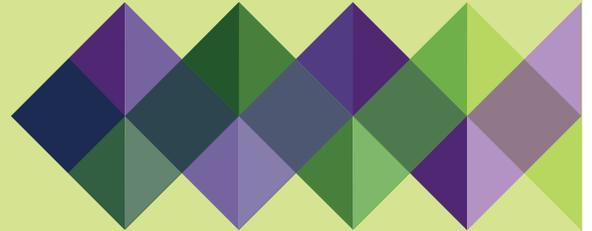


SEPTEMBER 26-DECEMBER 13, 2020

# Living Proof Exhibit

A VISUALIZATION OF HOPE



Art is a hopeful act. Art is a way to process consciously or unconsciously our thoughts and ideas. Art is meditative. Art heals.

Living Proof Exhibit believes in the therapeutic benefits of the arts for all, and especially those who are impacted by cancer. The artists showcased in this exhibition are cancer survivors who have used art, in its many forms and mediums, to celebrate and reflect upon survival. Their artworks are the visual embodiment of hope and healing.

Now more than ever, Living Proof Exhibit's message is crucial for us to remember—that even during dark and uncertain times, we can look to the therapeutic and healing potential of art to help us through.



Supported by the Brand Boeshaar Foundation Fund  
and the Hubbell-Waterman Foundation

**FIGGE**  
ART PRODUCTIONS

## Mary Ancell

*Wings of Hope*

*Love*

When a routine mammogram led to a biopsy and breast cancer diagnosis, I was scared and became depressed. The mastectomy and chemotherapy took a toll, both physically and emotionally. Art became a great distraction. Art was something I always loved, but it was also the best way I could think of to take a little hope and control back in my life.

## Marla Andich

*Rosy Canyon Wrapped Pendant*

*Blue Bird Pendant*

Creativity and healing are inseparable in the lives of artists. Whether you are a cancer survivor or surviving the fear and anguish of the world's ills, art can help you heal. Art just makes you feel better, physically, emotionally and spiritually.

My breast cancer journey began in 2000. I completed my treatment in the summer of 2001. Since then, I have donated jewelry pieces to many local organizations and causes for their fundraising efforts. I retired in 2014 from Black Hawk College, where I taught and did career counseling in their Optional Education Program, an alternative high school. Besides jewelry, I also enjoy crochet, calligraphy and zentangling. My jewelry creations include my own polymer clay pendants, beads, and charms. One of my greatest joys is teaching Creative Sessions in jewelry and polymer clay for Living Proof Exhibit.

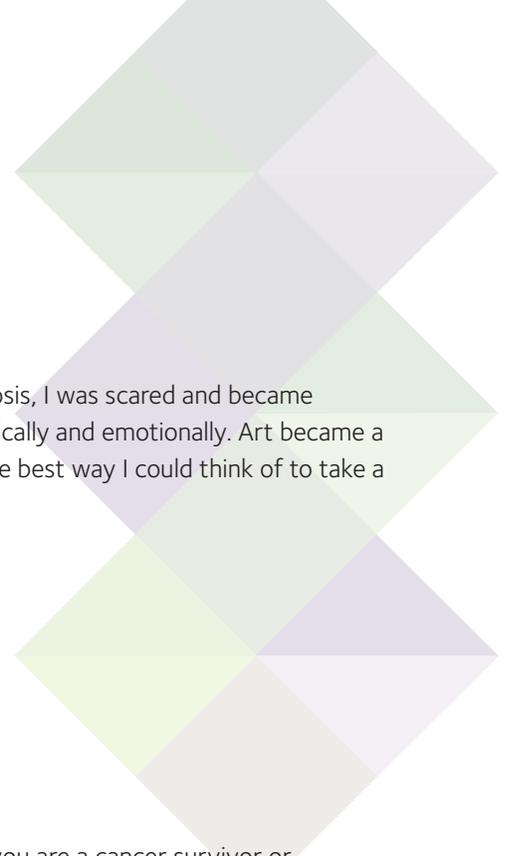
Making wearable art has given me a way of expressing style. I get inspiration from art pieces, fashion and nature. I derive enjoyment from wearing my pieces and giving them to others.

