is still in the sun.

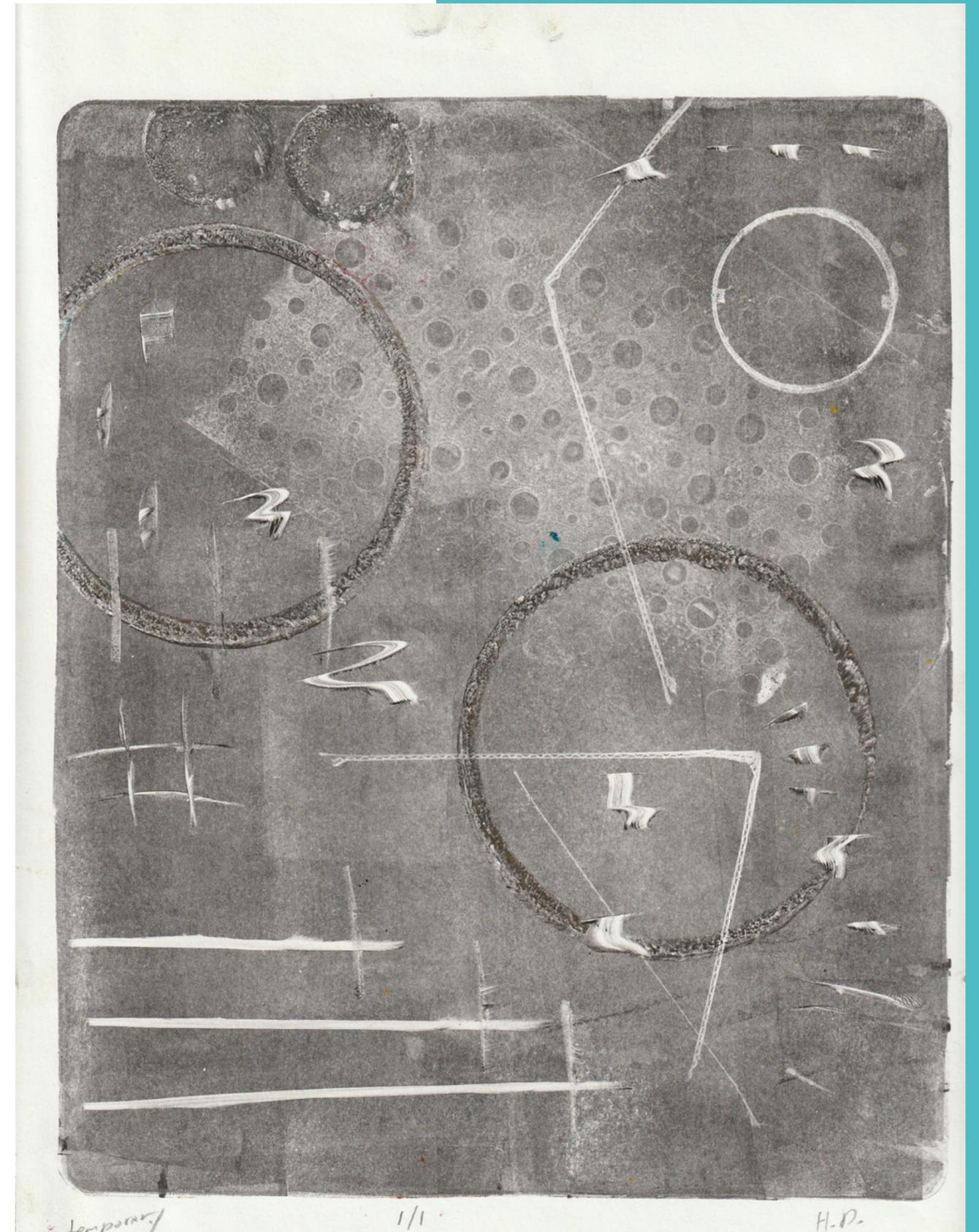
I know there is a storm raging inside there that causes confusion and despair, but my hope and prayer is that that flower strengthens and grows tall once again in the sunshine, and the storms dissipate and once again she can connect with us as before.



Temporary

by Matthew Murphy

Temporary represents the fragile, shifting nature of communication. This abstract monoprint mirrors aphasia by placing geometric "anchors" within a haze of unstable texture, suggesting that even "the right word" is often a fleeting alignment. As social or emotional contexts shift, these visual symbols refuse to stay fixed, illustrating the exhausting effort of recalibrating one's voice. The work is a meditation on the transience of language and the resilience required to find connection amidst the cognitive static.



Art by Kitti Tong

Five-Year Survival Day



I gave the ICU team, the rehab staff, and the neurosurgeon my story to show them how much I am still living for because of their care.

Miracle



"Kitti Tong is a survivor who celebrates seven years after on November 12, 2018, when she was hit by a car while crossing the street. Despite facing challenges from a left-brain injury, she remains on her recovery journey, reminding herself daily that her neurons are improving with each day."

- Acrylic, 24x30

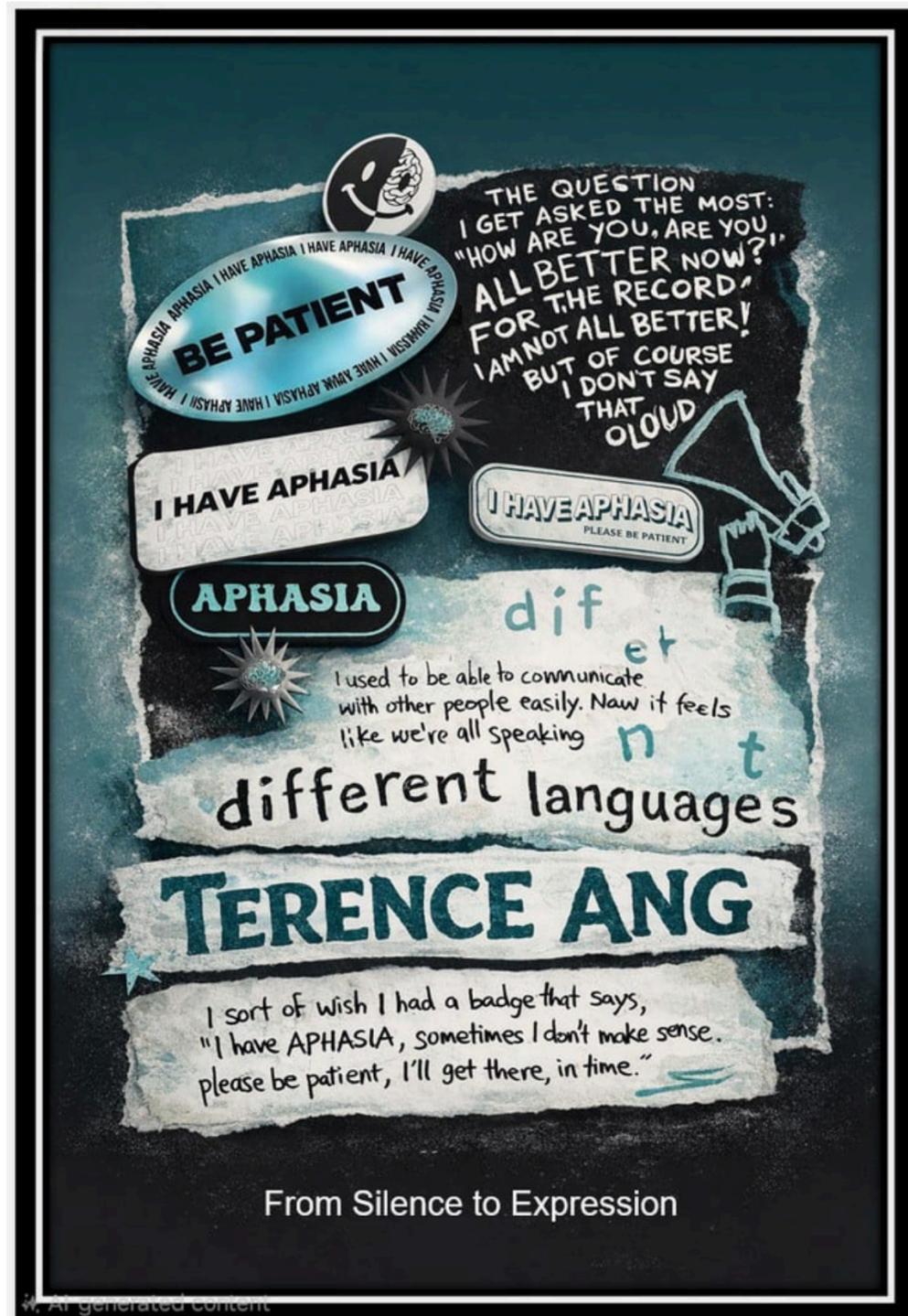
From Silence to Expression

by Terence Ang

After my stroke and the onset of aphasia, I had to relearn how to communicate. When speech became uncertain, I turned to writing and drawing. What began as therapy slowly became my voice.

Because the stroke limited the use of my right hand, I had to learn to write and draw with my left. Through that process, I discovered a new way of expressing what I could not always say aloud. In my second book, Emerging from the Dark, I created more than fifty illustrations by hand, each one reflecting not only my recovery but my resilience and progress.

For Night of Aphasia Arts 2026, I have selected three of my favourite illustrations and combined them into a single visual piece. Together, they represent my journey from loss to rediscovery, and from silence to expression.



Art by Mark Chappell "Charming McKee"

I am Mark Chappell and I have done 7 art exhibitions under the pseudonym of Charming McKee, raising awareness of Aphasia to hopefully engage a wider Aphasia audience.



Letting someone know more about Aphasia starts with you!

In my 14 years after stroke I have found it is me that has to promote and create a buzz about Aphasia.



I haven't come this far just to come this far!

Sometimes it is tiring so rest is needed but the rule of thumb is you must never give up.

Courage at FedEx Office

Photo by Rochelle Anderson



I had to go to FedExOffice to send a book to someone. I had to get up the courage to drive, since I hadn't driven for a month because of the ice. I brought their printed name and address, my charge card, and my license. Since I have aphasia, I need to print out and bring the address.

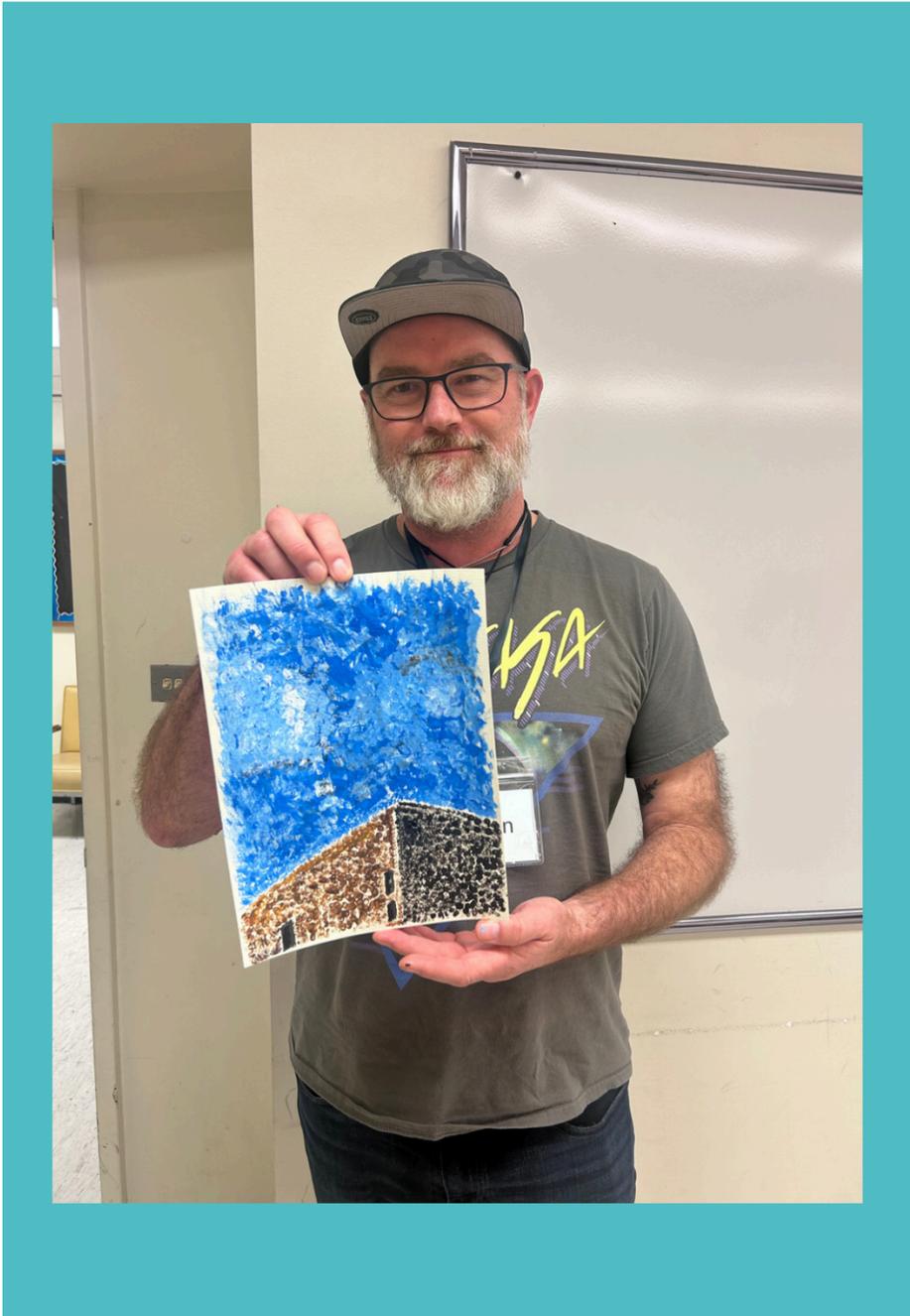
A clerk helped me and he said all the information was fine. But the problem was he asked me for my phone number. I didn't know it and panicked. I thought for sure I would have the number in my phone case but I couldn't find it. Bravely, I had to call someone to talk to the clerk to write it down. I was very embarrassed.

