

Creative Stories of Resilience: Enduring, Adapting, Thriving

An interactive, multimedia journey inspired by the adventurous lives of staff and their families.





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Have you been stuck in your house, sheltering in place because of fear of violence or contagion? Have you had to juggle work and school for your children for the first, second, or third time these years? Have you experienced personal loss due to the COVID-19 pandemic? Have you been forced to evacuate from your home or country because of natural disasters or the threat of war? Many of us can say "I have!"



Araceli C. Tria



Dilara Chowdhury



Elena Grant

Navigating work and home life is a common challenge for all of us, current and former staff, and for our families, no matter who we are or where we live. We are fortunate as well as challenged by working side by side with clients who face enormous socioeconomic adversities. Staff often do so while living in a country far from home, exposing themselves, their partners, and their children to frequently changing living situations. The pandemic and the wars added yet another layer of complexity on both the personal and professional level, and a simple truth is that the path forward has not been an easy one: indeed, crises, either natural or manmade are often unpredictable and sometimes the road holds more twists and turns than expected.

The last few years have brought multiple challenges to the world, and in the face of such challenges, World Bank Group current and former staff and their families have demonstrated incredible resilience. The Art Program, the Fitness Center, the Mail and Shipping, Food and Conference, and other services from the Global Corporate Solutions, in partnership with the Health and Safety Directorate, Internal Communications, the International Finance Corporation, the 1818 Society Art Club, the World Bank Group Family Network, and the Staff Association Healthy Staff Group, have created this exhibition for active and retired staff, as well as spouses, partners, and children, to share through visual languages their reflections on resilience and to contribute to a collective artwork by creating flowers in a variety of materials as colorful symbols of rebirth.

The honest, touching, and often highly personal stories and the group artworks from around the world that you will read or hear in the Who We Are interviews, in the catalogue entries, in the videos, and admire in the photos of the flowers and of the final collective sculpture in partnership with the artists of ManneqArt highlight our similar humanities, hint at the battles and victories that happened in our homes and countries, and marvel at the joyful rediscovery of each other and of nature.

Our sincere gratitude goes to all who have participated for their courage and artistic commitment in sharing their stories with their fellow life travelers.

This exhibition is dedicated to all of us.

The Health and Safety Directorate's Mental Health & Wellbeing Unit provides individual guidance on stress, personal, and work concerns to help staff manage stress and maintain a healthier work-life balance. Attuned to cultural differences and the human dimension of work, HSD's counselors can provide confidential help on topics such as acute stress, grief and loss, parenting concerns, cultural adjustments, anxiety, depression, burnout, and more. The World Bank Group also has a Domestic Abuse Prevention Program (DAPP) that provides confidential services to staff and spouses/partners who are being abused by a partner. Services include crisis management, advocacy, short term counseling, legal consultations and referrals to outside attorneys, educational services, and other support when appropriate.

In addition, creating a psychological safe and healthy work-place environment begins with a conversation at every level of the organization. Mental Health First Aid: General Awareness for Managers, Supervisors, and Team Leads provides those who supervise, manage, and lead staff with a basic introduction to the signs and symptoms of mental health challenges and how to be responsive in a workplace environment. This is open to anyone in a supervisory role, not only managers, and regardless of location. Aligned with the WBG Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy, the training is designed to educate and enhance the overall culture of mental health and wellness within the institution. The Unit provides support and training in many other areas as well, for which deeper descriptions and registration details are available on the HSD Learning and Psychosocial Supports and Events pages. The Unit is also available to provide unit-specific presentations upon request.



Joan Pandit



Rest Mchome

We were thrilled when Marina Galvani, Curator of the Art Program, approached the 1818 Society Art Club to collaborate on this exhibit. For many of us, this was an opportunity to renew and strengthen the connections between current staff and retirees around the globe. No theme could resonate more to World Bank Group retirees and their families than *Creative Stories of Resilience*. Our work with the World Bank Group exposed us directly to the challenges of resilience that left a deep imprint in our souls, emotions, sensitivities, and bodies. We witnessed the most abject situations of poverty, violence, and war, which unfortunately continue, as reflected in the dialogue between Sylvia Scherer's poem *We Are All Ukrainians Now* and Anika Pinol's City *Re-imagined*.

Curating the show with Marina Galvani and Vanditha Jain was a moment for pause and reflection, reviving our memories of witnessing through our work the most extraordinary undertakings by individuals, communities, and institutions, to survive and strive for better living conditions, for success, peace, and protecting the world's resources. As so beautifully expressed by Kathy Strauss in And Mother Earth Breathed, the art works created during the COVID pandemic resurrected many of these experiential memories. Arleen Seed' Resilience highlights the strength of human fortitude, Ana Isabel Gren's Blooming Sky, Van Pulley's Tree Eternal and Michel Wormser's The 17-year promise reflect staff and retirees' energy to rise out of isolation and pain by capturing the beauty, magic and resilience of nature. Others, like Claudia Alexandra Gualteros Arevalo's Resilience in the Midst of Darkness explored new mediums of expression and intergenerational communication.

This exhibit is a great testimony to the spirit and strength of the World Bank Group present and former staff and their families. We are pleased that almost fifty percent of participating artists are retirees, that they contributed about one third of all works submitted and made many of the flowers for the installation. This is a brilliant expression of renewed hope and strength and resilience, wherever we are on the globe.

Dominique Lallement
CHAIR
1818 SOCIETY ART CLUB

THE WORLD BANK FAMILY NETWORK (WBGFN)



WBGFN Children Holiday Party

The WBG Family Network represents a highly resilient and resourceful community welcoming, supporting and advocating on behalf of WBG families worldwide. Our vision is that each WBG family can thrive in its environment, having the opportunity to belong to a globally mobile worldwide community that

provides support in every WBG office location and results in a social and professional network. We are clear that no WBG family should be left struggling alone. Our resilience translates to helping others, such as the FN's Islamabad Chapter delivering essential relocation support to WBG families relocating from Kabul's office, and our Vienna Chapter delivering relocation support to WBG families relocating from Kyiv's office. Our global families have moved through the 'new normal' to complete family relocations, set up school situations, participate in child development seminars and join new communities. Our worldwide members now use the Family Network's Career Lab to pursue global career transitions, and our male membership is finding value in programs tailored to their needs. Together as one Network—members, volunteers and staff—we effectively empower global families.

EMAIL: familynetwork@worldbank.org

PHONE: 202- 472-8751
WEBSITE: www.wbfn.org





Art Catalogue



Joanne Anand

Chennai, India

Name of the piece	A collage of palm plates decked up in the most vibrant of colors!
Year	2020-2021
Medium	Acrylic on palm plates
Format	25.4 x 30.5 cm
Artist statement	I made a conscious effort to focus on things I could control throughout the pandemic whenever I found myself becoming overwhelmed by fear of what might occur. I embraced art to escape the stress of the pandemic and other negative thoughts, I chose to focus on the creative process and the results of my work instead and set aside some time to practice art. I started making upcycled art since I was confined to my house and unable to leave, creatively reusing and transforming anything with a flat surface (glass and plastic bottles, paper and palm plates, stones, plastic containers, kettles, etc.) to paint and doodle on. I have stumbled onto a small niche where I aim to create cartoons for the Chennai Diversity and Inclusion team. So, for each of those teams. I create a cartoon that embodies the values of DEI, every three months.



Who We Are interview link:
Creative and Resilient Staff: Featuring
Joanne Anand



Tomer Ben-Gal

Washington DC

Name of the piece	HEWHO
Year	2022
Medium	3D sculpture Maquette Material: steel Actual built sculpture Timber, red pigment, steel
Dimensions	15.2 x 15.2 x 50.8 cm
Artist statement	

Artist statementLife and future in transformation of silence and moments of success and metamorphosis.

My art explores themes of transformation, and the future. Through my sculptures, I try to capture the dynamic, ever-changing nature of life, and the potential of each moment. I strive to capture the captivating power of the unknown, and the ever-present potential for metamorphosis. The sculptures are an ode to the beauty of silence, the stillness of a moment, and the possibility of success that lies within it.

The sculpture is about two figures talking to each other. They are formed in a dominant and subdominant way beginning at the base and vertically transforming in form. The play between the totems is a conversation with powerful forces that suggest to the viewer a question of whether the physical form took place before the conversation or after the conversation. is this inherent? Are we seeing this dynamic conversation at its potential or controversial? The sculpture's subtle movement is a reminder of the complexity of conversations and the power dynamics between two figures. The figures also represent a dialogue between cultures, as the forms are inspired by both opposing influences of culture, race, gender, class, age, specie. The figures also explore the idea of how conversations can be a powerful tool to bridge gaps and express understanding. The understanding that both positive and negative must be present to create energy. The sculpture is a reminder that conversations can create powerful dialogues and even lead to change.

It becomes apparent that there is a relationship between the two but what it is exactly is hard to tell. The shapes may be related in terms of size, color, or both. The relationship between the two forms may be one of contrast or of similarity. It could be an intentional design choice or an accidental one. Ultimately, it is up to the viewer to determine what the relationship is between the two forms.



Barbara Ellen Bitondo

Washington DC

Name of the piece	Mind Map
Year	2021
Medium	Textile mixt-media piece including hand-painted fabric, hand stitching and quilting
Format	64.7 x 29.2 cm
Artist statement	Understanding the brain's network enables one to get perspective on how it reacts to new challenging situations. These patches show activity and complexity, which enable resilience.







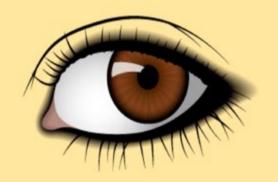
Carine Bolou-Mansilla

Germantown Maryland, USA

Name of the piece	We Wear the Mask (Revisited)
Year	2020
Medium	Music from Free Afro Gospel Instrumental on YouTube
Format	1 min 42 sec
Artist statement	This poem is an adapted version of Dunbar's "We wear mask" with a COVID twist.

but exposes our eyes,—





By Noelle Bolou©2020

VIDEO

Elizabeth Casqueiro

Washington DC

Name of the piece	Svoboda/Freedom
Year	2022
Medium	Acrylic and ink on canvas
Format	101 x 76 cm
Artist statement	Svoboda/Freedom symbolizes the courageous struggle of the people of Ukraine as they resist the aggressor and reaffirm their sovereignty. The magnificent historic architecture of Kyiv rises intact amid the rubble; its beautiful subway is repurposed as a safe haven for citizens under attack; the remnants of a traditional cloth speak to resilience and endurance; the national flower wilts without care but it will rebound; and the bird flies above the fracas into safe airspace, as will the people of Ukraine.