## Carrol Brandt

*Hope*

*Whimsy*

Always delighted by the beauty of nature around me, it continued to be the inspiration during my cancer recovery. The process of assembling mosaics became my passion and drive. Eventually, through experimentation, my "canvas" became God's humble stone; every size and shape, polished by weather and time...an absolute jewel of light in the garden. My desire is for those who connect with my work to feel a sense of JOY, HOPE, and BELONGING.



## Kent Broadbent

*Indian Summer*

*May 20*

My cancer journey began on February 15, 2010. Following surgery and treatments, I went into a deep funk. Why did it happen? Why was I the lucky one to survive when others had died? When would my cancer (that I still have) take my life?

Still depressed in the winter of 2013, I stumbled upon my old oil paints and brushes in the basement when I was snowed in for a couple of days. I had always thought I might start painting again when I retired; now I thought, "Why wait?" I cleaned my brushes, found an old canvas that hadn't been used, and started painting. I lost myself in painting for a couple of hours and just felt happy. I realized that I forgot about feeling sorry for myself when I was creating art.

I hate cancer, but had I not been diagnosed, I wouldn't have started painting again, not caring if sometimes I create bad art (which I do). Because of cancer, I am now on my third and most rewarding profession.

## Lisa Craig

*Found My Calling*

I was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2013 and with metastatic breast cancer in 2017. As a result, I became involved in raising money for Komen (Race for the Cure/More Than Pink) and the American Cancer Society (Relay for Life). I originally made Chapstick holders that I sold to raise money for these causes. When COVID-19 became a "thing" I started sewing masks for people. Originally, I was giving them away, but people wanted to pay me for them, so I decided to have them donate to my teams for More Than Pink and Relay for Life. I have made more than 300 masks and raised over \$3,000 for my causes.

I find sewing relaxing. It feels good to know I can provide a useful product that people love and help great causes at the same time!



## Pamela Crouch

*Girl in a Blue Dress*

*Tranquility*

*Common Thread*

I find myself drawn to mediums that have an impermanence to them. Air-dry clay and handmade paper are easily dissolved in water. Pieces of ephemeral and delicate dried roses are not meant to survive. Even my photography, sometimes shot on film and never photoshopped, is a fleeting moment in time. And yet, when these mediums are used to create art they tell a story, show strength, and leave an impression—even if temporary. I hope my work inspires all who see it to cherish each moment.

*Art is the highest form of hope.* —Gerhard Richter

Pamela is the Executive Director of Living Proof Exhibit. She is a four-time cancer survivor.

## Mary Ellen Cunningham

*Venice Beach Sunset*

*Reflections*

Since I co-founded Living Proof Exhibit ten years ago my life has undergone many changes. Most of my early work was photography and in the ensuing years I have tried other forms of artistic expression. I have enjoyed working in acrylic, oil, and the field of interior design. During the COVID-19 shelter-in-place I enjoyed watercolor painting. Despite my other artistic endeavors, photography remains my favorite medium. I like to shoot a scene from many angles to find the most captivating view of the subject. The digital photography exhibited here is from my trip to Florida's west coast this past winter. I decided to explore printing on metal as a new form of expression. The beautiful colors of the outdoors called for a more vibrant presentation. I find the process of creating a perfect way to focus my mind on something besides my health issues.

## Patricia Dilla

*Bronze Horses*

*Life in Venice*

I was diagnosed with breast cancer shortly after my first child was born. Life was hectic with working, caring for a new baby, and undergoing chemotherapy after undergoing a mastectomy. The outdoors has always been a source of joy and relaxation, so when I had a free moment, I would step outside with my camera to grab shots of the beauty around me. It was those quiet moments that took my mind off what was going on in my world. No matter how I felt, getting a great shot kept me positive and showed me all the beautiful things in our world no matter how small. Still today, as you see in my more current work, Mother Nature is still my inspiration.

## Danielle Eisentrager

*Smogged Crossings*  
*Experimentation*

College is a time of exploring and finding out what is important to you. In the fall of my sophomore year of college, my doctor informed me that my thyroid was enlarged. A year later, I was officially diagnosed with thyroid cancer and had my thyroid removed.