By the time I got back to my car, I was relieved and happy I had the courage to send it.

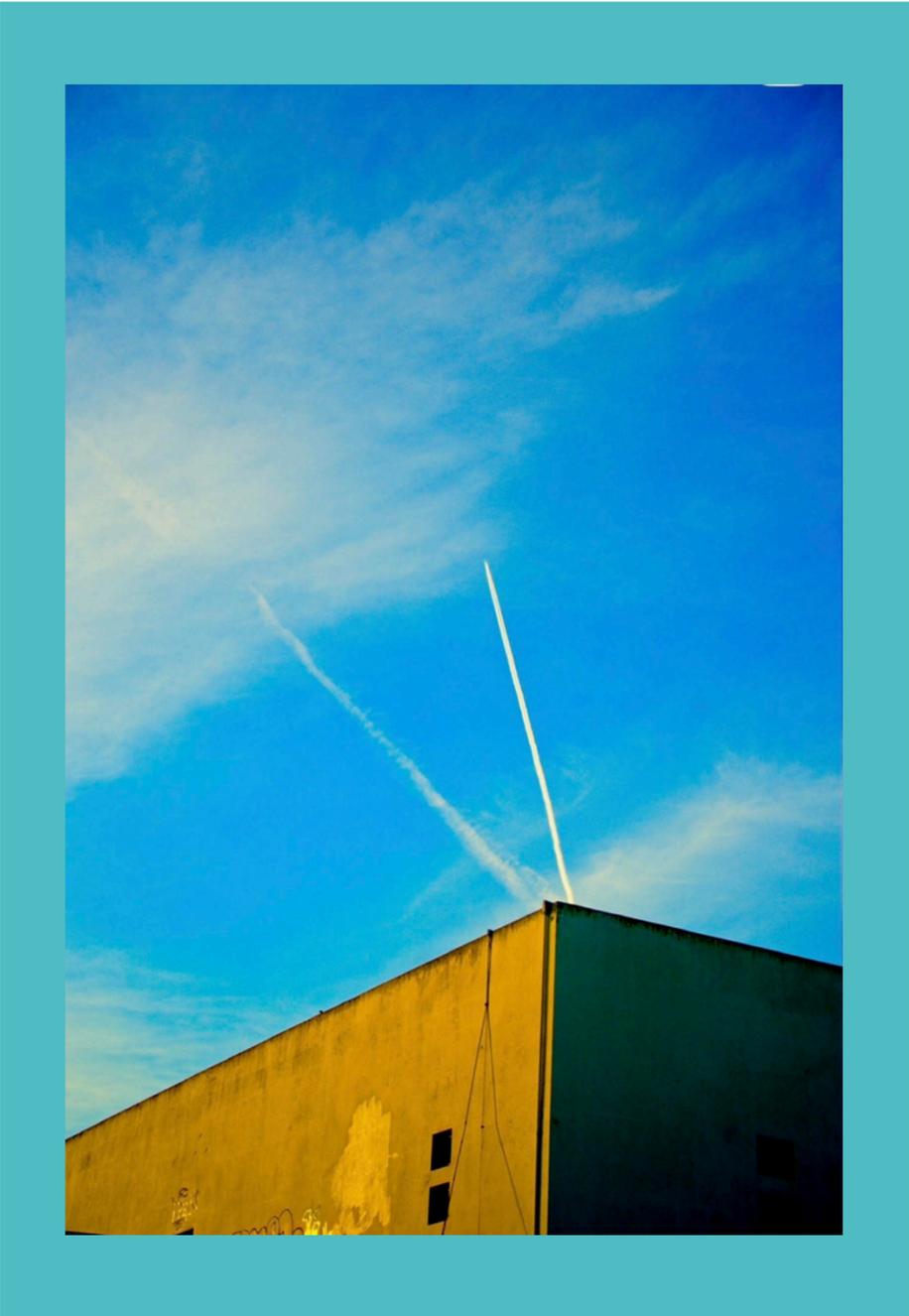
(Virtue: Courage)

Art by Jason Harrison

Still Standing



Still Standing #2



Long Walk

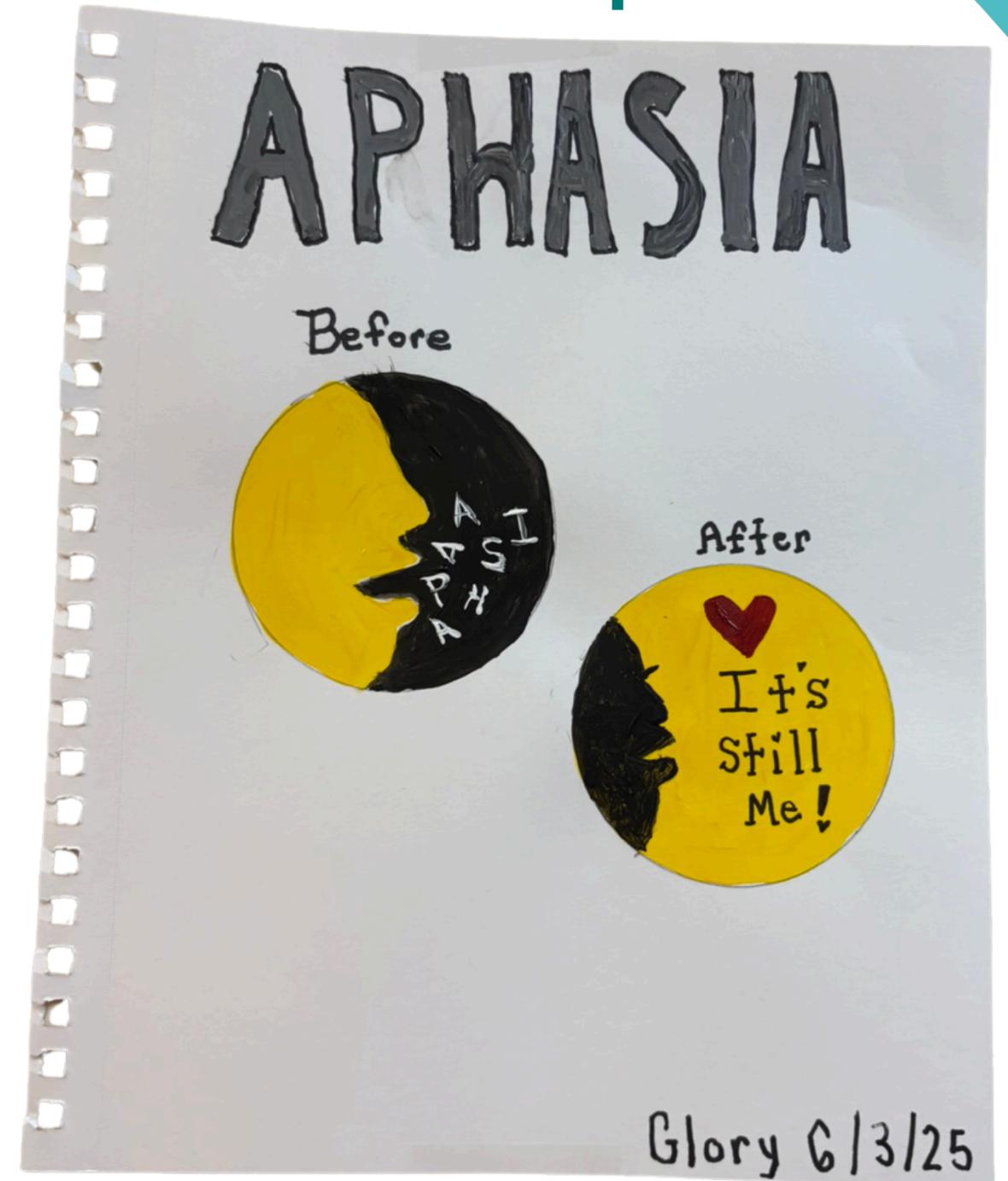


Art by Glory Gresham

Aphasia Warriors



Life with Aphasia

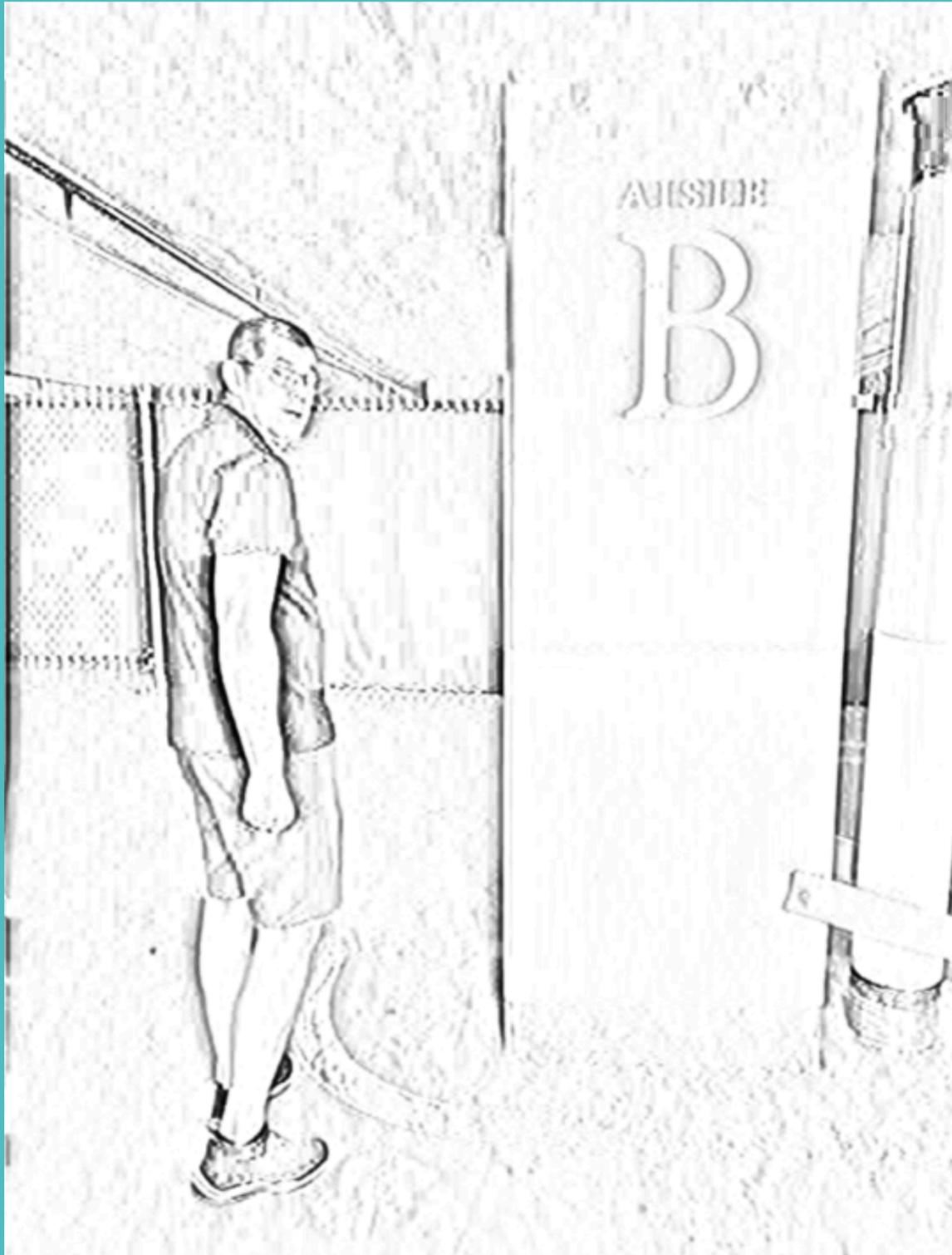


Painting made by **Glory and friends** at **Brooks Rehab Aphasia Center** for June, Aphasia Awareness Month.



Aphasia Strong

by Amber Miller



Aisle B by Mark Harder

I have courage and wisdom to come back in
action when it is ready.

(Virtues: Courage & Wisdom)

UW-Eau Claire Stoic Philosophy Aphasia Group

The Stoic Speaker: Presenting at ASHA

Courage: Courage is the strength to stand at the podium and own your voice. I will stand tall and speak my truth.

Justice: Justice is your duty to the Aphasia community and to truth. I represent the voices of all those with Aphasia.

Temperance: Temperance is the balance and self-control you maintain during the talk. I will breathe and use my tools with a calm mind.

Wisdom: Wisdom is knowing that your value comes from your message, not your fluency. I know that my presence here is the greatest lesson for these experts.

The Stoic Pilot's Compass for the Airport

Courage: Courage isn't the absence of anxiety; it is acting in spite of it. I will speak up for my needs.

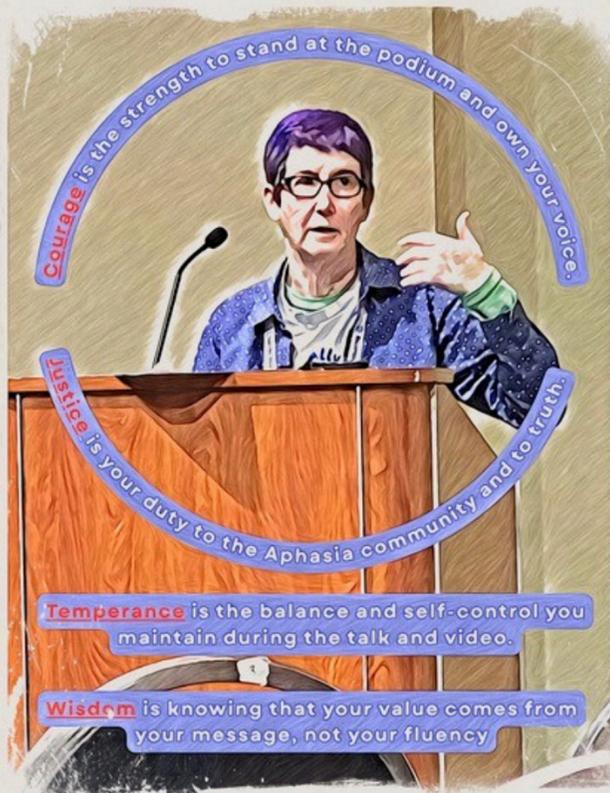
Justice: Justice is about how we treat others and our duty to the community. I am a traveler with rights.