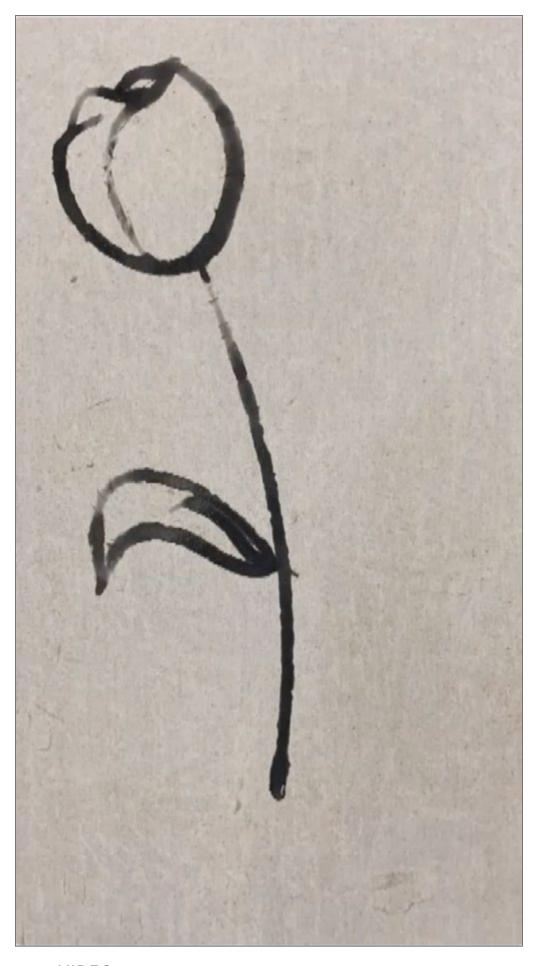
Who We Are interview link: <u>Creative and Resilient Retiree:</u> <u>Featuring Elizabeth Casqueiro</u>



Francesco Ciriaci

Washington DC

Name of the piece	Permanence Impermanence
Year	2022
Medium	Music by Fulvio Pietramala
Format	35 sec, 3MB
Artist statement	I created this video to capture the rapidly fading beauty of days and the "impermanence" of all things. This is something I particularly felt last week because of medical issues my wife had. Through this video, art becomes a way to create something more permanent and heal.



VIDEO

Roxana Bravo Denis

Washington, DC

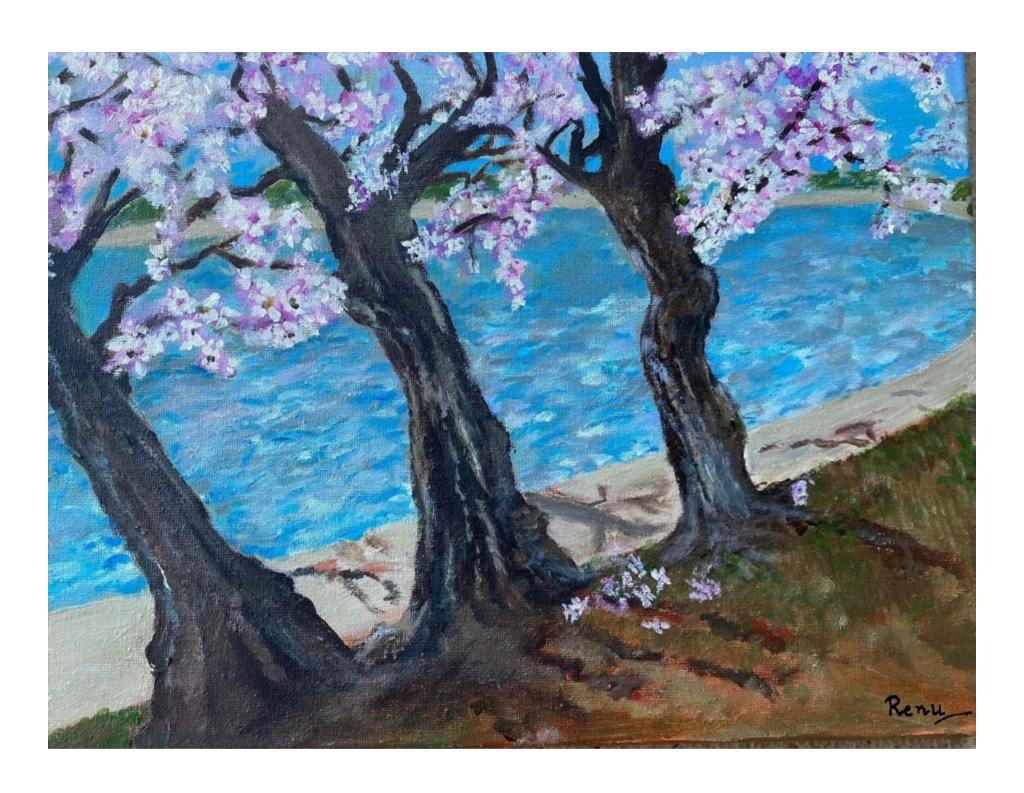
Name of the piece	Tied to Expectations
Year	2020
Medium	A color digital photograph, Camera maker- Canon, Camera model- Canon EOS 5D Mark III, F-stop f/6.3, Exposure time- 1/125 sec, ISO speed- ISO-800, Focal length- 28mm, Max Aperture-4
Format	Photograph
Artist statement	Due to the lockdown, I was cut off from most of the extra activities that I like to do. As a single mom and the primary caregiver of my two kids, juggling work with school was a real struggle for us. I was super focused on getting the work done, as we were overflowing with requests. All the demand gave me a level of stress that my body couldn't handle. I ended up at the hospital with a lung collapse in September 2020. I couldn't move for a long time, later having two surgeries. After my collapse, people were asking me how I felt, what had happened, and what I experienced. That was when I started thinking about how I could tell them or show them this affliction. Right after the surgeries, I felt my chest so heavy and rigid, like a boulder was on top of me all the time, unable to breathe normally. I expressed the pressure in my chest with a picture showing a rope wrapped around an inflated balloon. When I was in the hospital, because of the COVID situation, nobody could visit me. I spent the days observing, taking pictures with my phone, and recording sounds because I wanted to keep all these memories and not forget the moment I was living; I usually take every difficult situation as a learning experience. Later, I recreated some of those images to be part of this photography series.



Renu Deshpande

Washington DC, USA

Name of the piece	Blossoms enchant
Year	2022
Medium	Acrylic on canvas
Format	27.9 x 35.5 cm
Artist statement	This year, while sighting the cherry blossoms at the tidal basin in Washington DC, I was mesmerized to see the enchanting resilience of these old trees that stand gloriously with their tired and bountiful, blossoming limbs. Resilience: the resilience of the old and gnarly trees that continue to blossom, bountiful and beautiful! represents physical aging as well as the mind's ever-blooming. "Springtime Gnarly and tired limb Cherry Blossom charms"



Sandya Karnad Deviah

Washington DC

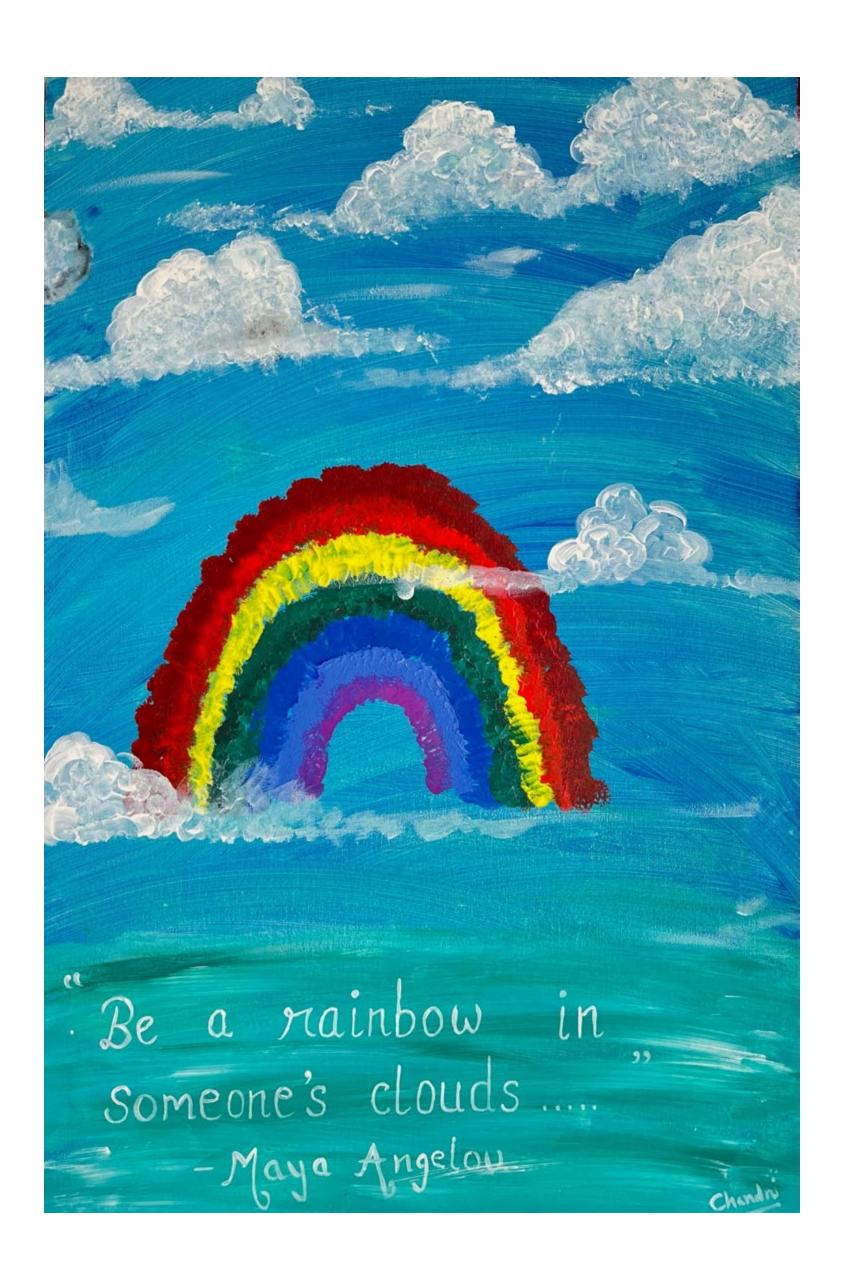
Name of the piece	Man in the rain—drawing strength
Year	2020
Medium	Water color on paper
Format	19.1 x 14.0 cm
Artist statement	In July 2020, 4 months into the pandemic, my friend shared this story feeling closed-in and very low, she had gone for a walk by a lake in the rain with her husband in torrential rain. The place was completely deserted as it was during one of the lockdowns. She said that one walk gave them immense strength to face the coming days. This painting is based on a photo she took of her husband in silent communication with nature, drawing strength from nature.



Chandni Dinakaran

Fairfax, Virginia, USA

Name of the piece	Be A Rainbow In Someone's Clouds
Year	2021
Medium	Acrylic painting on canvas
Format	91.4 x 61.0 cm
Artist statement	A big realization that COVID-19 brought with it was -humanity above all! And Mary Angelo's quote was an inspiration and a call to action that I am sure resonated with most of us. It is this quote that I tried to capture in my artwork.