During this time, I decided to stay in school – that was my main priority. It was a challenge to focus on classes, yet I found out how important art was to me. I was a psychology major and beginning to question if I had chosen the right path. Art was helping me get through my everyday struggles. I later came to realize that art was a necessity in my life, and it was something I had to share with others. I changed my major to art my senior year, choosing to take a fifth year to follow my passion.

## Bob Esbensen

*Canvasback Reflection*  
*Kissing Coyote*

I am a two-time cancer survivor; lymphoma in 2005 and prostate in 2017. Since recovering from my stem cell transplant in 2006 I wake up each day grateful to be healthy and able to pursue my passion for nature photography. Cancer has made me realize that tomorrow is promised to no one. It has made me realize that I have a limited time to share my talent. I strive to make my works inspirational and hopefully generations to come will see how beautiful our world is if we take care of it. I want to thank Living Proof Exhibit for providing me with an avenue to share my work with others.

## Meg Guttman

*When is a Dress Not a Dress? (When it Becomes the Woman Who Wears it)*

Over the course of 30 years as a performing artist, I somehow regarded my interest in the visual arts—design, art history, costume, collage—as a “guilty pleasure.” I already had theater, dance, and music as a means of expression, so why take focus from those pursuits? My cancer treatment 22 years ago gave me the opportunity to step back and think about how I wanted to spend the rest of my life. I put aside the guilt and went for the pleasure.

This piece is an autobiography in the shape of a dress, featuring home and parents, marriage, love and sex, singing and dancing, books and clothes, and a couple of junk drawers. It's inspired by Joseph Cornell's boxes and Dali's *Venus de Milo with Drawers*.

## Judy Heath

*Bridge of Sighs*

Art is something I've loved all my life.

Being completely immersed into the paper or canvas is a gift.

The first time I had cancer, my daughter and I decided to go to Italy after the treatments were finished. That's where I saw the building in this picture.

I decided to paint it, was diagnosed with cancer again, and worked on it between treatments.

I hope to keep going!

## Gina Kirschbaum

*Free Range Chicken*

*Sunflowers*

*Mom's Daffodils*

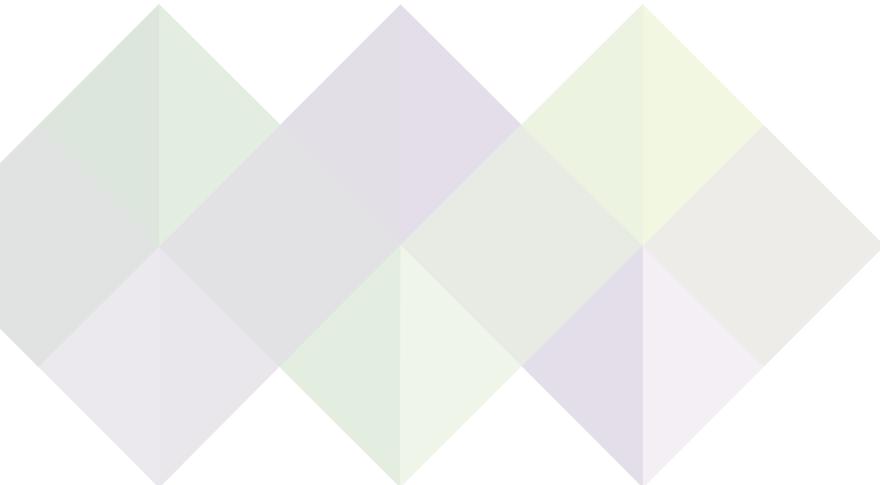
*Mexican Sunflowers*

As a child I was always drawing, coloring, painting, and creating. It was my thing.

As an adult, life took over and my art was put aside. Married with three boys and a full-time job, there was just no time for my art, although I squeezed in creativity when I could.

In 2008 cancer took over my life. Diagnosed with stage 3c melanoma, I spent all of my time and energy doing everything I could to live. It came back two more times.