Temperance: Temperance is self-control and moderation.

Wisdom: Wisdom is knowing what is in your control and what is not. I will focus only on what I can control. (I wore the sunflower hidden disabilities lanyard.)

by **Trish Hambridge**

UW-Eau Claire Stoic Philosophy Aphasia Group



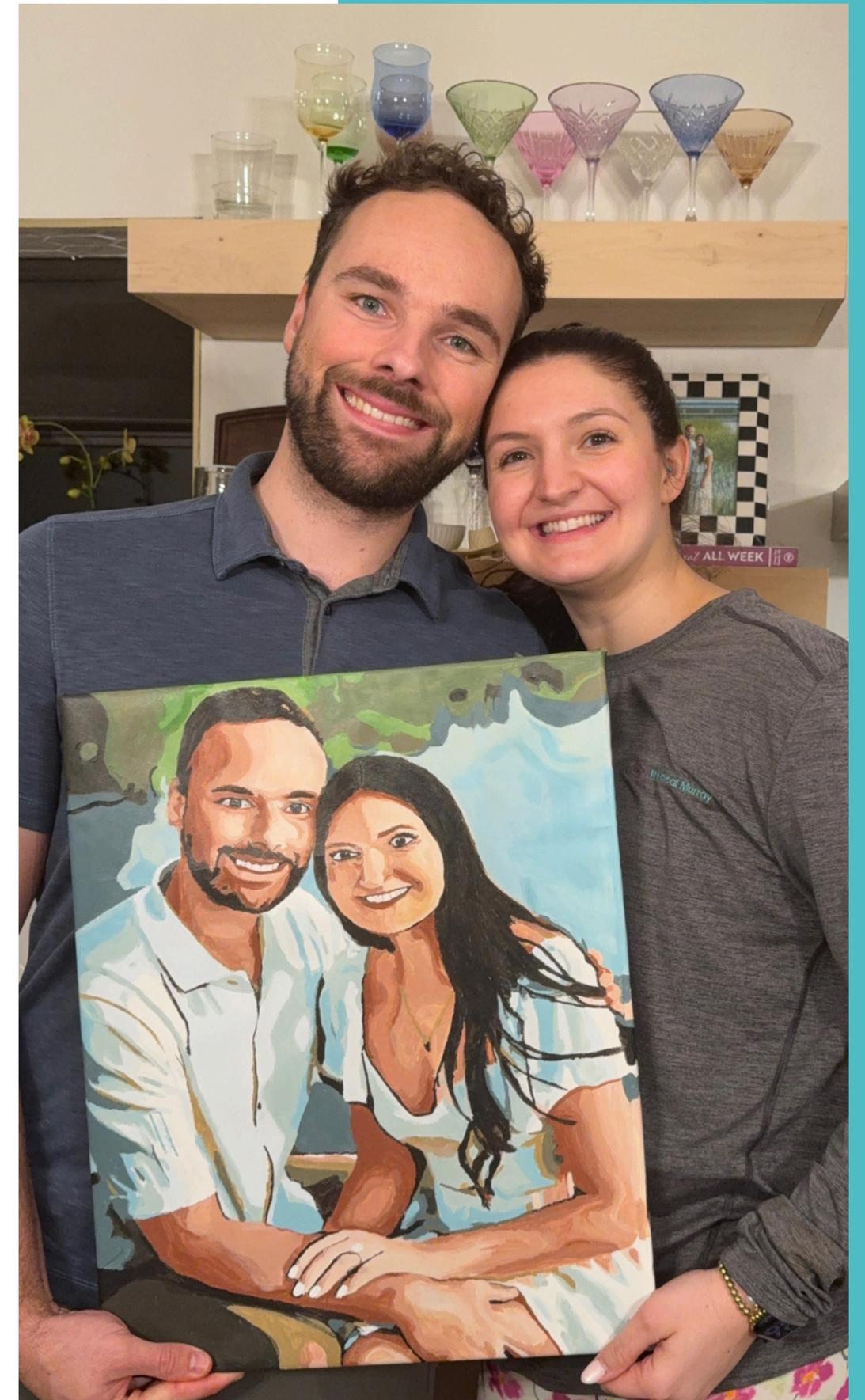
The Wedding Gift

Painting by Mari Joyce Rauenbuehler

I painted my nephew's (paint by number) wedding gift in September. I was very nervous, but he LOVED IT. It's on the mantel with the fireplace.

Virtue: Courage

UW-Eau Claire Stoic Philosophy Aphasia Group



Handmade Cards to My Husband

by Claire Leonard



This is a card I made last year for our anniversary. It shows us having a great time and romance with the windows to a limousine open for all to hear.



My husband and I travel frequently around his birthday, which is near Father's Day. I can't do a lot of these things depicted anymore, but it brings him joy.

Family

by Victoria Nadler



"Acrylic on Canvas Board
This painting represents family."

My Dog Painting by Letty Perez

Original acrylic painting and mixed media



Art by Beverly Molander

My Son



Painting with Free Writing



This is a painting of my son when he was younger.
I was a single mom looking for something to do with my free time.

Because I Know It Is

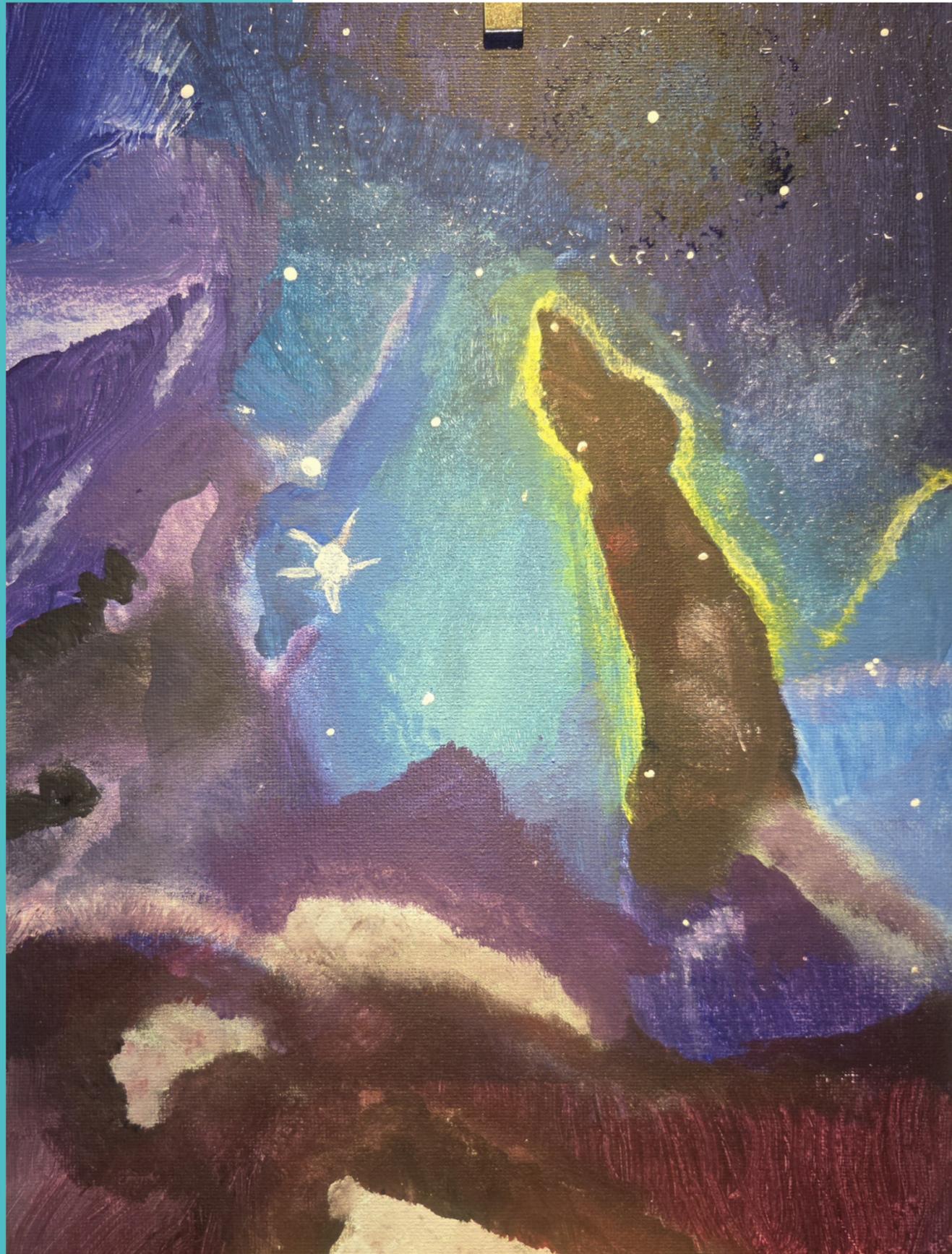
Photo by Jules Bryant



Aspens flare and fall.
I photograph fleeting beauty because
my brain injury and Parkinson's
Disease have taught me to live both
in stillness and with urgency.



Boat in the Sunset
Original Acrylic Painting
by Deanne Skivington



Starry Spectacle by Cherie David

Original Acrylic Painting



The Waterfall

by Tommy Devany

Original Acrylic Painting

Fairview Lake

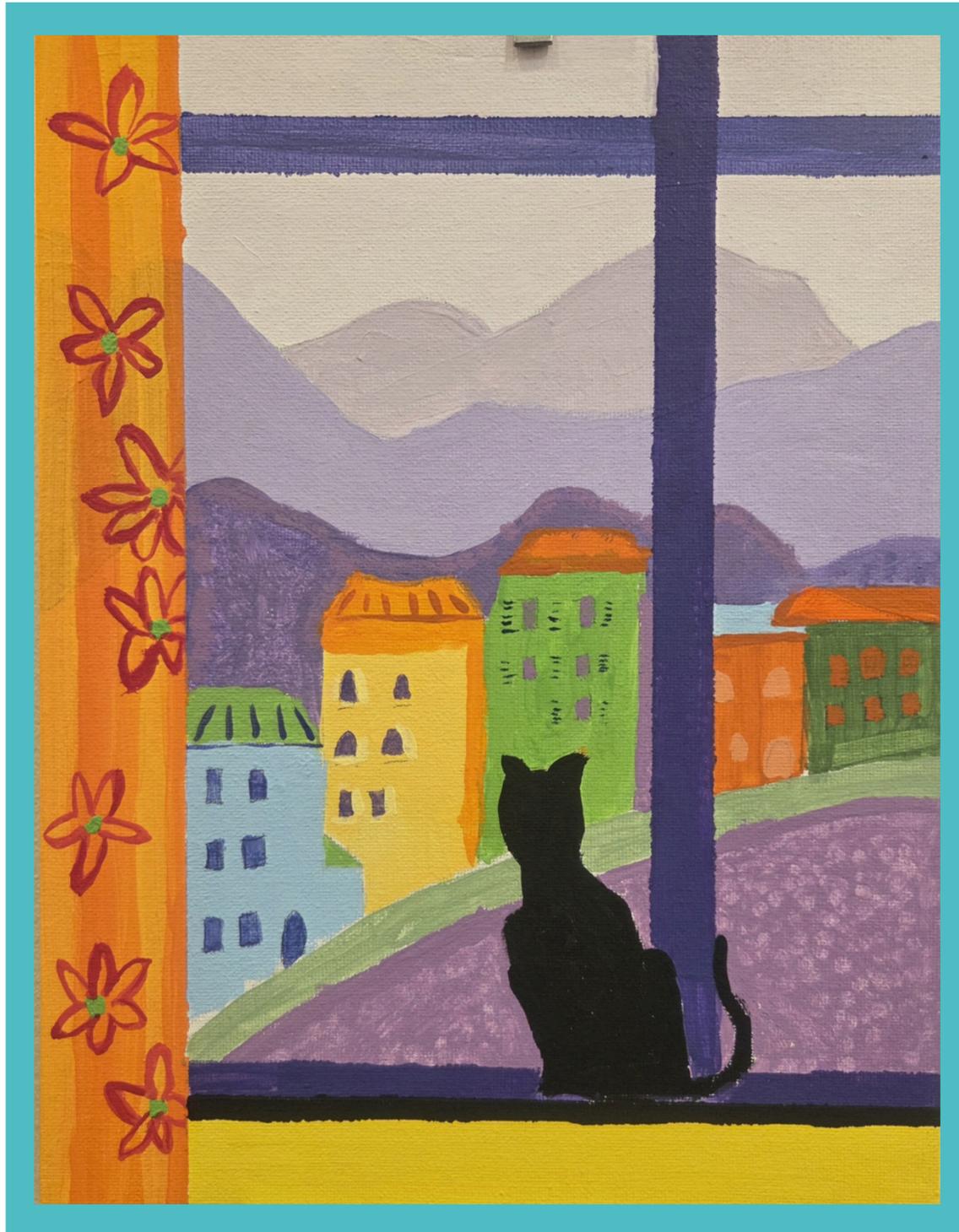
Painted by Alfonso Offreda



Original acrylic painting of the lake in Stillwater, NJ, where we have our camping trips

Original Acrylic Paintings by Lisa Gonzalez

The Cat in the Window



The Frog on the Flower



Purple Mountains

Painted by Mary Nishimoto



Original acrylic painting

The Lighthouse

Painted by Clarence Knight



Original acrylic painting

Winterscape

Painted by Wayne O'Hara



Original acrylic painting

The Forest Walkers

Painted by John Cumpston



Original acrylic painting (after Van Gogh)

Sunsets in Jacksonville

Photography by Dixie Smith



Our Maple Tree

Photo by Steve Parker



Patches of white and green lichens growing on the branches show through the mass of orange, red, and green leaves in fall.