Enrique Domenge

Champagne, Switzerland

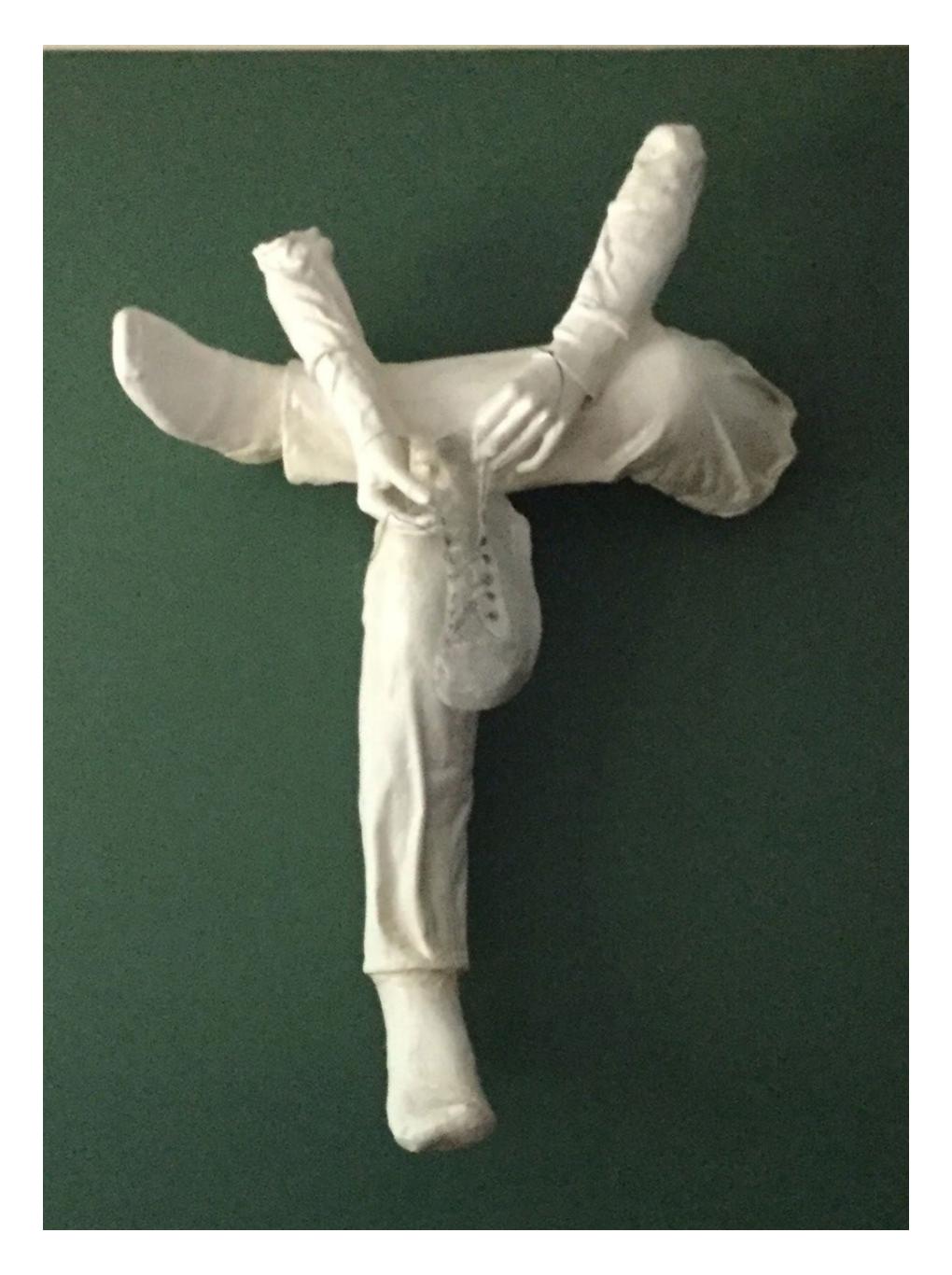
Name of the piece	Relationship
Year	2017
Medium	Sculpture, bronze on marble
Format	50 x 54 cm
Artist statement	Sculpture showing hands from 2 people trying to reach for each other in a continuous effort, symbollic of an unstable situation, circle of hands leaning sideways.



Sandra Ehlers

Potomac, MD

Name of the piece	Getting Ready
Year	2018
Medium	3 dimensional sculpture. Plaster, fabric, wire mesh
Format	86 x 56 x 31 cm
Artist statement	As an artist I try to make my pieces reflect simple, everyday gestures that can speak to the viewer and that can provoke a memory or an emotion. In this piece I aimed to portray a daily action that, in spite of its simplicity, can conceal the heroic effort that is necessary to perform a well-worn routine that prepares an individual for the day ahead without giving up or abandoning hope even when circumstances are not favorable and clinging to the conviction that life and its tribulations will improve.



James Martin Ennis

Dublin, Ireland

Name of the piece	Eye See
Year	2020
Medium	Concept of sculpture using ice data
Format	Digital sculpture
Artist statement	When exploring the PIOMAS Ice Volume Data, 1979-present, it was quite daunting, you don't have to be a rocket scientist to understand the consequence of descending numbers. Putting the data onto a graph makes it more clear from the numbers, and furthermore when adding a 3rd dimension of volume to the data it becomes very apparent over time. But what about scale? Is 10,000 a large or small number? It would be a 'larger number' of cigarettes in your teenager's bedroom, but a relatively small number of blades of grass on a football pitch. Numbers are relative. But what about scale? What does 11.91025 x 10km (about 6.21 mi) cubed of water look like? can we see it with our eyes? The ice volume that has melted could be a canal 100 kilometers (about 62.14 mi) wide that would cross the earth. This is the scale relative to our globe. The container across represents the volume loss across continents. It is this 'SCALE' that hope to draw the attention to environmental issues related to ice, such as climate change, melting glaciers, or sea level rise, and it aims to communicate a message or educate people about the significance of the data, while also showcasing the beauty and complexity of the data itself. The match might not be 100% accurate but I

would love to explore this more and other data sets with experts/data scientists to continue to provide

some sort of relativity to the numbers.







Cara Helen Feys

Washington DC

Name of the piece	Ready to Face the world
Year	2019
Medium	Oil on canvas
Format	76 x 30 cm
Artist statement	"This is a portrait of my daughter, capturing the look of determination and strength on her face as she experienced a new situation and environment. The butterfly symbolizes the innate magic that children have to bring creativity and new perspectives to the world."



Liliana G

Silver Spring, MD

Name of the piece	As you wish
Year	2022
Medium	Acrylic on canvas
Format	35.6 x 59.7 cm
Artist statement	As the year of turmoil and stress culminates, we see an idealistic landscape for the future that will transcend the darkness of the present.



Bonnie Galat

USA

Name of the piece	Life, Not Still
Year	2022
Medium	Acrylic on canvas
Format	67 x 57 cm
Artist statement	The war in Ukraine and the displacement of so many people evoked a similar story; a century earlier, my mother and her family fled pogroms in the same region. My mother arrived in New York at the age of 5 with her parents and two sisters. Her mother contracted TB and died a few years after arriving. Her sisters were put in foster care, and my mother, the oldest, was lodged with an aunt while her father tried to make a living. The hardships imbued my mother with a deep reservoir of resilience, resourcefulness, and grit. She was an artist, creating some beautiful stone sculptures and dabbling in painting. In fact, underneath my acrylic painting is a still life she did in oil. In a "collaborative" gesture, well after her death, I overpainted and embellished her original painting to reflect her life, which began in tumultuous times in the Russian Empire, then was renewed, steadied, and accomplished in a new country. Her own words and writing about her life journey are copied and pasted into the frame of the "renewed" work I am submitting.





Catiana Garcia-Kilroy

Washington DC

Name of the piece	Minidoka
Year	2018-2022
Medium	Photography
Format	Unavailable
Artist statement	This is a photobook project on which I have been working with a photographer friend, Sandy Sugawara, of Japanese American descent. During the last four years, we have been documenting through photographs the sites of the camps where 120,000 innocent Japanese Americans were imprisoned during World War II. Sandy's parents and grandparents were incarcerated in one of those camps. The project is a way to honor the memory of those incarcerated in the camps and also to make people aware of this sad moment in American history.



Who We Are interview link:
Creative and Resilient Staff: Meet
Catiana Garcia-Kilroy



Ana Isabel Gren

Washington, DC

Name of the piece	Blooming Sky
Year	2021-2022
Medium	Acrylic on canvas
Format	90 x 70 cm
Artist statement	I painted flowers all over the sky, inspired by work on climate change efforts and specifically thinking about global water scarcity, water quality, water resources for irrigation, and links and connections to clean air, forests, and overall biodiversity.



Claudia Alexandra Gualteros

Washington DC

Name of the piece	Resilience in the midst of darkness
Year	2022
Medium	Digitally generated picture using DALL-E
Artist statement	In the middle of the darkness, when hope is loose and the world is falling. There it is! A family who opens his resilience umbrella filled with Love, Gratitude, and Serenity, shining the path for them to move forward. This image was created with artificial intelligence. DALL-E is the first system that can develop pictures and art from a description in natural language.