No longer able to work, I found that I was bored and depressed. Then I found art again. Art gave me back my life. I am alive and I believe that's what my art embodies. Joy, color, and above all life.



## Sue Lemmon

*Tribute to Neil Diamond and "Sweet Caroline"*  
*Girl with the Pearl Earring*

Kudos to Pamela Crouch and Mary Ellen Cunningham for founding and growing Living Proof Exhibit, the venue that gives voice to "there is life after cancer."

Having art in my life these last 18 years has given me such joy. Living Proof Exhibit validates my work because I don't sell my paintings. To me each piece is like a child God and I have created. Before I took my first art class 18 years ago (age 62) a stick person was a stretch for me. My submissions for this exhibition depict emotions. Try telling a beginner to paint happy, pathos, death. An artist has to capture a picture for the reader to be able to read those emotions.

My two collages are tributes depicting the gratitude I feel for music and the old masters who inspire us today, "Tribute to Neil Diamond and 'Sweet Caroline'" and "Girl with a pearl earring." Their biographies inspire me to hope and persevere.

I thank God every day for my life, family, friends, and art. It is a miraculous gift in my "senior years" I never expected to have, and I never take it for granted. Art gives me a chance to communicate my gratitude to Him and share my gift of life.

## Tara Moorman

*Metamorphosis*  
*Soaring*

I create in an attitude of oneness and unity that connects us all. My vision and intention is to infuse my art with divine light and love so all that view the art will be inspired.

I was diagnosed with a stage 3 melanoma in September 2001 and again in May 2004. Although I was terrified with the diagnosis, the "C" word brought me a new awareness of what was really important in my life; my family, my art and like-minded friends. The "gift of cancer" focused my personal and creative energy on my purpose: to use my passion and spiritual connection to inspire and uplift others to see the beauty within themselves. I let go of projects and ideas that weren't in alignment with my purpose. This allowed my body to self-heal as it is designed to do.

## LaNae Ramos

*Circle of Looming Destruction*

*Beauty in Flight*

My journey started in the summer of 2009. I'd just completed nursing school, was two days from going solo on the nursing floor and was getting ready for our annual vacation. After numerous tests, I had not one but three tumors, with one being rare for breast cancer.

A modified radical mastectomy and eight months of very aggressive chemo followed. Because of this, it's been a long, hard road for me and my family.

Cancer took a lot away, but Living Proof Exhibit gave a lot back. Through Living Proof Exhibit, I started to draw, paint, and work on crafts again. Something I'd lost somewhere along life's journey. It gave me a place where I could escape, a place where cancer doesn't exist.

Living Proof Exhibit encourages creativity of all forms. Ways to escape the "new norm" of test, doctor's appointments, treatments, and all that comes with battling cancer, to a "happy place." Cancer can never take that away from any of us!

I'm Living Proof!!!

## Terri Reinartz

*Mom's Bag*

*Passionately Purple*

I'm a ten-year breast cancer survivor. It's been a transitional year for me with the loss of my 89-year-old mother, Pat Frederking. Both of my submissions this year were inspired by Mom.

*Mom's Bag*

My mom was a fierce competitor and thoroughly enjoyed beating us when playing the tile game of RUMMY KUBE. When taking a class on painting on fabric, I decided to make my art usable. My fabric game bag looks like the board for RUMMY KUBE with its four-colored tiles. Mom loved the bag! I can still see her pointed crooked finger shaking at me when thinking through her strategic game moves!

*Passionately Purple*

I get my love of flowers and art from my mom. (The love of purple comes from me.) I nearly tossed my acrylic painting of flowers in a vase until the creative session instructor gave me a tip to lighten one of the flowers. Now, it's my favorite painting!

## Twila Robinson

*Tomato Toast*

*Dancing Shoes/Peace Like a River*

I've tinkered with art since my high school days when I became fascinated with pen and ink lettering. In college I became interested in needlework design. After that, I explored quilting as a form of artistic expression, specializing in potholders made from repurposed textiles (embroidered pillowcases, doilies, or tea towels). From there, I got into card making, starting with rubber stamps and moving on to collage and watercolor. Then, about seven years ago, I stumbled into an art journaling class and realized THIS is my cup of tea—so much variety! No rules! Freedom to experiment! If it doesn't work out, just turn the page and do something completely different. Since having cancer in 2015 and retiring, I am grateful to be able to spend more happy hours at my art table.