Paintings by Sharon Cook

Enchanting Sky



While watching the sky full of stars, you will see little glass throughout the sky/Stars in this painting. It's true " ENCHANTING "

The Meadow



While walking through the forest I came across "The Meadow "

Magenta Midnight



Feeling Fall



Autumn Offering

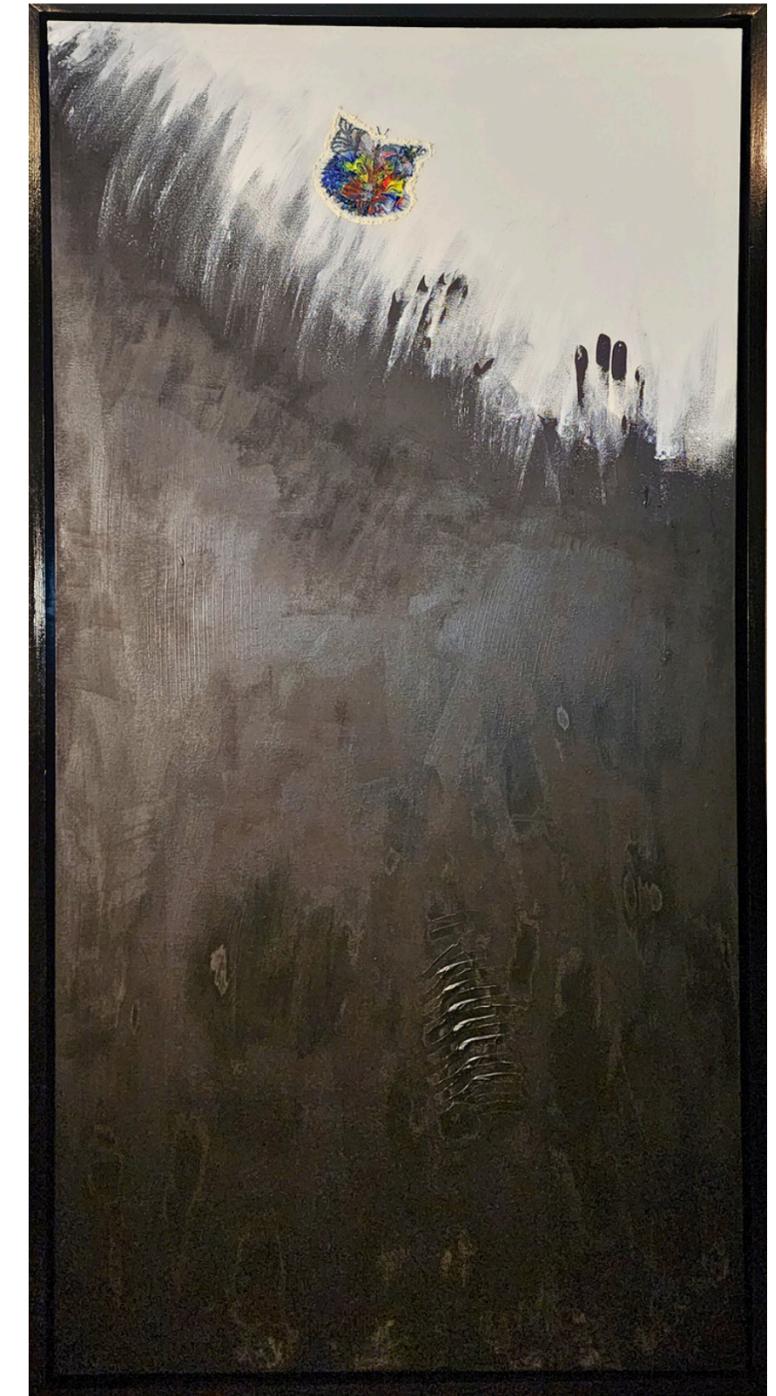
A collage by Anithia Carlisle



“Iron & Wood” Furniture & “Sin” Painting by Jim Ellingson



King sized bed and nightstands made of Montana harvested wood and iron balusters.



36" x 72" Oil on canvas mounted in a hand-built wooden frame.

Photography by Craig Smith

Foggy in Manzanita Lake, CA



I and a group of friends (aphasia folks and spouses) went to Lassen National Park and Manzanita Lake in September/October 2025.

I took this photo!

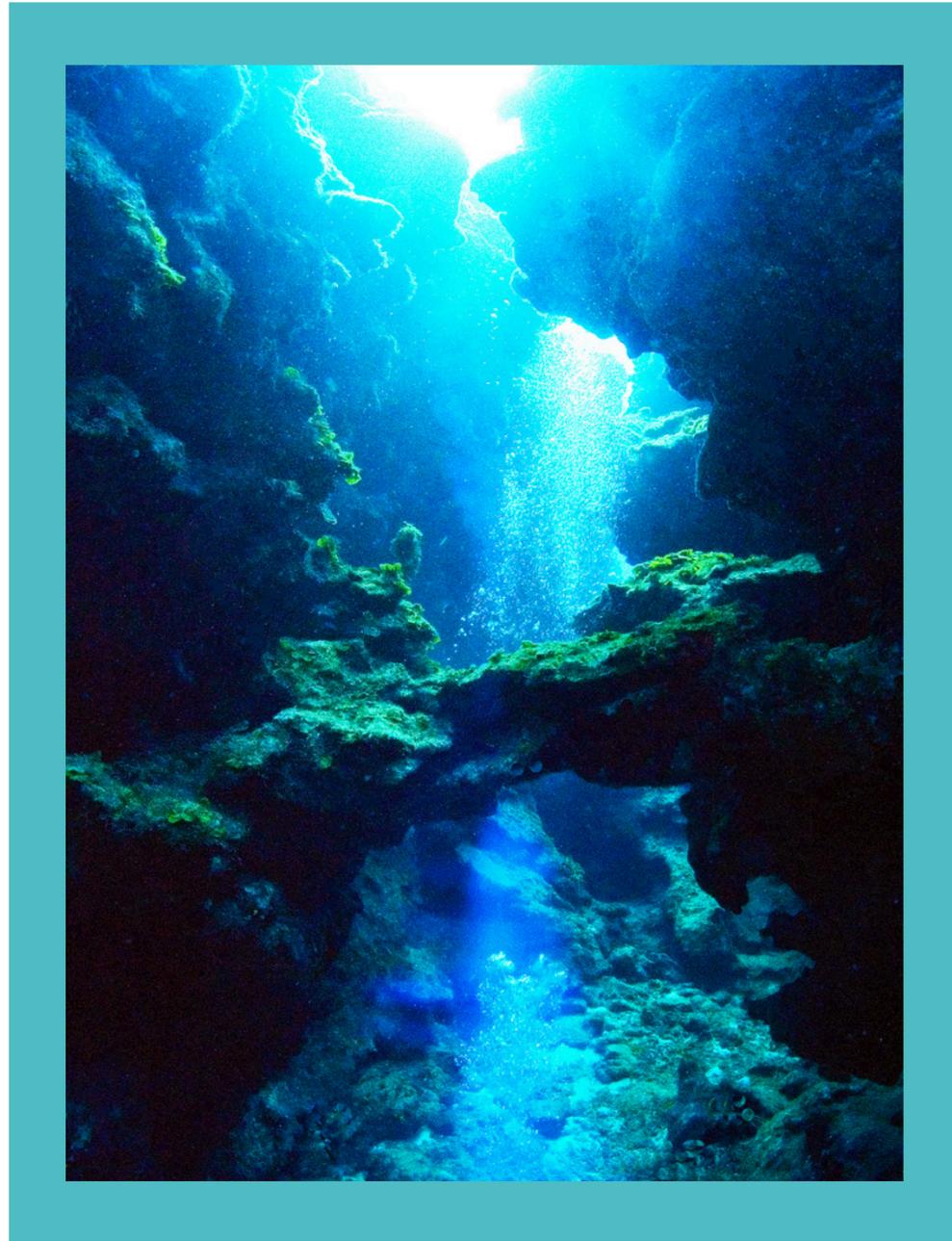
Fisherman and Manzanita Lake, CA



It was misting!!!

Photography by Simon-Peter Shaffer

Grand Cayman Canyon



First, I had to swim at about 35 feet underwater in a cavern like situation, which brought me to the canyon. I then had to wait for the sun to be at its maximum height for the shot, which was about 11:30 am.

Gorgonian Anthozoa



At about 45 feet I noticed several plants of the species Gorgonian Anthozoa. I proceeded to take a microscopic of one of the tentacles (< 1 mm in size).

Garden Tile Painting in Glory's Art Group at Brooks Rehab Aphasia Center



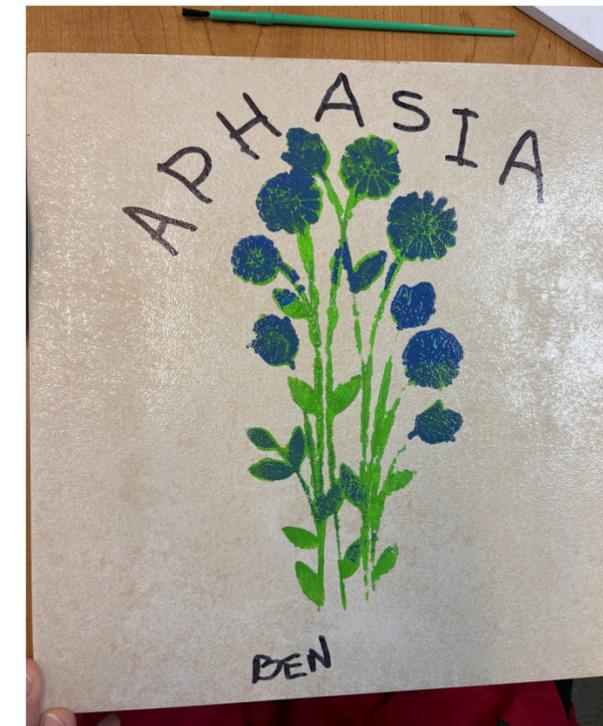
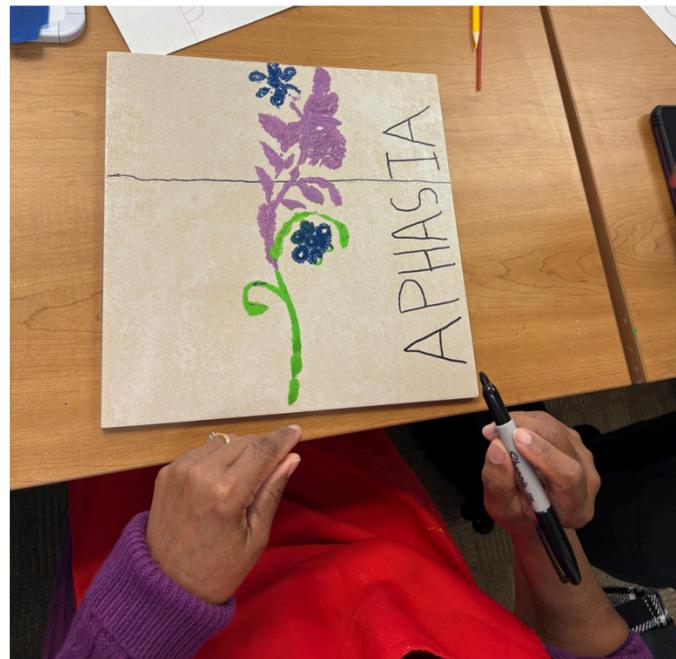
Vanette Brown



David Moment



Ben Milam



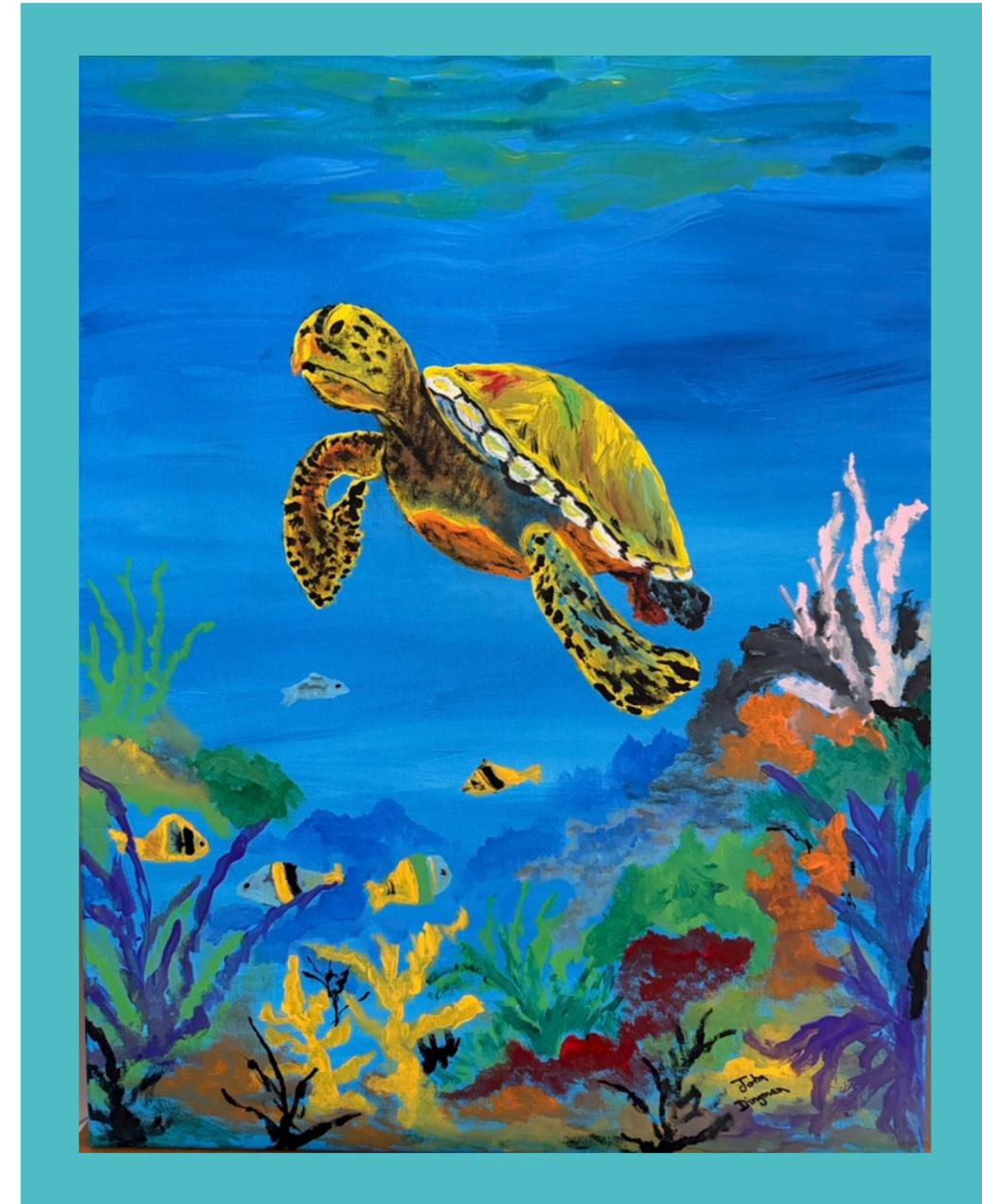
Art by John Dingman

KK the Dog Whisperer



KK visits a local park in Dunedin FL and all the pups love him and the treats he gives them. He also is the director at a local shelter.