Lucie H.G. Tran

Washington, DC

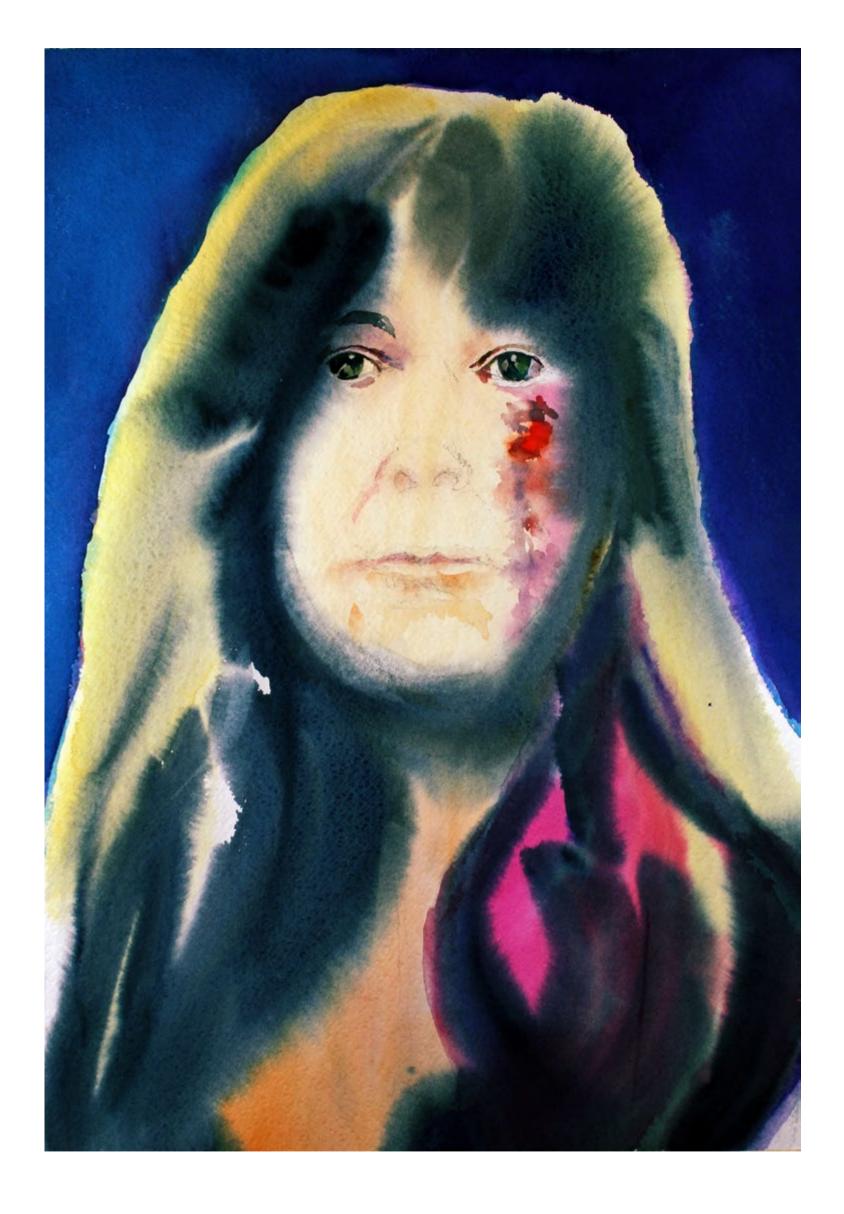
Name of the piece	Bouchon (Cork)
Year	2018
Medium	Watercolor
Format	41.9 x 59.7 cm
Artist statement	The cork, often discarded when we open a good bottle of wine, comes from the bark of the cork oak tree. The tree can live up to 250 years, while its bark can regenerate after being harvested (every 9 years) without harm to the tree. Cork is used in multiple industries and cork forests preserve ecosystems and biodiversity. I wanted to celebrate one of nature's amazing model of resilience—the humble cork.



Maria Hablützel

Switzerland

Name of the piece	The attack of the dog
Year	2022
Medium	Aquarell on paper
Format	56 x 39 cm
Artist statement	Enduring consequences of the accident



Josebe Bilbao Henry

Washington, DC

Name of the piece	Bloom I & Bloom II
Year	2023
Medium	Bloom I (black and white)– black and white 33mm film photographs and acrylic
	Bloom II (color)–thick watercolor and ink on paper
Format	Bloom I – 38.1 x 40.0 cm Bloom II – 30.5 x 45.7 cm
Artist statement	"Both pieces emerged from broken attempts, from failure. The photographs, prints of errors of exposure and technique, lay discarded on a table, a reminder of errors I made during COVID. The watercolor is another failed exploration, or rather the result of not having a lot of water around to work through the pigments. The acrylic flower superimposed on the prints and the ink blotches on the watercolor, let these flowers bloom on the remains of those errors. The black flowers draw us closer to look at failures with new eyes and to discover something unexpected."





Ruthy Hyatt

Sarasota, FL

Name of the piece	Faith
Year	2020
Medium	Oil on Canvas
Format	16 x 20 cm
Artist statement	I was born in Casablanca, Morocco that many people think of unique and even mysterious. I have always been fascinated by the interplay between shadows and light and color, especially vibrant colors. After retirement, I found more time for creating art and was amazed by how the paint morphed into interesting shapes and colors. I like unusual subjects, some of them reflecting the fauna and flora of Florida, others, evoke a suspended moment in time. In the process of painting, I pour my energies into strokes, shapes, the alignment of colors and creating moods. I hope to convey not only what I see, but also my feelings and emotions. "Faith; Persecuted, but Still Here" was inspired by my own experiences. My father was sick and would surely die within months. He was deeply observant. As I loved him and was hoping for a miracle, I started praying and expressing my emotions in

painting the Wailing Wall, the most $\,$

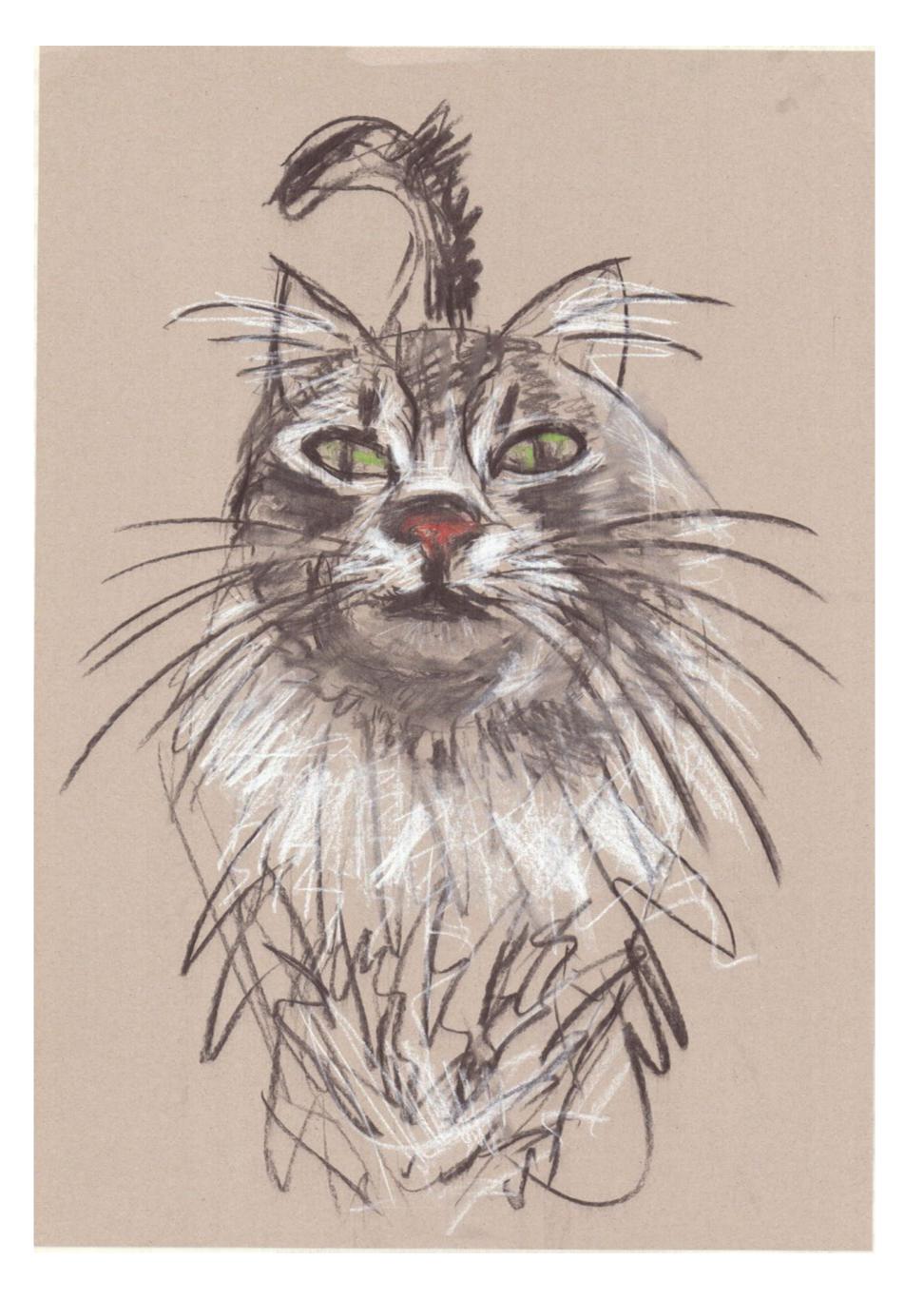
holy place in Jerusalem.



Bogna Jezierska

Brussels, Belgium

Name of the piece	I love you! - Otho
Year	2022
Medium	Charcoal and pastels on paper
Format	42 x 59.4 cm
Artist statement	Creativity = Resilience Some of the artworks created during the two years of pandemics—following art classes was crucial to keep healthy body and mind. The ability to forget all problems for a few moments by doing what you like the most.

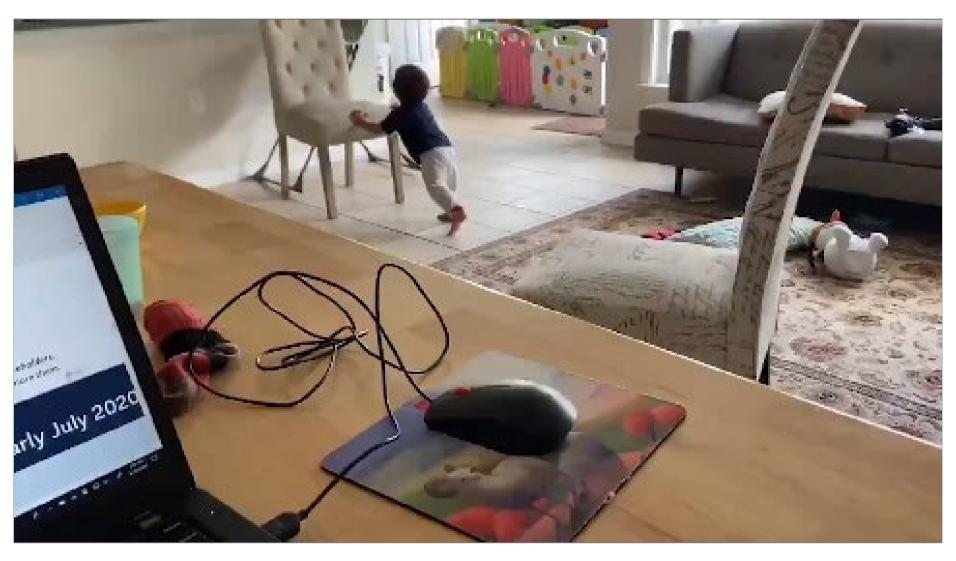


Sharmishtha Kulkarni

Washington DC

Name of the piece	Working from Home with toddlers during Pandemic
Year	2020
Medium	Video
Format	1 min 16 sec
Artist statement	The video shows how families with little kids have adjusted and adopted their way forward during the pandemic positively. Parents/employees still were able to be as productive as they were in office.





VIDEO

Dominique Lallement

Washington D.C

Name of the piece	Reflective Moment: Scarf of Resilience
Year	2022
Medium	Silk scarf, hand-dyed and hand- pleated.
Format	107 x 152 cm
Artist statement	Resilience has more than one fold and color. While dyeing and pleating this scarf, I felt truly in communication with the women and men who over millennia invented or discovered the natural sources and the making of natural and chemical dyes, with those who invented the art of pleating textiles, to the thousands of people who today still practice such fiber arts. A true reflection on the resilience of humanity: knowledge and creativity are passed on from generation to generation.