## Linda Sykes

*Prairie Light*

I think making art is one of the best things we can do for ourselves when fighting cancer. As we become more involved with the colors and lines of what we are doing our bodies relax and heal. Our minds also relax and heal. As we go through our journey, our art changes just as our bodies and minds transition.

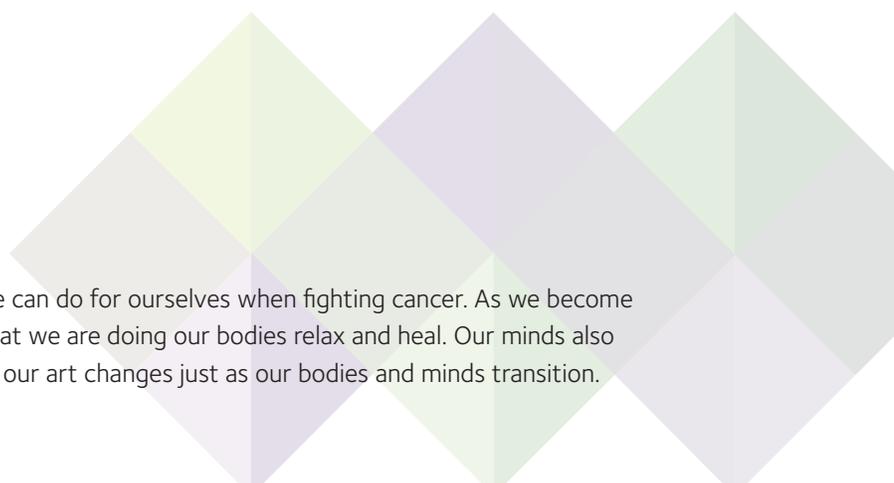
## Laura Goldman Weinberg

*Bullseye*

*Green Jungle Blossoms*

Art is a way for me to express the wonder and joy I feel in my heart and soul. Nothing can take away my inner spirit!

I had an advanced stage of breast cancer and went through aggressive treatment. After that journey, I realized, as a multi-media artist, that I wanted to share more of myself and my various creative artistic expressions as a way to inspire and uplift others' lives with a renewed sense of hope and joy.



## Ron Weinberg

*Exposed*  
*Hanging by a Thread*  
*Rope*

My cancer journey has opened my eyes to appreciate life and all of its majestic beauty. I enjoy using the camera as a tool to help me focus on aspects of life that can often be overlooked. I see the beauty in all of God's creation. When I look through the lens, my creative eye captures those very special moments in time. They say, "beauty is in the eye of the beholder" and "a picture is worth a thousand words." I hope my photographs reflect just that.

## Barbara Youngquist

*Dance of the Flowers*  
*Joseph Shawl*

I am a 25-year ovarian cancer survivor. My interest in knitting was enhanced during my chemotherapy, as a distraction. I was seeing beautiful handiwork come together from the stitches and colors. Each stitch to me represented various journeys in life and how we can make it beautiful even during difficult circumstances. The final gift is the happiness I see in my family, friends, and community supporters. They enjoy the designs I create with knitting skills, weaving, felting, spinning, photography of my flower garden, and acrylic pouring. Difficult times will forever come and go, but the beauty we create in seeing others enjoy our efforts will always be there.

## Richard Zeid

*Node 15*  
*Node 17*  
*Node 28*

I have always been drawn to circles, and wheel-thrown ceramics is all about the circle, the continuum, perfection of form, wholeness, and all its abstract meanings. This body of work is very personal for me. These pieces were thrown when I escaped the reality of my cancer diagnosis (diffuse large B cell lymphoma), subsequent treatment and chemotherapy, and spent time away from it all in the studio working towards that "wholeness." I lost my hair during six rounds of chemotherapy. The hair used in the firing of these pieces, traditionally horsehair, is my hair that I saved. I am in every piece of this collection...literally.