Turtle Power



John painted this turtle for a fundraiser at our American Legion, which was raising money for KK's local pet shelter.

Winter

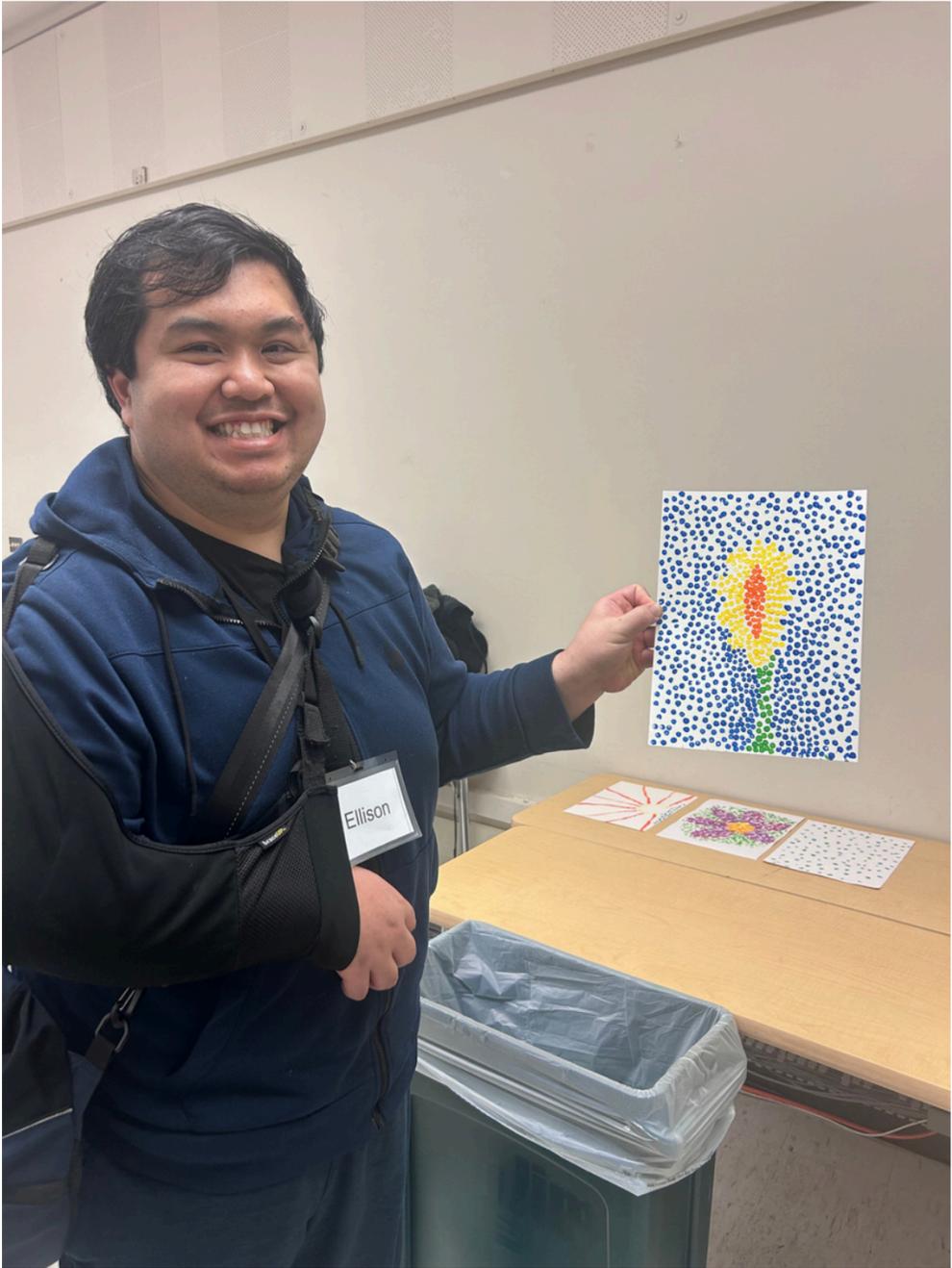
by Susan Estes



Painting that I created at home when I have more time to work on it

Pointillism Artwork at the Aphasia Treatment Program, Cal State East Bay

Sunflower
by Ellison Jung



Skyfall
by Matt Trieu





Olio Zoo

Painted by Steve Parker

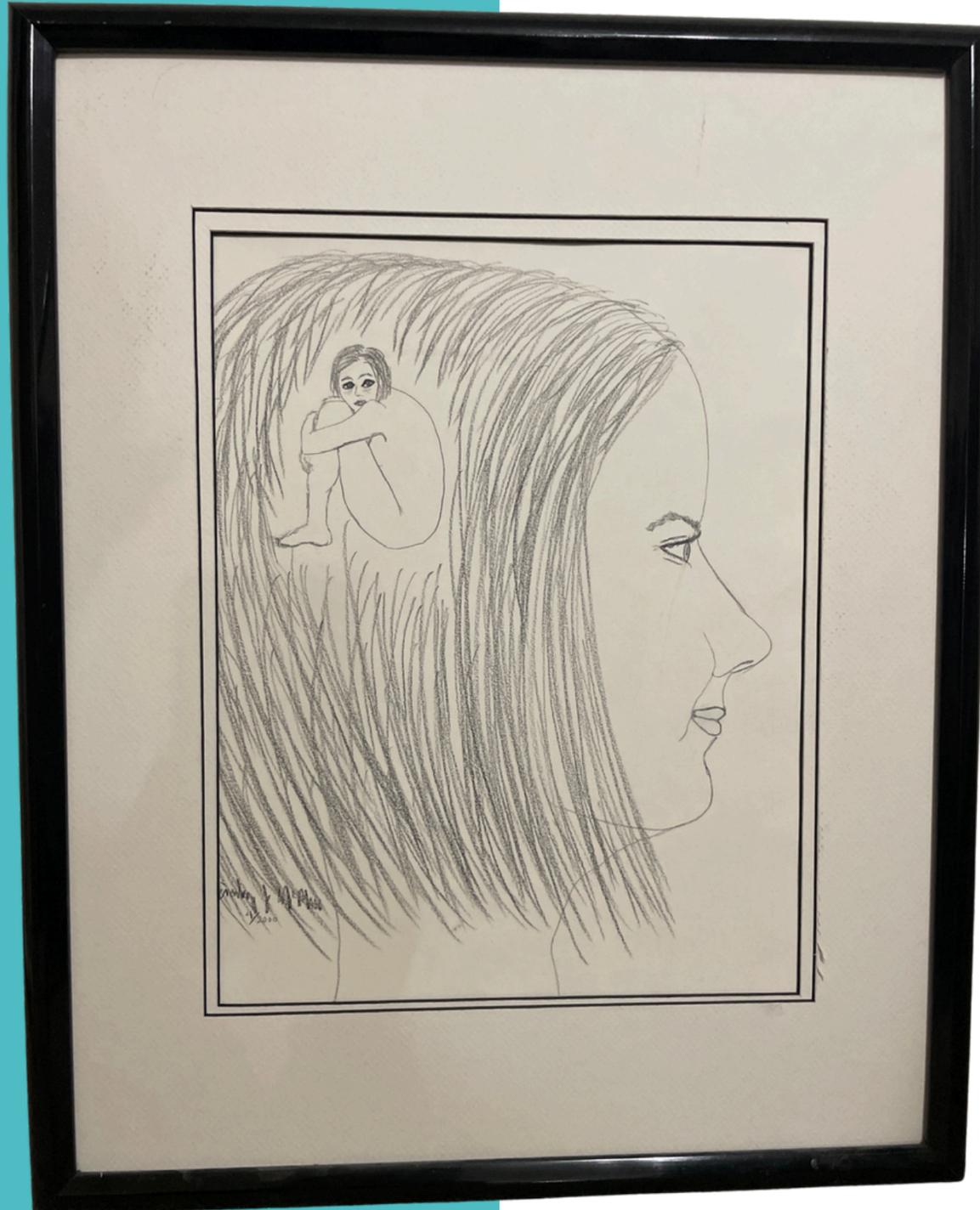
Colors swirl and flow.

I see birds, bugs, fishes, mammals
and more in this piece.

What do you see?

Real Inner Me

Drawing by Emily McPhie



I drew this in 2000, after my stroke 27 years ago. After my stroke, I felt like my true self was still inside me but hidden. Aphasia made it difficult to express my thoughts and feelings.

The outside face represents how others saw me. The smaller figure inside represents my real inner self – vulnerable, quiet, and sometimes feeling trapped.

Over the past 27 years, I have learned a lot about how to cope and communicate with others. I have learned to have compassion for myself and for other people. Life is life – it can be hard – but I realized that even when communication feels difficult, finding a supportive community makes all the difference.

My real inner me was always there.
I just had to learn how to reconnect with her.

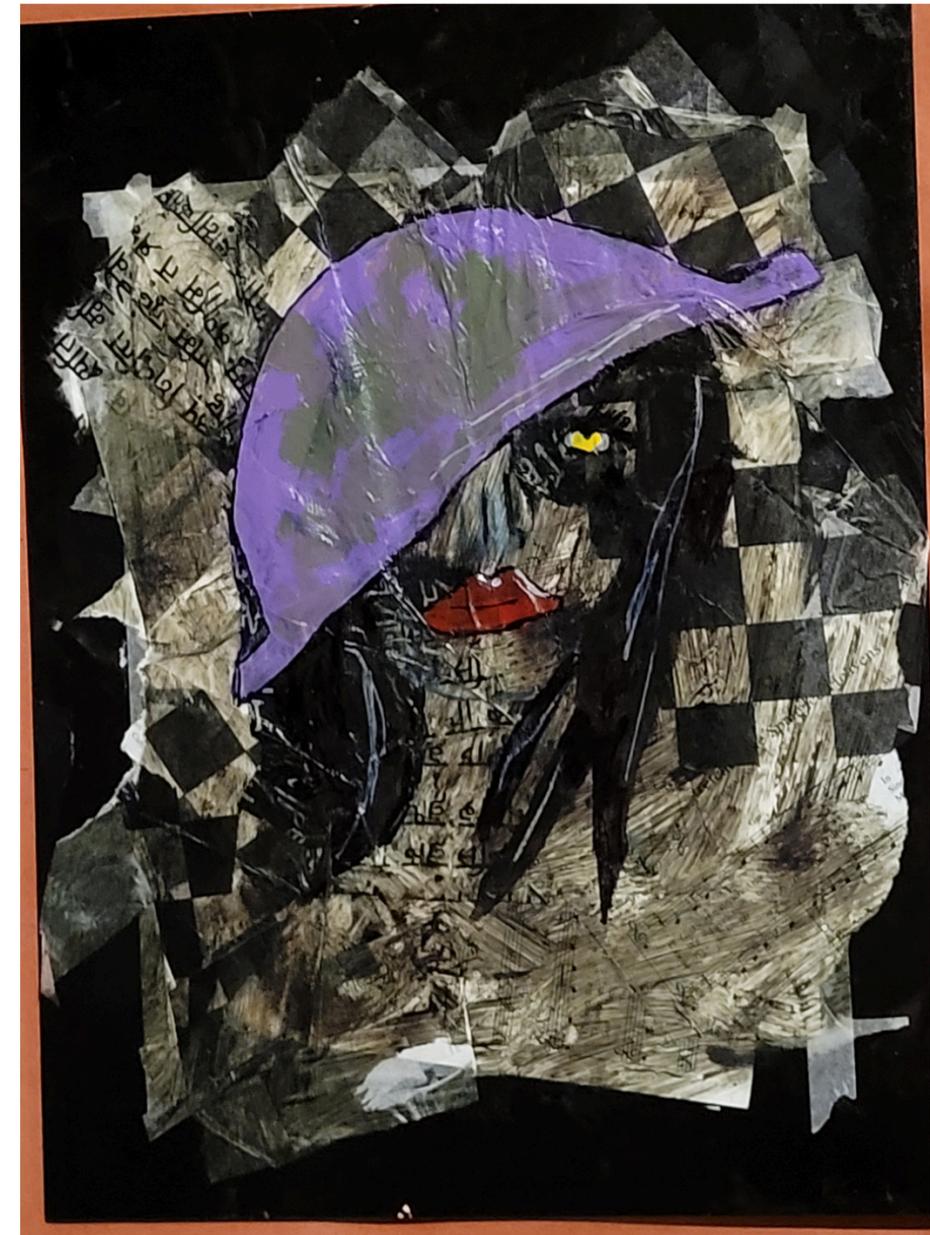
Original Vidual Art by Michelle Humphrey

Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan Doe

Stroke Mom Self-Portrait



original water color painting



original mixed media self portrait



Sunhat

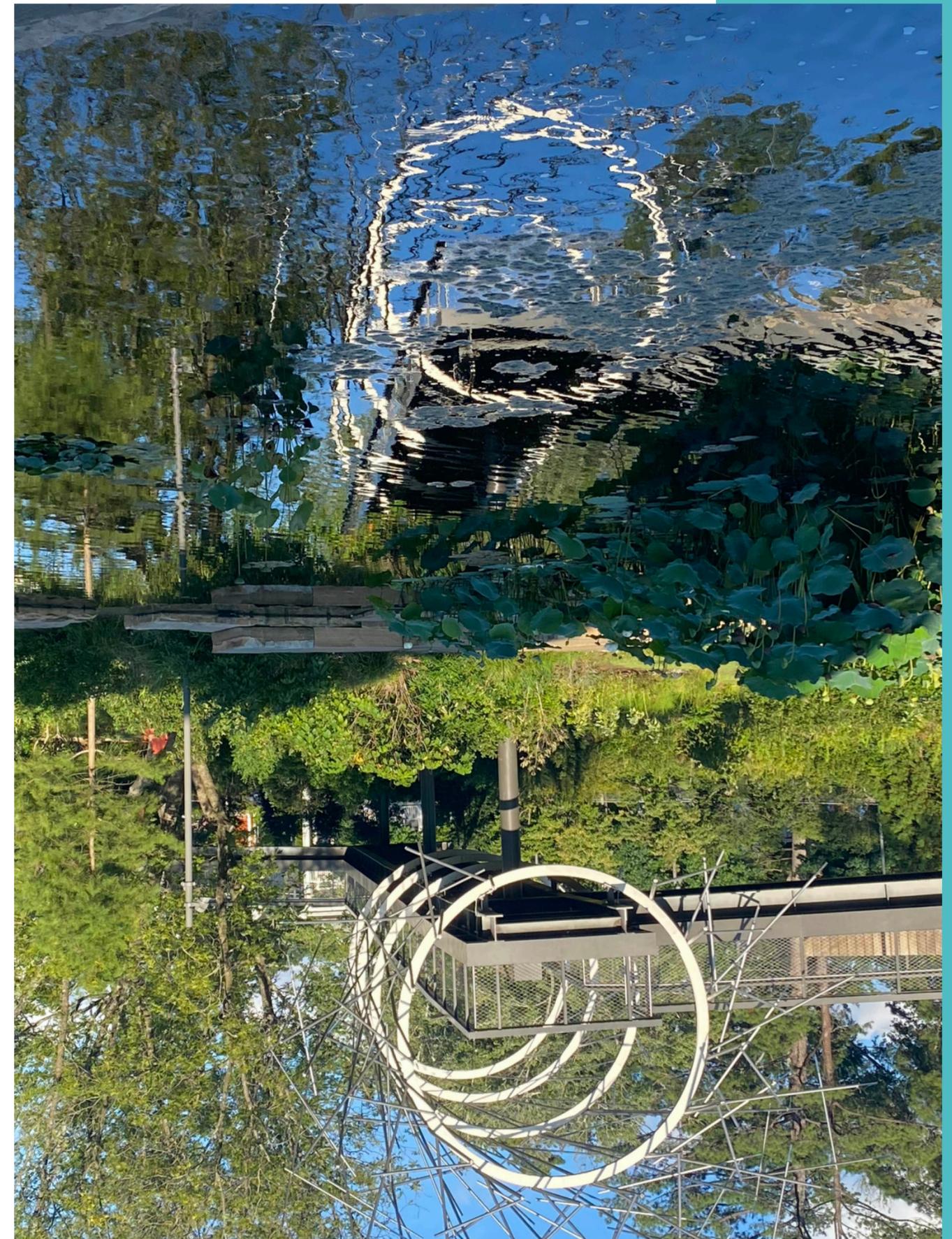
by Joelle Sisto

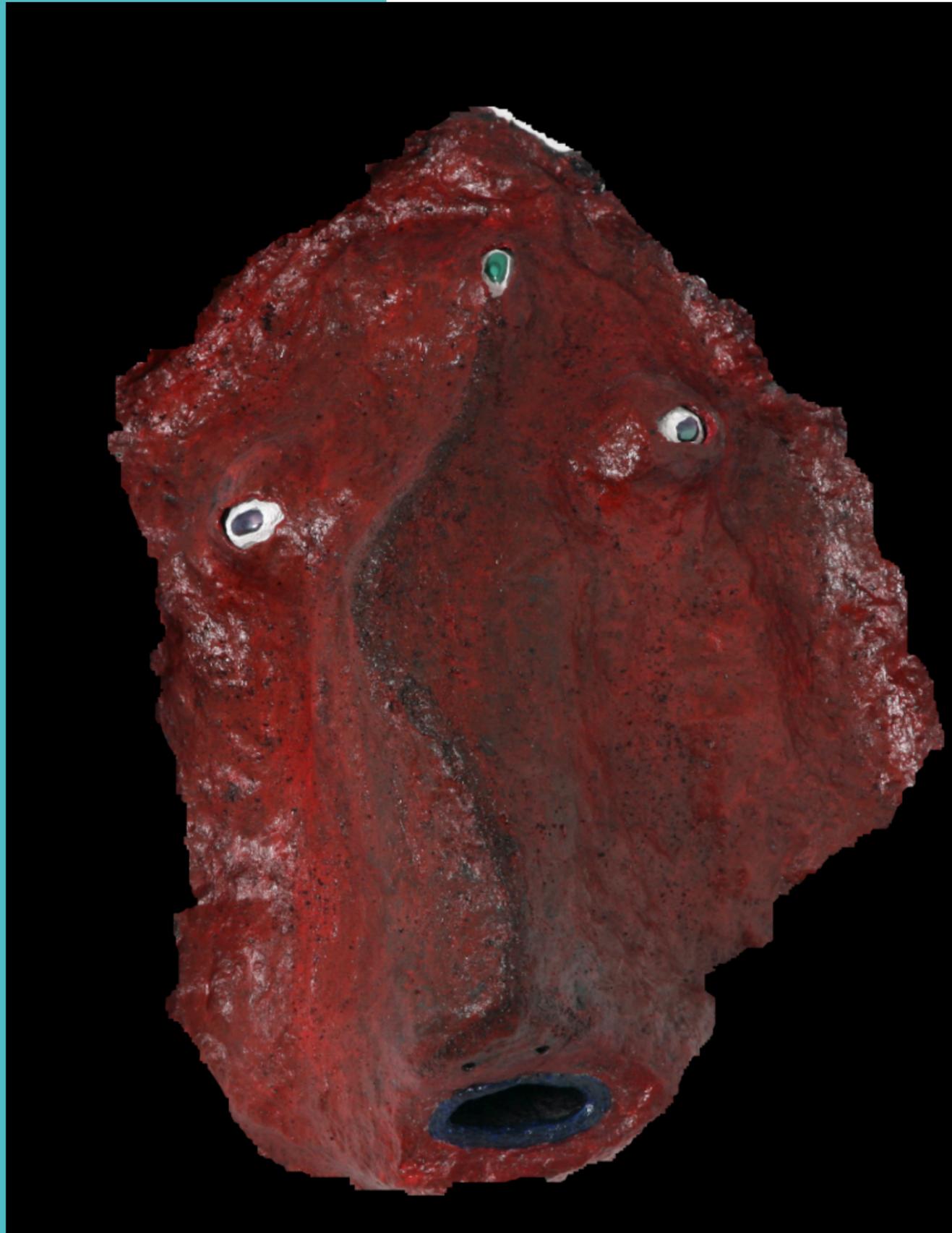
Sunhat is my first time using paint brushes after my stroke (5 years ago). I have numb fingers and thumb.

Upside Down

Photo by Rachel Polsky

Sometimes up is down and that's ok





Red Bob 1

by Robert Guzikowski

This a paper mache' mask using mixed media.
It is approximately 18"x 14"x 10" in size.
It is one of five "Bob" masks, each in a
different color.