Who We Are interview link:
Creative and Resilient Retiree:
Featuring Dominique Lallement





Maria Teresa Lim

Maryland

Name of the piece	Multicolored Hibiscus
Year	2022
Medium	Acrylic on canvas
Format	40.64 x 50.8 cm
Artist statement	In Spring and Summer of 2021, our multicolored Hibiscus gave us joy and beauty to our garden. Unfortunately, I had to have a wire fence installed around the plant to prevent the rabbit from eating them, Despite this, we still got to enjoy the beautiful blooms. This year, I decided to express my fondness for multicolored Hibiscus through this work of art.



Vincent Lim

Montgomery Village

Name of the piece	Sunset and Catamaran
Year	2019
Medium	Photography
Artist statement	Enjoying the sunsets in Maui.



Vanessa Lim

Manila, Philippines

Name of the piece	From Chaos to Hope
Year	2022
Medium	Acrylic on canvas
Format	30.5 x 71.1 cm
Artist statement	This art piece represents my experience during the pandemic. Everything was chaotic. For this art piece, I limited myself to using a palette knife and 4 basic colors (blue, yellow, green and red)



Kyaw Soe Lynn

Yangon, Myanmar

Name of the piece	Homage to the Guardian Spirits
Year	2022
Medium	Acrylic on canvas
Format	61.0 x 45.7 cm
Artist statement	Due to the unknowns and uncertainties around us, we tend to turn to our guardian spirits for a secure and prosperous present and future! The artwork depicts a group performance by Burmese dancers paying respects to the Buddha and the "Nats," or guardian spirits, for safety and prosperity. I was fascinated by the upbeat music, color and light, choreography, and outfits of the dancers, but above all, the beliefs that will bring safety and protection from the guardian spirits to them. Throughout the years of war, famine, pandemic, coup, flood, and cyclone, we, the Burmese people, have demonstrated incredible resilience with dance, music, and obeisance to the Buddha and the guardian spirits.



Samuel Munzele Maimbo

Washington DC

Name of the piece	I Am An African
Year	2023
Medium	Acrylic
Format	61.0 x 43.2 cm

Artist statement

I am an African.

I owe my being to the hills and the valleys, the mountains and the glades, the rivers, the deserts, the trees, the flowers, the seas and the ever-changing seasons that define the face of our native land.

My body has frozen in our frosts and in our latter-day snows. It has thawed in the warmth of our sunshine and melted in the heat of the midday sun. The crack and the rumble of the summer thunders, lashed by startling lightning, have been a cause both of trembling and of hope.

The fragrances of nature have been as pleasant to us as the sight of the wild blooms of the citizens of the veld.

The dramatic shapes of the Drakensberg, the soilcoloured waters of the Lekoa, iGqili noThukela, and the sands of the Kgalagadi, have all been panels of the set on the natural stage on which we act out the foolish deeds of the theatre of our day.

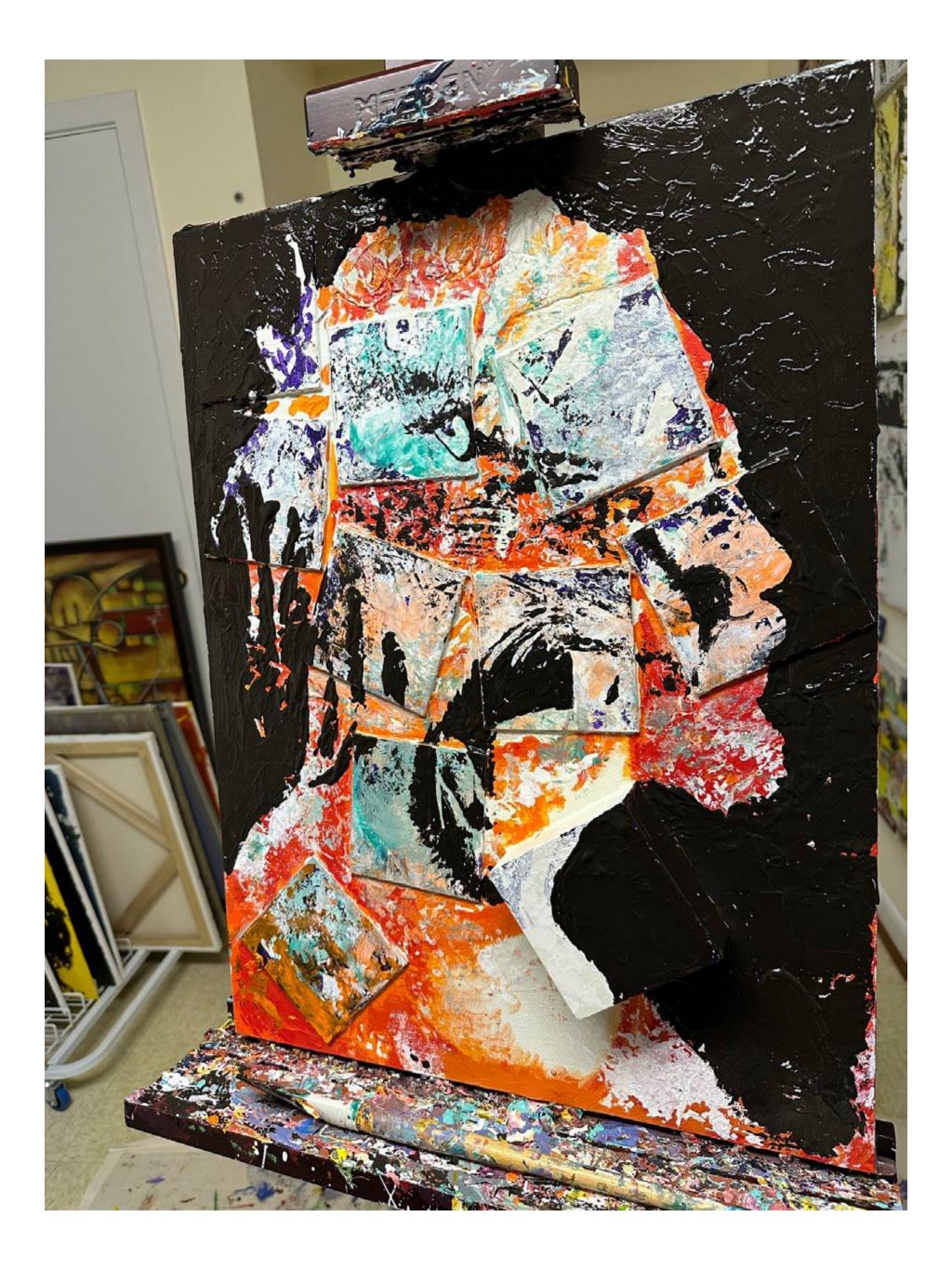
At times, and in fear, I have wondered whether I should concede equal citizenship of our country to the leopard and the lion, the elephant and the springbok, the hyena, the black mamba and the pestilential mosquito.

A human presence among all these, a feature on the face of our native land thus defined, I know that none dare challenge me when I say - I am an African!

Today it feels good to be an African.

-Inspired by the poem "I am an African by Thabo Mbeki"

No human being should ever be reduced to one word, certainly not a color. We are more than our color. - Samuel Munzele Maimbo



Maria Elena Moioli

Name of the piece	Roxy (Part of "100 days of remarkable women" series
Year	2022
Medium	Acrylic on newspaper
Format	31 x 28 cm
Artist statement	My winged women are contemporary angels or messengers. Roxy embodies both dreams and hopes. She persists, she endures, delicate and resilient in her message, looking at the spectator demanding to be seen in return.



Apoorva Reddy Neelapu

Name of the piece	Movement
Year	2022
Medium	Acrylic on Canvas
Format	40.6 x 50.8 cm
Artist statement	The painting represents the dance and movement of the ocean waves. Like depression, the waves might look calm or chaotic on the surface, even beautiful. But we never know what is beneath the waters: corals shells, oysters, and pearls within; living creatures like fish, sharks, and dolphins; gunk and plastic; and various sediments of the past and present. Depression is like that. We never know what is beneath the waves. My first experience with depression during the pandemic was when my closest friends and family struggled through it. They appeared normal on the surface, painting a normal picture, getting by through distractions such as alcohol, social media, work, or TV, but were trying their best to stay afloat, dancing between letting go and letting be, a bit like the waves in the ocean. Through the painting, I hope we take a moment to stand still and reflect on how far we've come and how much farther we can go.



Amanda Katherine O'Brien

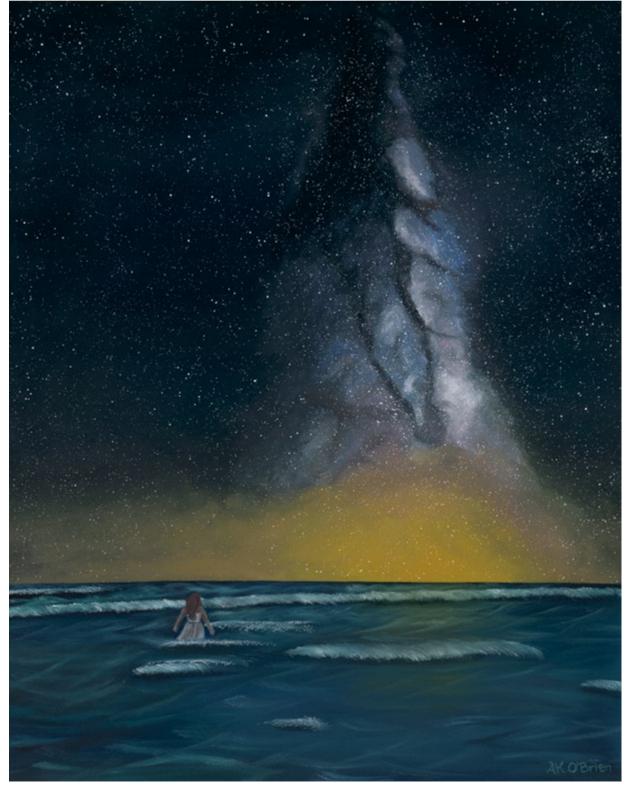
Alexandria, VA

Name of the piece	Discovery; A Dance With The Sea Series
Year	2015-22
Medium	Oil on canvas
Format	45.7 x 76.2 cm
Artist statement	After a suicide attempt, I turned to art as a form of therapy. I envisioned this sequence of four paintings, through which I processed, explored, and sought to express my emotions. This is the fourth and final painting in this series where the woman is on the shore. Throughout COVID, I had a lot of time to deepen my self-knowledge, and this helped me figure out the last painting. The woman is on the shore, lying there. One can't really tell if she's dead or alive. There are dark mountains around her and clouds in the sky. Yet, the sun is also there. I really wanted to capture a balance between hope and despair. One can look at that picture as one of redemption and recovery. Or one could be darker about it and see a weak body washed up on the shore with the clouds coming in, covering the sun, as if a sign of a life completed. Even now, how I interpret this painting can vary from day to day. But that is the point.



Who We Are interview link:
Creative and Resilient Staff: Meet
Amanda Katherine O'Brien









Sanja Pesic Ostojic

Chevy Chase, MD

Name of the piece	After The Rain—Summer Of 2021
Year	2021
Medium	Oil on Canvas
Format	50 x 60 cm
Artist statement	The Pandemic isolation made me rediscover the things left un noticed in my busy everyday life. and appreciate the joy of family gathering and the beauty of nature.

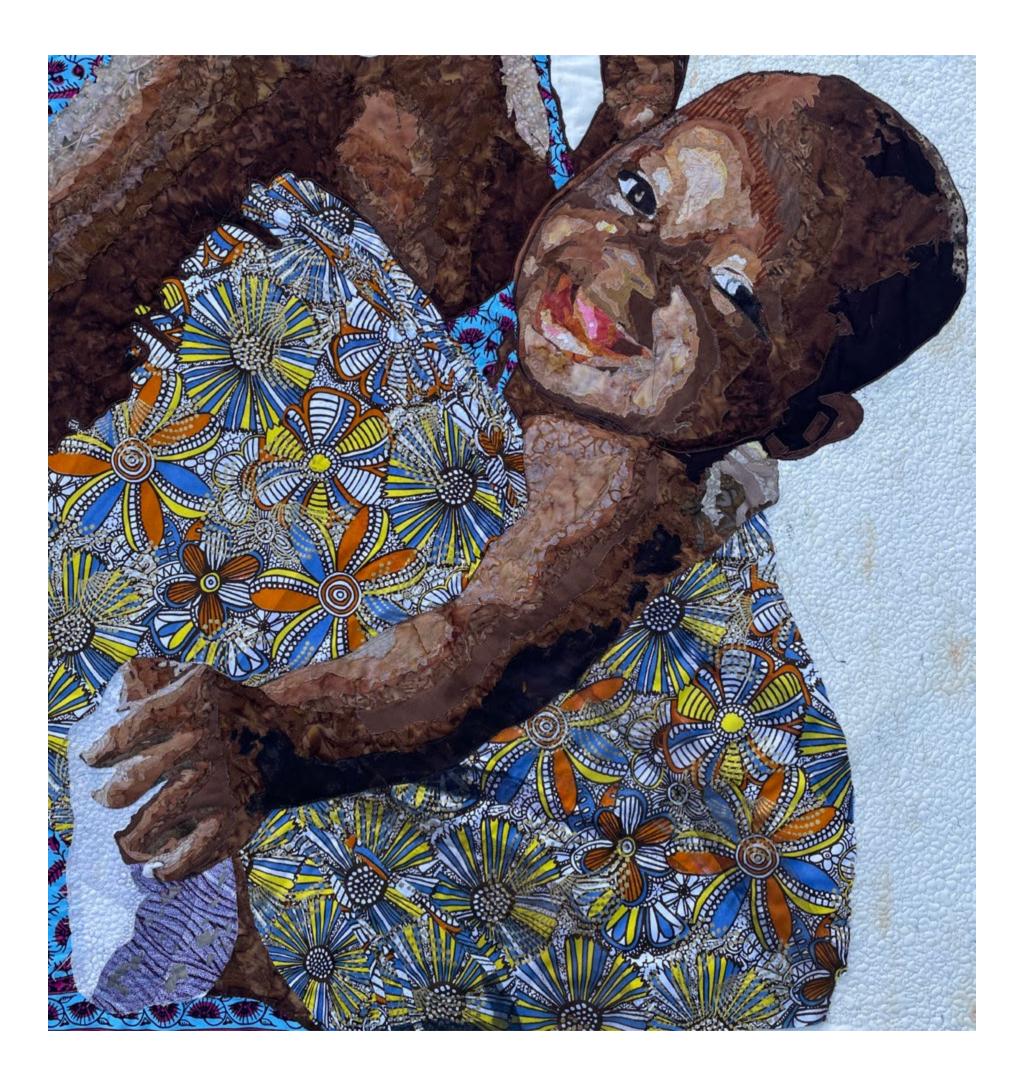


Kathleen Otoo

Virginia, USA

Name of the piece	Smile
Year	2022
Medium	Fabric and Thread
Format	81.2 x 83.8 cm
Artist statement	The smile of a child is so genuine, it fills our hearts with love and optimism in what ever comes our way.





Anushuya Pandit

Rosslyn, Virginia

Name of the piece	Within
Year	2022
Medium	Acrylic painting
Format	40.6 x 50.8 cm
Artist statement	A constant battle between your mind thoughts, and the outside world. The different versions of you, coping with the distinct events, desiring that it all ends, and seeking the rays of sunshine that depict happiness. The colors used are the colors of nature, giving you a sense of comfort. Being out in a landscape calms your never-ending thoughts. You talk to yourself and question yourself to find the serenity within.



Robert Pearlman

DC Metro Area, Garrett Park, MD, USA

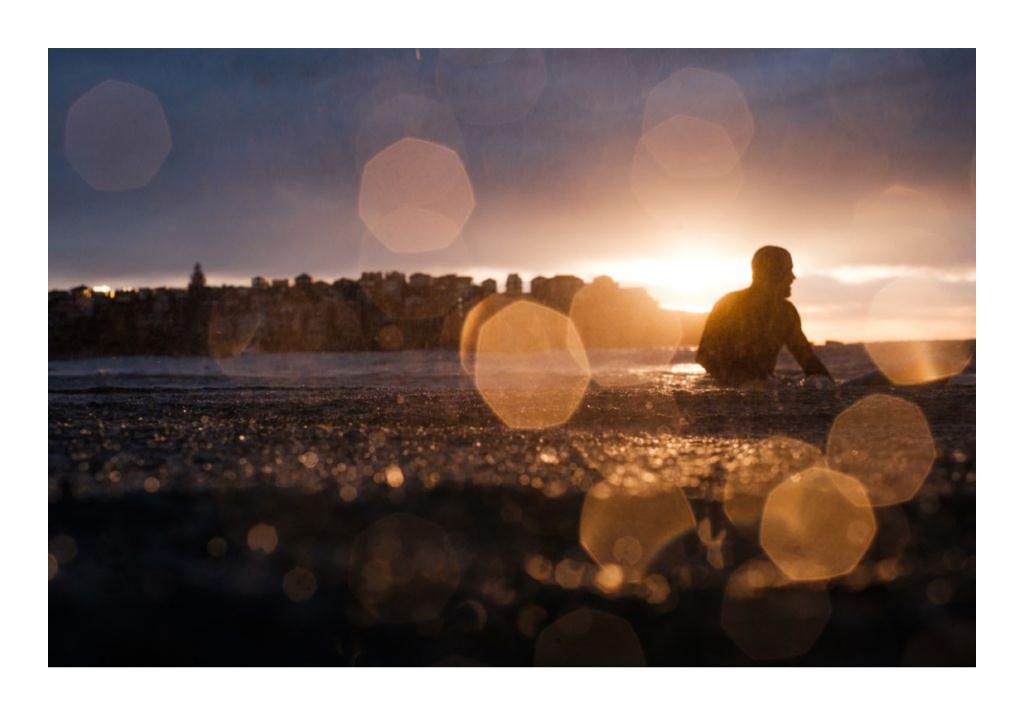
Name of the piece	African Singers
Year	2020
Medium	Oil painting on canvas
Format	61 x 122 cm
Artist statement	Young singers making their way as struggling artists in Cape town.



Tom Perry

Sydney, Australia

Name of the piece	Blue Water Therapy
Year	2020-2022
Medium	Photograph. Camera maker - Fujifilm, Camera model- X-T2, F-stop -f/5, ISO speed - ISO-1000, Focal length-35 mm, Max aperture- 1, exposure bias -0
Format	Unavailable
Artist statement	I started taking photos in the ocean in the early days of COVID as a way of tackling the darkness in my head; what I now know was anxiety. Here's what I wrote to some friends at the time: Around the time I started taking photos in the water last year, it's fair to say that my head was not a nice place to be in. But being in and around the water more regularly has helped me, as I know it helps millions of others, every day. The idea with taking photos was to try and find some inspiration in doing something I used to love; but doing it differently. And to find a way to visualize the dark stuff, the light that gets through that, as well as the simple goodness and power we get from being in the water. And since spending all this time in the water I've also met a lot of really wonderful people in a community that I previously lived in, but hadn't really embraced. So I'm grateful for all the conversations in and out of the water - whether about serious, heavy things; or friendly small talk about the weather, the waves—or the countless smiles and laughs.



Annika Piñol Age: 10 years

Name of the piece	Field of Hope
Year	2022
Medium	Watercolor and watercolor pencils on Canvas
Format	23 x 30 cm
Artist statement	The Poppy Is A Symbol Of Hope And Remembrance. I made this piece to remember family and friends who died as a result of COVID, as well as children affected by the Ukrainian war.