Boldness

Photography by Troy Van Horn

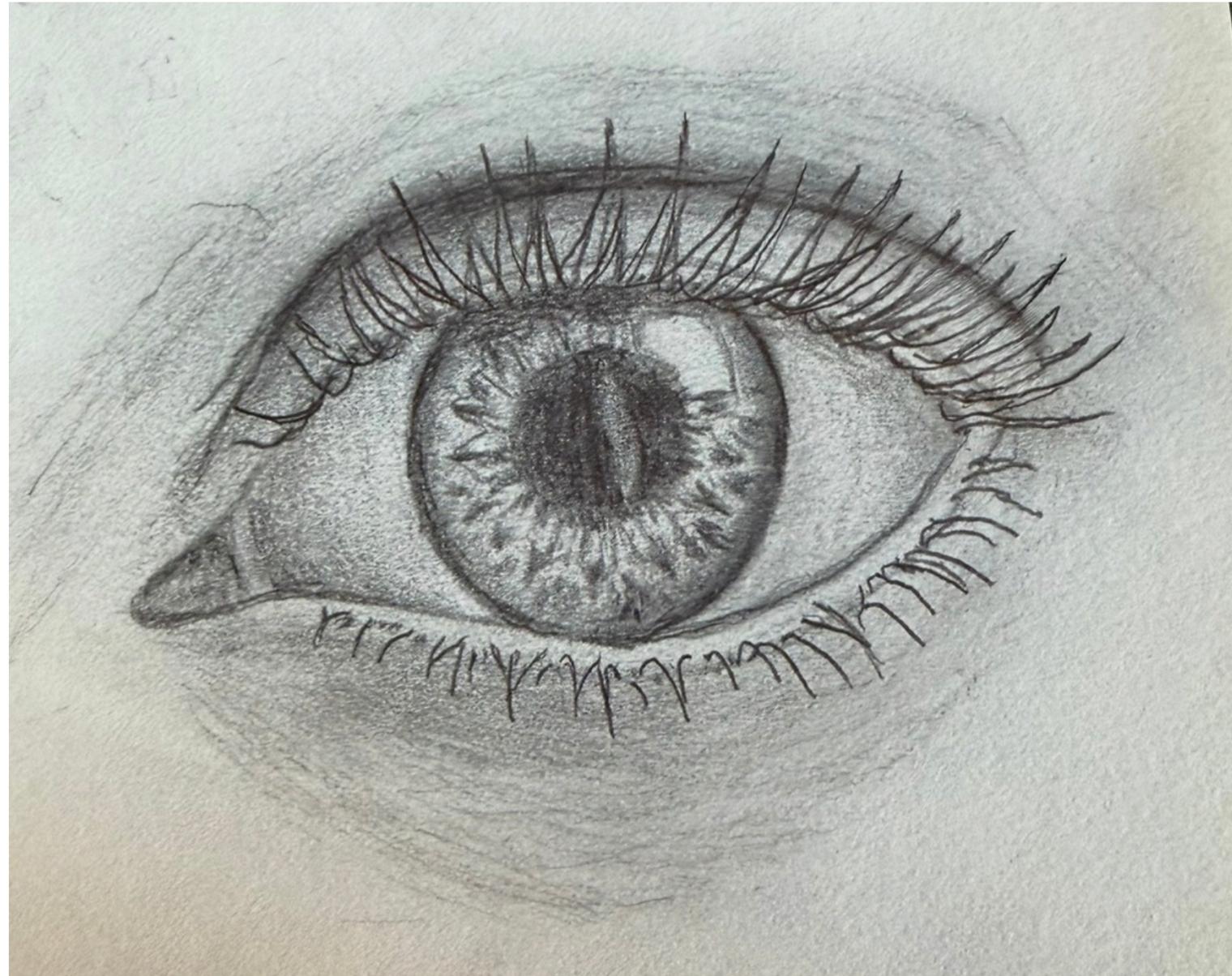
Virtue: Courage

UW-Eau Claire Stoic Philosophy Aphasia Group

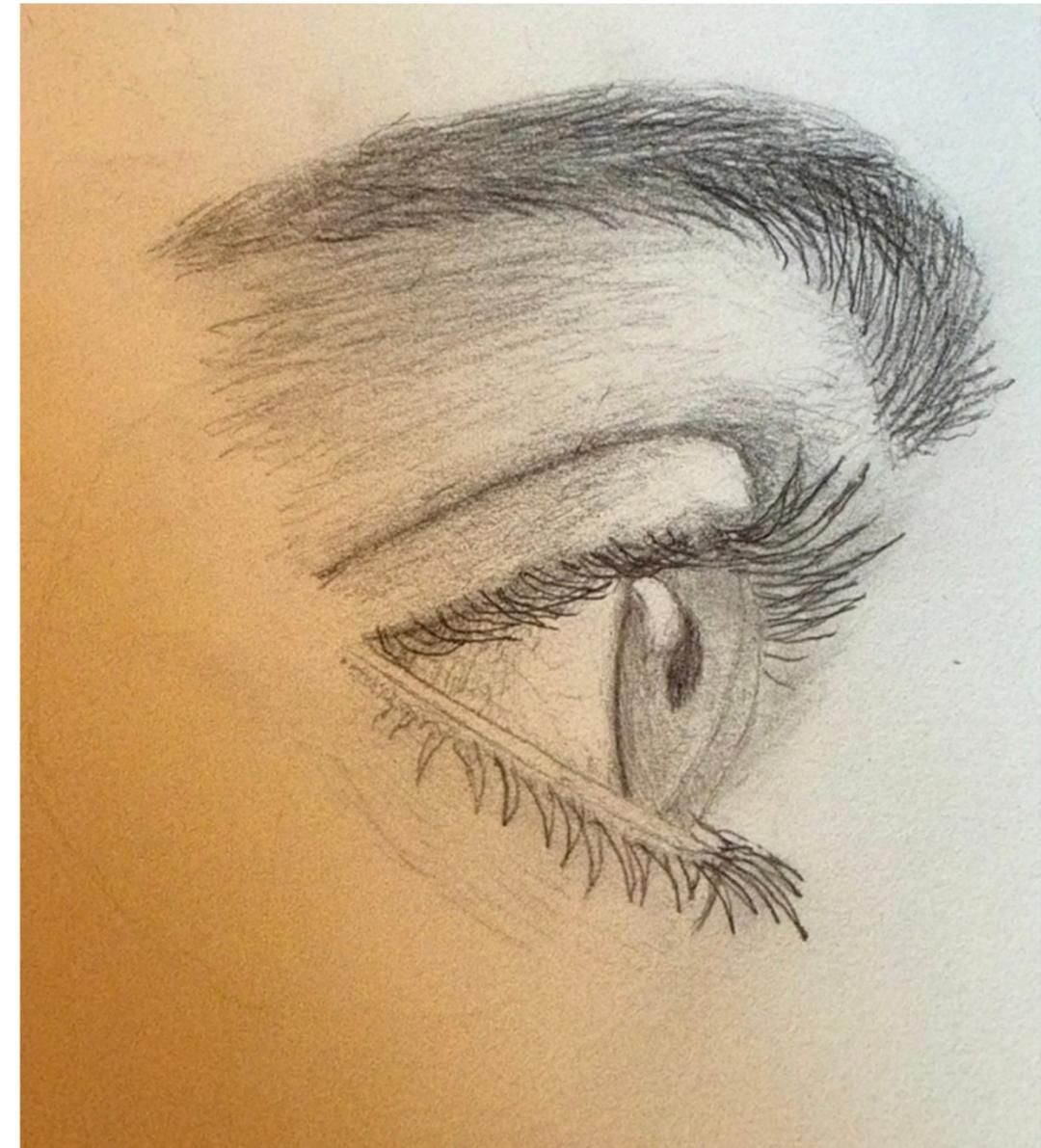


Drawings by Brett Mortensen

Eye



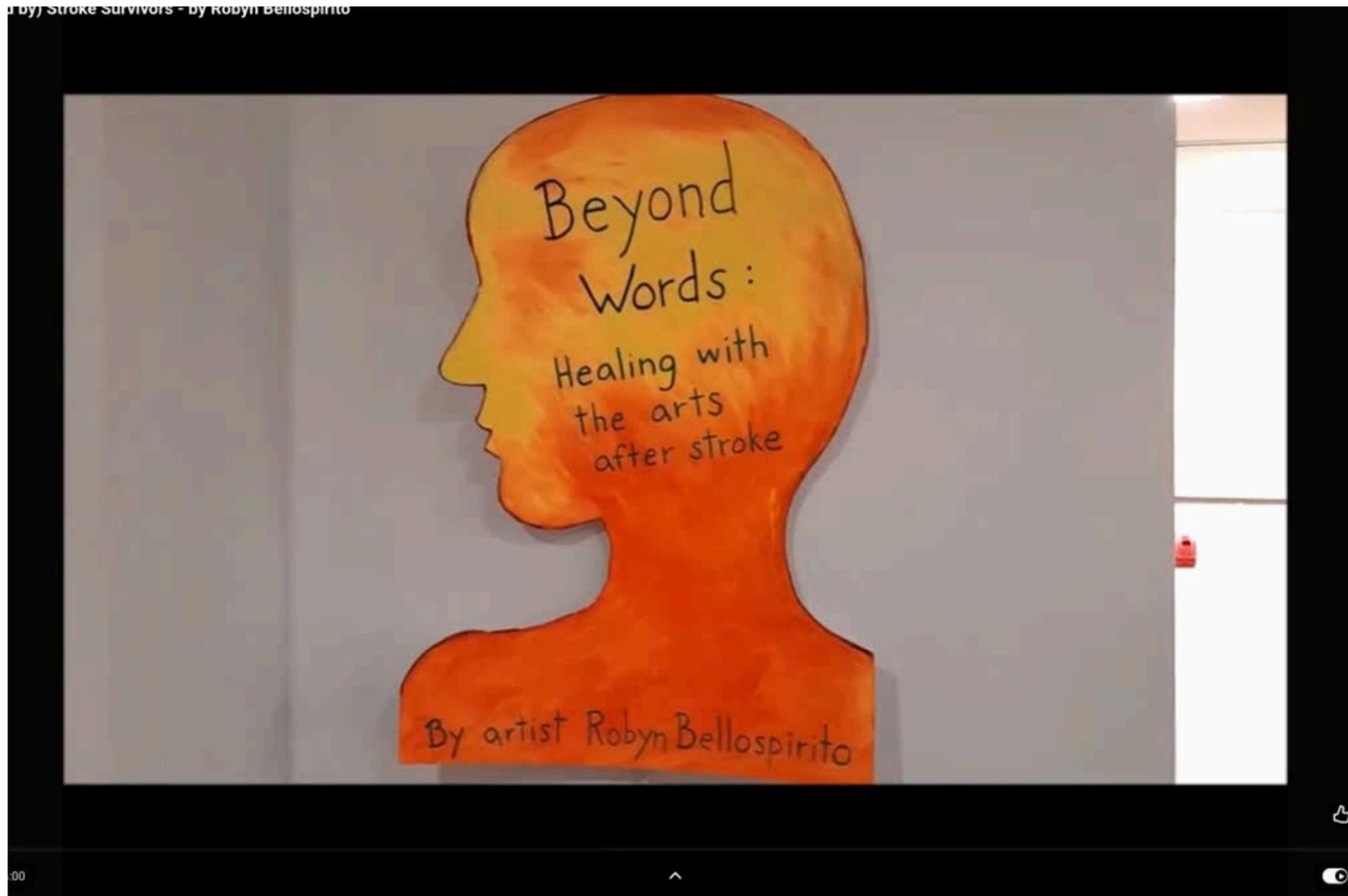
Human eye side view



Robyn Bellospirito

Art Exhibition Video

“Impact”



I received a grant from the Huntington Arts Council in Huntington, NY to do an art exhibition and artist talk for stroke survivors, particularly those with aphasia.

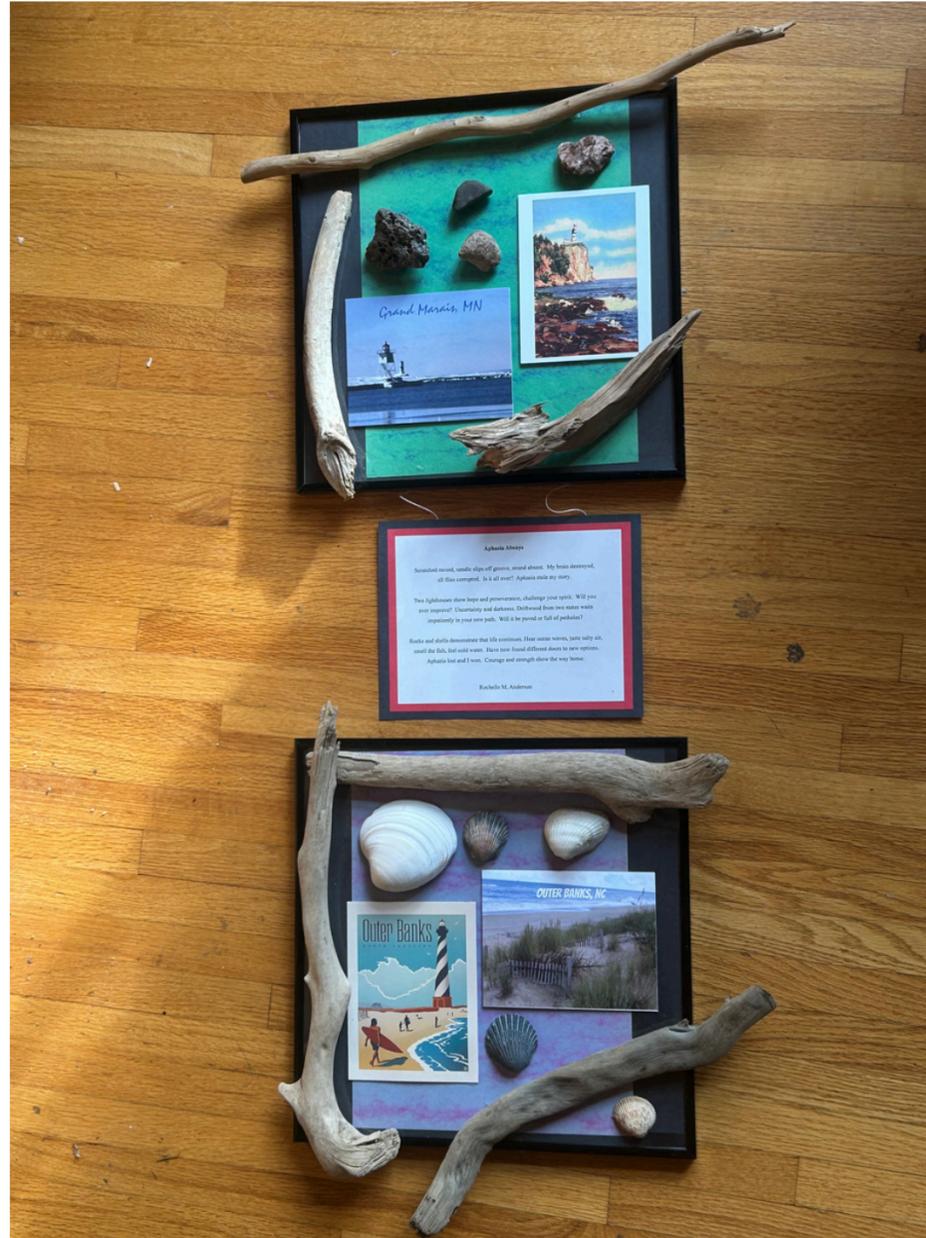
This is a short video of the exhibition.



Scan this QR code to watch the entire video

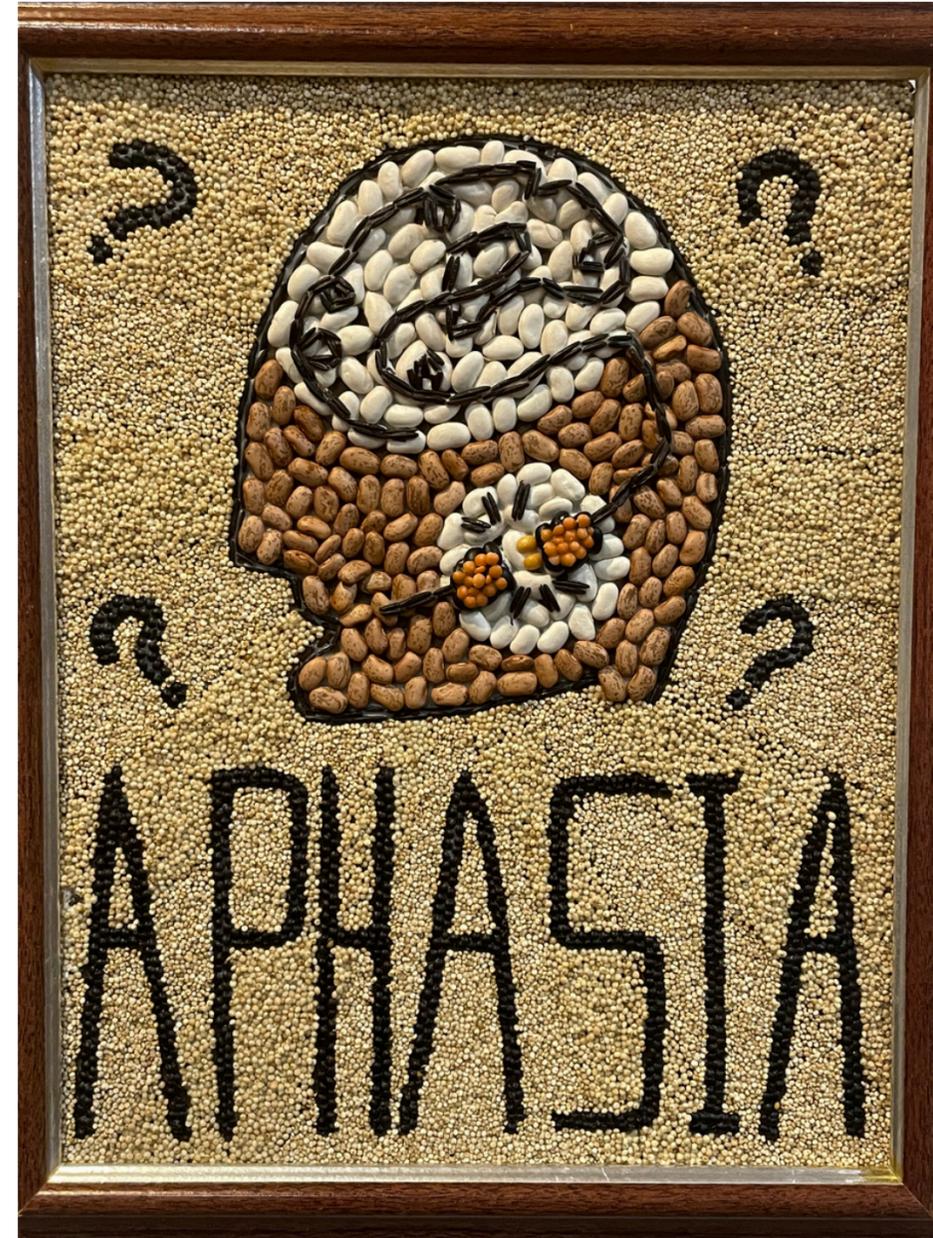
Visual Art by Rochelle Anderson

Aphasia and Two Lighthouses



This piece was displayed and sold at the 2025 Art of Possibilities Annual art show at the Courage Center in Minneapolis, MN.

Aphasia Unplugged



This piece was displayed at the 2025 Crop Art Exhibit at the Minnesota State Fair, and is included in Rochelle's recent book, Stormy Road: Reawakening from Stroke and Aphasia, published 2026.

Art by Marguerite Thomas

Woman



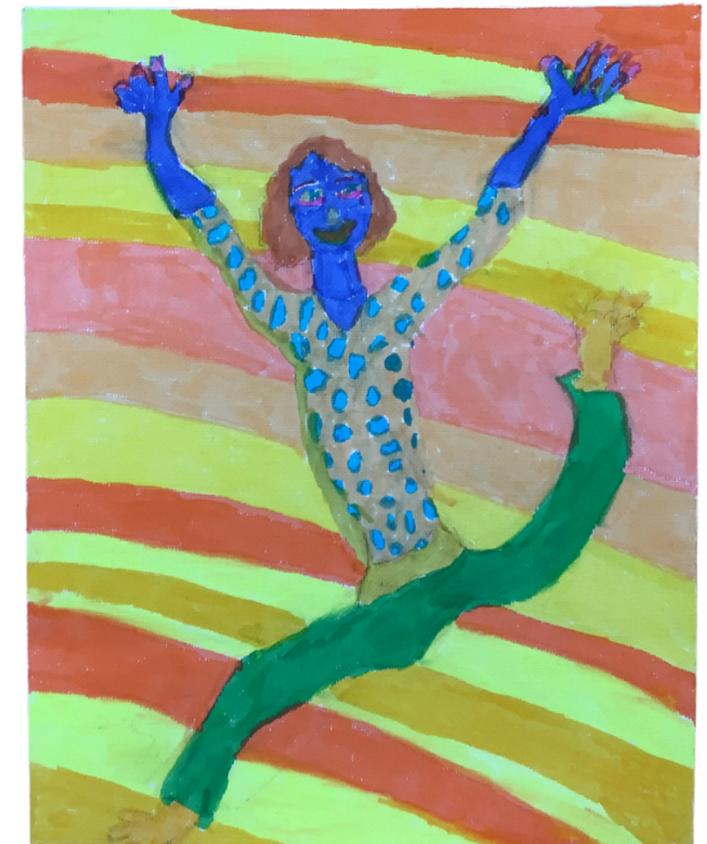
Acrylic paint and construction paper on canvas

Ocean Shore



Watercolor on paper

Woman Alive



Washable markers on canvas

Photography by Andrea Richards

Phantom Express

“Abandoned”



Wheels of Time



Art by Patrick Shanahan

Winona



8 x 10, felt pen and pencil sketch
frame with recycled copper molding handcrafted
both by Parick Shanahan

Birthday



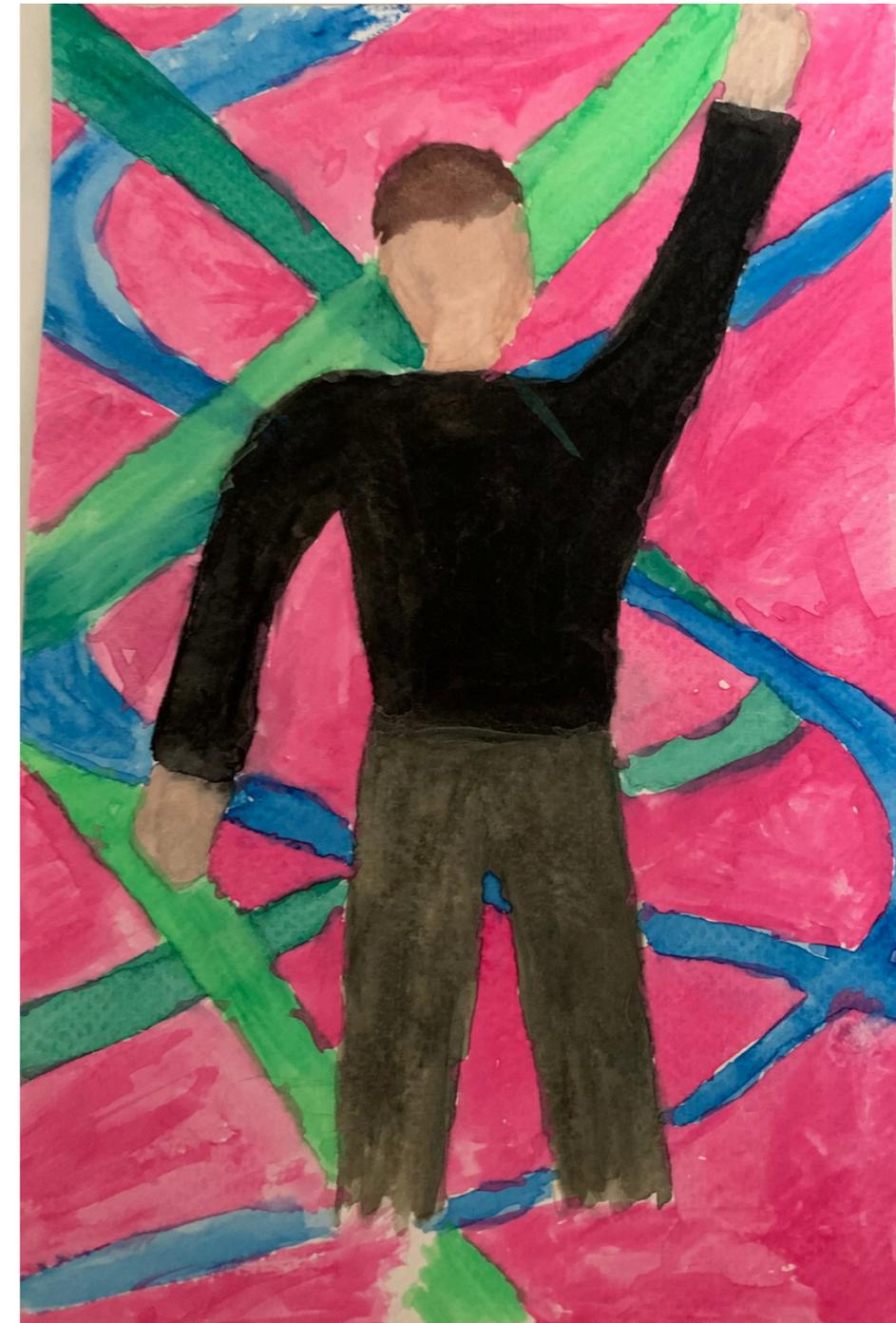
12x12, oil on wood
by Patrick Shanahan

Art by Russell Smith

Trees



Man



The figure represents people with aphasia not being able to talk.

Art by Dayna Melillo

Cat and Dog



Original Acrylic Painting

Stars



Acrylic and Glitter on Canvas

Art by LaVerne Reid

The Giraffe



Original Acrylic Painting

Such as...

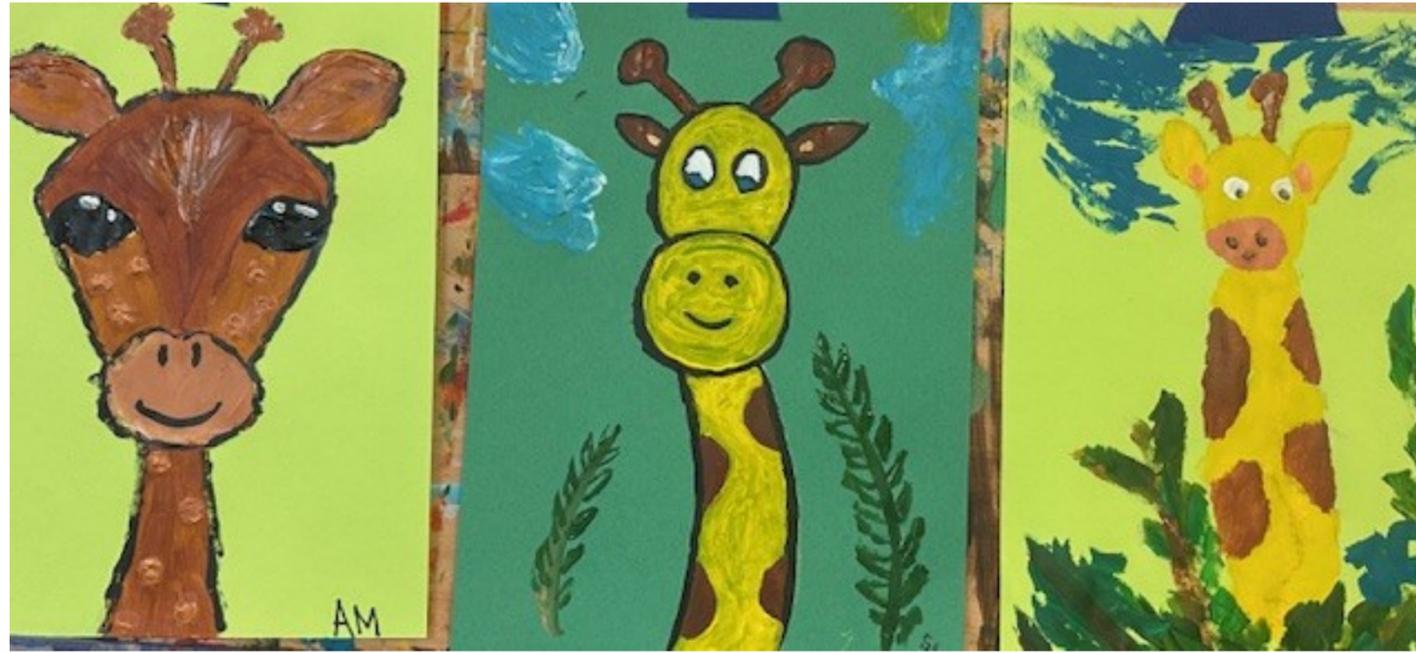


Watercolor and permanent marker on watercolor paper

Brooks Rehabilitation Aphasia Center Art Group

Art by Amy, Amber, Greg, Helen, Jose, Marie, and Rebecca

Giraffes



Ballerinas



Fourth of July



Don't Worry Be Hoppy





Brain Trees

Cowboy Aphasia Camp 2025

Collection of paintings created by attendees at Cowboy Aphasia Camp 2025.

Brains are like trees.
People with aphasia are like trees.
No two are ever exactly the same.

Still Life

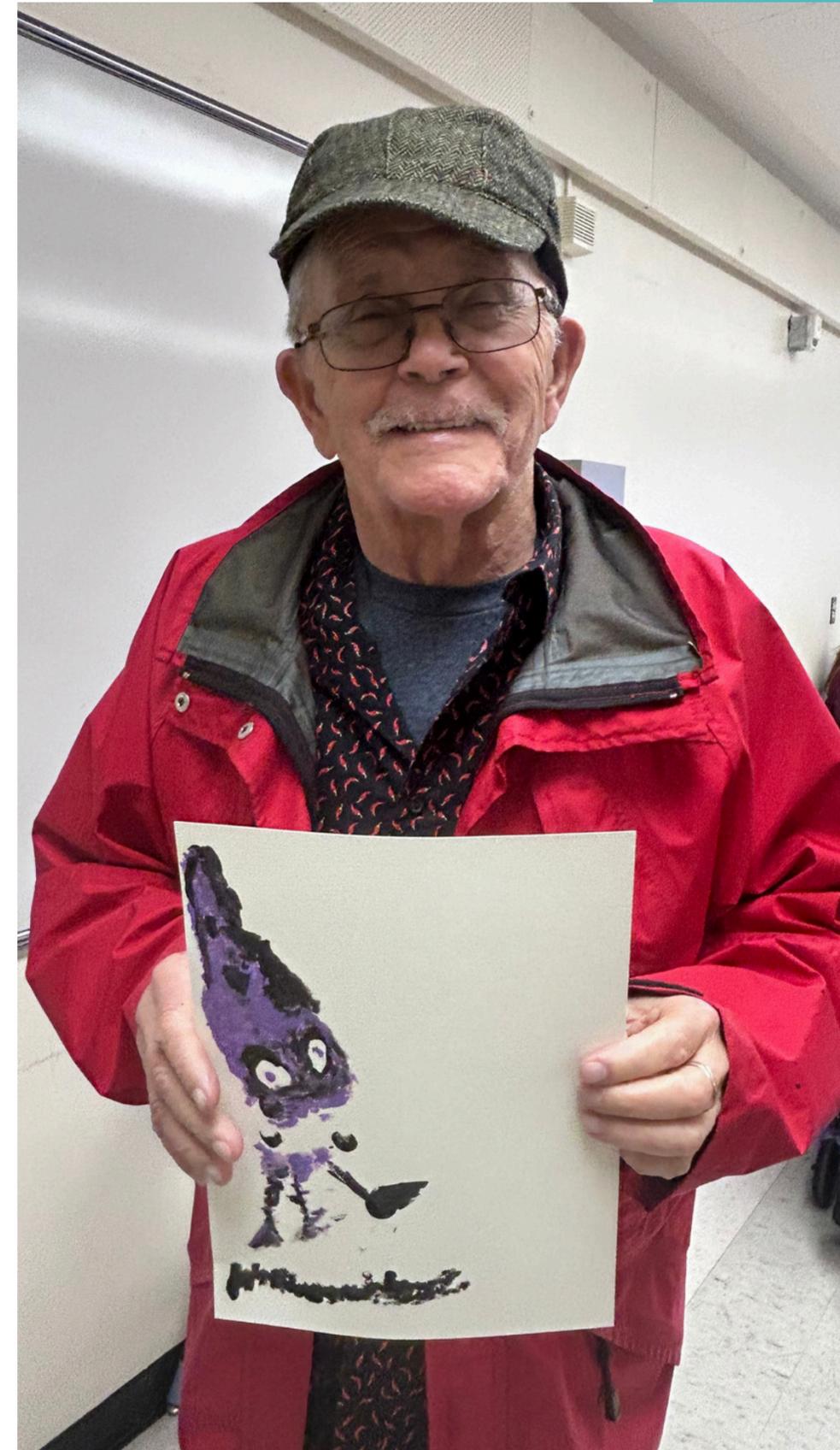
Painted by John Cormick



Original acrylic painting

Purple People Eater

by Peter Stensrud





Thank You



aphasia.org



answers@aphasia.org