Wendy Plotkin-Mates

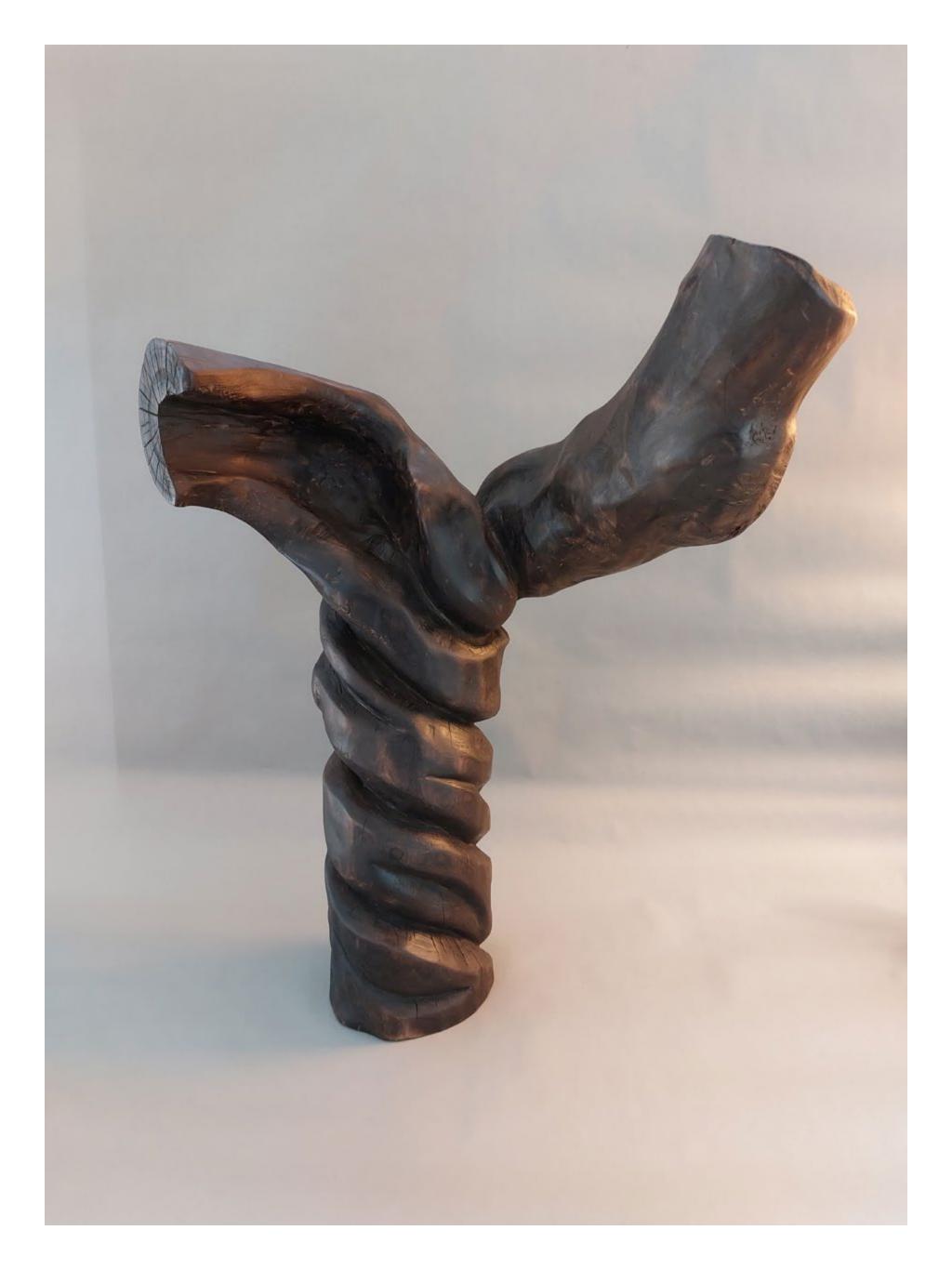
Name of the piece	Resilience
Year	2022
Medium	Acrylic on paper
Format	20.3 x 25.4 cm
Artist statement	For me the sun, sea and the sky give me The strength and determination to face Challenges and build my resilience to manage life's hurdles. Each time I approach the water I watch As if it is covered in tiny jewels at this moment Tranquility washes over me.



Nathalie Pouliquen

Bethesda, MD

Name of the piece	Momentum of Freedom
Year	2022
Medium	Wood carving (Tulip Tree)
Format	50 x 41 x 33 cm
Artist statement	The tree (from which this sculpture is taken) is the symbol par excellence of the capacities of endurance, of adaptation to the vagaries of life. The form with its constrained volume blossoms, in an irrepressible spiral of life, to finally spring forth, liberated, alive.



Van Pulley

USA

Name of the piece	Tree Eternal
Year	2022
Medium	Photograph
Artist statement	The bald cypress trees are an ancient, and very unique species. The 5th oldest living thing on the planet is a 2600 year old tree in NC—so 400 BC! They are extremely resilient, with wood that is not subject to rot or pests. They are a rare conifer (evergreen) species that actually turns color in the fall and drops it leaves—so deciduous. They must germinate on land, but can thrive then in water for millennia. Most old growth cypress forests sadly have been lost to logging over the last couple of centuries due to the remarkable qualities of the wood, agriculture which has altered the aquatic environments where they thrive, or more recently, sea level rise and saltwater intrusion from climate change. They need to be protected. They are an incredibly resilient species, whose only predator is man.



Jacomina de Regt

Name of the piece	Choose Joy; There is always a choice
Year	2022
Medium	Cotton fabrics, puff paint. Quilted.
Format	30 x 43 cm
Artist statement	After breast cancer treatment, you have a choice on how to go forward. Plant your feet firmly on the ground, choose to enjoy nature around you and let the worry balloon float away.



Yara Salem

Name of the piece	My creative expression of national identity and resilience through Palestinian Embroidery
Year	2020-2021
Medium	Thread and fabric
Format	Unavailable
Artist statement	Tatreez is a tool of resistance and a symbol of resilience for Palestinians' resistance and resilience through art. UNESCO has added the art of traditional Palestinian embroidery to its Intangible Cultural Heritage List. Practicing Tatreez expresses resistance to erasure and proudly displays history through every stitch. Each design represents certain characteristics and motifs that are practiced within every village and city of Palestine. Tatreez is a collective example of Palestinians refusing to forget their past or be forgotten. Women are now stitching more contemporary pieces, not just traditional thobes, and adapting imagery that reflects the lives of those in the diaspora. I believe Tatreez signals hope and resilience in the face of colonial and patriarchal structures. I am one of those artists who recently (started during COVID) designed my personal collection of embroidered cloth, furniture, and accessories with a modern twist to provide me hope and strengthen my resilience especially in a conflict torn country. In recent years, designers have created Palestinian embroidery and thobes with a modern twist, reflecting a wave of creativity on an international level.



Inaki Alejandro Sanchez Ciarrusta

Name of the piece	Dreaming Resilient Cities
Year	2022
Medium	Digitally generated picture using DALL-E
Artist statement	Storytelling is a powerful way to make us dream of possible futures, and visual art is one of the most engaging elements to do so; being able to create this type of art hand in hand with technology is even more powerful. This short series explores the use of Al engines and programs combined with the power of human imagination to dream about positive resilient futures: futures in which we adapt to the environment and we take care of our treasures, preserving what we love.









Mahdia Sbih

Washington DC

Name of the piece	To heal while helping others heal
Year	2020-2022
Medium	Photograph
Format	3264 x 2448 pixels
Artist statement	At the beginning of the pandemic, I told him I wanted to start teaching from home. I knew a lot of people since I had developed meaningful relationships with those who came to the Fitness Center. I saw it as an opportunity to learn and help others. We had to adapt, and I felt better knowing that I was supporting others. There were a lot of retirees attending these seminars, so I was simply doing my job and assisting people, especially retirees, since there were a lot of them who were alone. I taught Combo, it's kind of a dance choreography with music. The music and dance really increase your serotonin, and this helped people, especially during the pandemic.



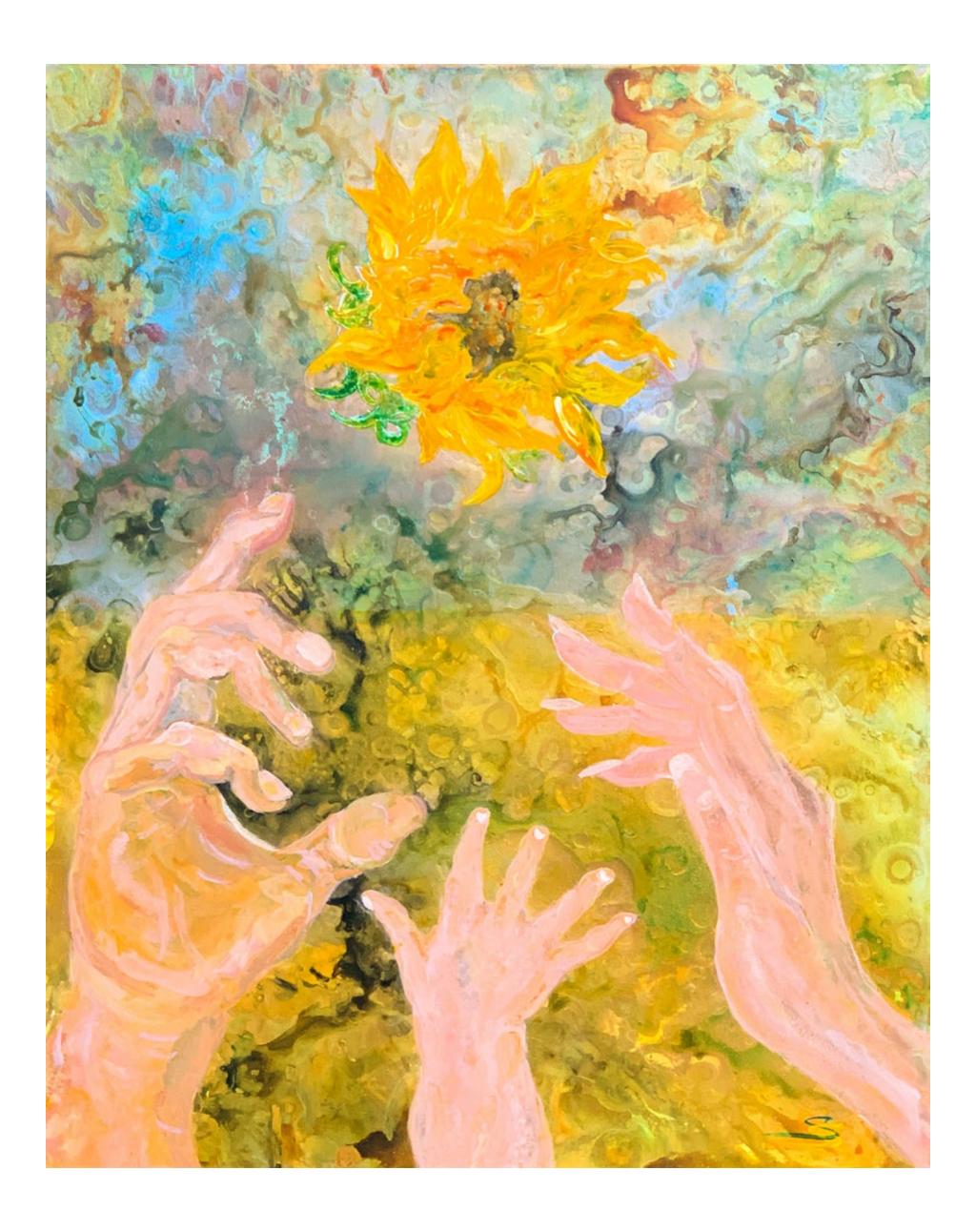
Who We Are interview link:
Creative and Resilient Staff: Featuring
Mahdia Sbih



Sylvia Scherer

United States

Name of the piece	Resilience
Year	2022
Medium	Acrylic on Canvas
Format	60 x 76 cm
Artist statement	This painting celebrates the amazing resilience of the Ukrainian people in their quest for freedom and democracy. The three hands: man, child, woman reach out to the sunflower, symbol of their national identity.



Arleen Seed

Silver Spring, MD, USA

Name of the piece	
Name of the piece	Eye Can Too
Year	2022
Medium	Oil on Canvas
Format	50.8 x 50.8 cm
Artist statement	Adversity often clouds one's vision, but this work represents the ability to clearly discern one's way through a crisis and emerge stronger, due to innate resilience and fortitude.



Margarita Smoroda

Washington, DC

Name of the piece	My Jewelry is as Unique as You are
Year	2020
Medium	Turquoise 925 Sterling silver
Format	30.5 x 35.6 cm
Instagram Acccount	@margo_jewelrydesigns
Artist statement	I grew up surrounded by the beauty of the mountains, natural springs, and all-season flowers. I see beauty in many things. I developed an appreciation for the jewelry as a teenager when my dad gave me a very special gift from his grandma. These modest family heirlooms not only kept me connected to my greatgrandmother but also inspired me to create my own jewelry. I tried my hand at working with natural stones and other materials, making several pieces for my family and friends. During the pandemic lockdown, I rediscovered an old passion. With all the uncertainties and fear caused by COVID, I found peace in working with my hands and getting lost in the process. It felt therapeutic, almost transforming me into a meditative state, anchoring me to the moment and relieving any anxiety. As a designer, I seek inspiration in nature, art, architecture, and fashion from my travels. I love exploring combinations of shapes, textures, and colors, combining my favorite vintage and modern styles to create something that will be unique and have an intimate connection with the piece's future owner. When I'm designing a jewelry piece, I put my heart and soul into each creation.



<u>Click here</u> to check the <u>List of Creations</u>



Ludovica Soderini

Washington DC

Name of the piece	Flowers on Concrete
Year	2020
Medium	Acrylic on canvas
Format	91.4 x 91.4 cm
Artist statement	Out of darkness comes light and light is the force of nature that grows out of the unbearable conditions, against impossible odds, like flowers spurting out of concrete, it will always prevail.



Kathy Strauss

Myrtle Beach, SC

Name of the piece	And Mother Earth Breathed
Year	2020
Medium	Combined photo and Poem
Format	68.6 x 45.7 cm
Artist statement	A Poem I wrote during the COVID lockdown and an accompanying photo I took at the same time when no one was around. It was a stark contrast from Myrtle Beach [where the artist lives] to the desert in Utah. We had to deal with a family emergency in Utah during COVID (2020). So we had to travel at the same time my husband was ill. It was a very tough yet beautiful year of connecting to family and nature.



And Mother Earth Breathed

And Mother Earth Breathed -

The roar & the speed stopped with an abrupt halt.

What happened said man? What happened said the earth?

A virus that needed its voice, so lonely it needed to connect. Unfortunately, the connection was not understood... this connection is energy.

The world was following a path that was not serving itself, no love, no true connection, no love of self – only self-absorption. No love of nature, no love of animal – only rage.

Embarrassed in asking how it could be loved – it brought itself to be. Let's reinvent ourselves – let's evolve. Let the collective evolve.

So Mother Earth breathed -

For a little while the fish could see beyond the silt. The birds could see the fish in the water. No longer brown, it was blue – clear for a little while.

So Mother Earth breathed -

The smokestacks stopped; the engines slowed down to a pace that allowed everything to cool – to become blue – to become clear again.

How beautiful the sky is when it's blue, with popcorn clouds that dot the sky. How beautiful the water is when it's so clear you can see thru to its depths. How beautiful the flowers & trees are when they first bud & bring forth young color. And everyone smiled.

And Mother Earth breathed -

Peaceful rain – the sound on the roof. Peaceful colors that the artist paints on their canvas. Peaceful/magical energy that the photographer captures through their lens – the rise of the creative is here.

We needed to slow down, we needed to reconnect to the self. Connecting to ourselves in a meaningful manner. Taking care of each other with supporting/uplifting energy is on the horizon.

A new dawn is coming – a new human who connects to the self. A new person who connects to the family. Friends who pick up the phone & in a digital age, chat through a lens. We are not falling apart. We were not listening. And the only way for us to evolve to the new way of love, truth & peace was for the universe to put us in a peaceful time out.

Don't fret! Don't worry! It's scary! But breathe into that fear, the energy of connectedness & love. Don't feed that fear – feed your love! Turn to nature & see how connected we all truly are. We live in a time that we should all embrace & cherish. The latchkey kid is taking a break to rejoice having their parents' home... The distance couple is now spending time together...

- Take a walk down the street
- · Say hello, "how can I help?" to every stranger you see
- · Imagine sweet hugs
- · Imagine sweet kisses

We are not falling apart. We are evolving.

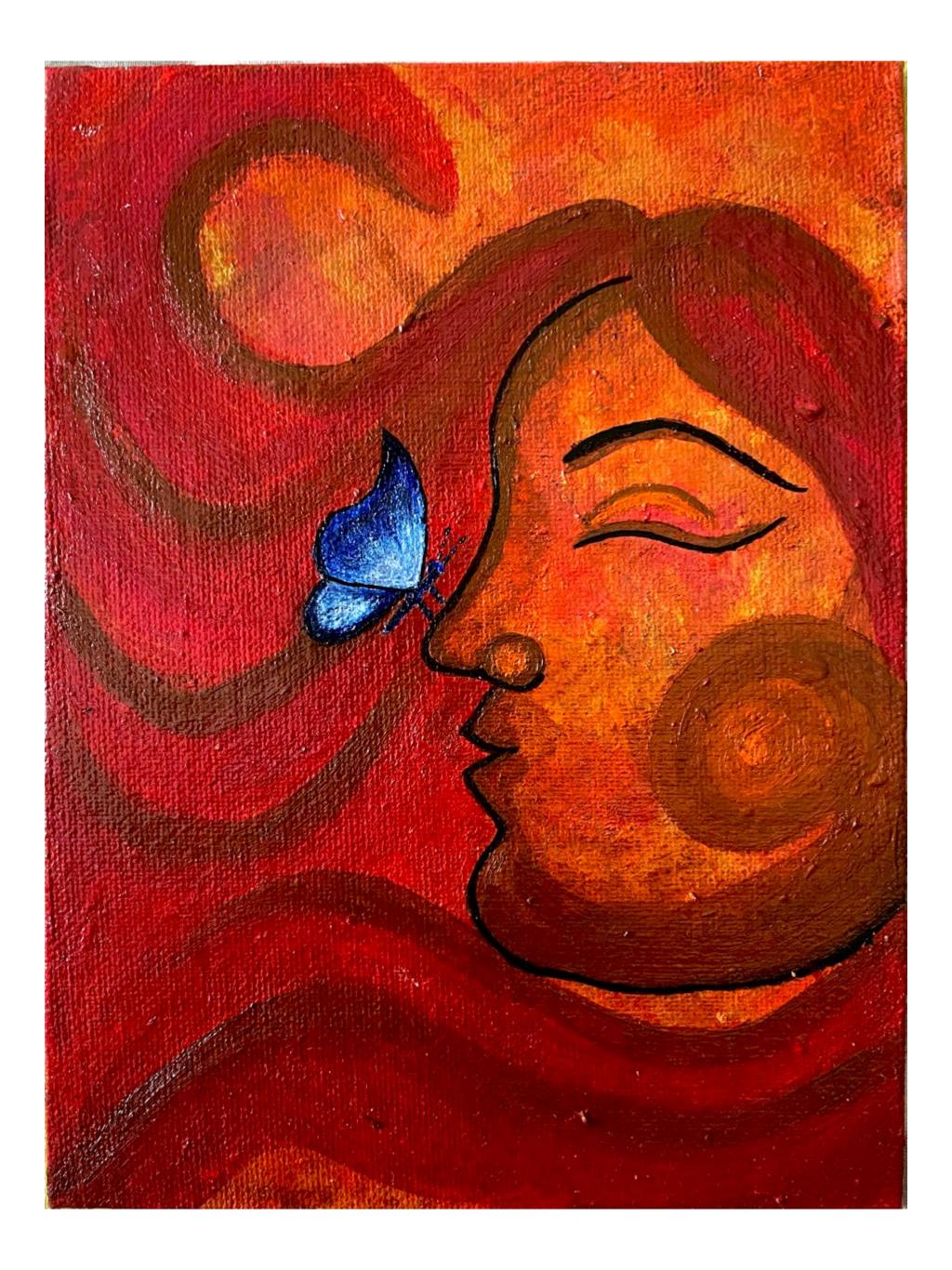
And Mother Earth breathed.

—Kathy Strauss

Shweta Sundar

Chennai, India

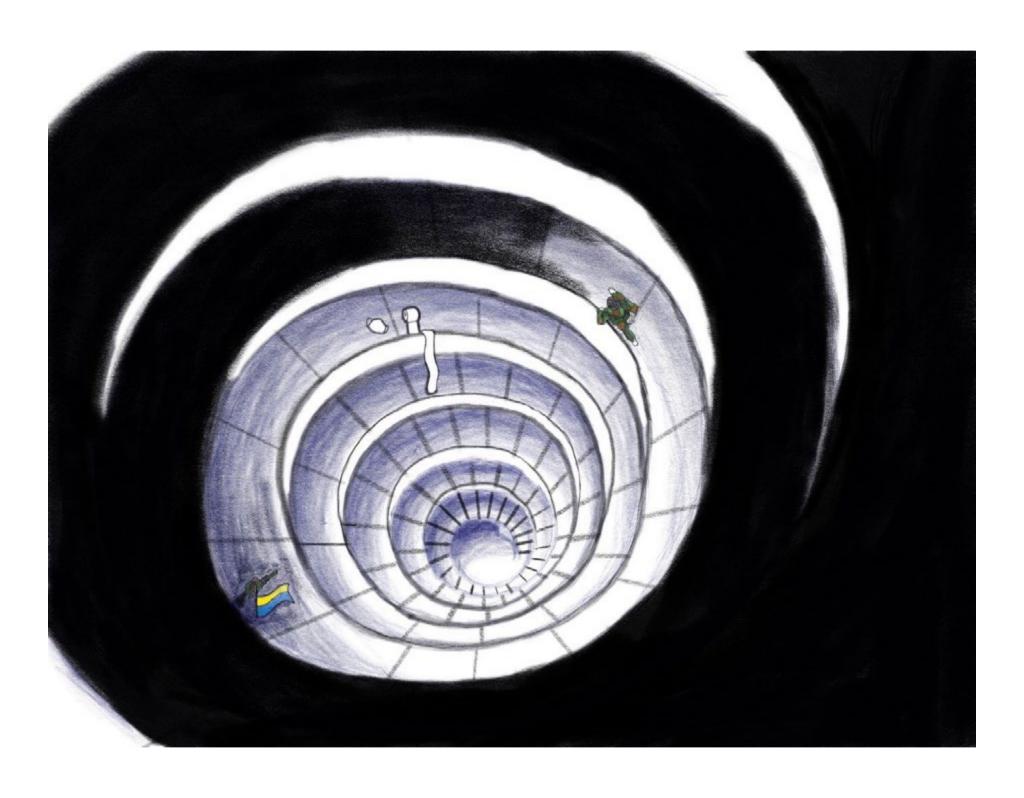
Name of the piece	Ice and Fire
Year	2022
Medium	Acrylic painting on canvas
Format	15 x 21 cm
Artist statement	"In a sea of raging storm, a small shift brings the balance." Strength and resilience are the core values for both nature and women. At their core it's about the strength to accommodate/endure changes, however when it reaches the breaking point, one strong move sets things right back, to an improved version of the original state.



Akolisa Udolisa

Budapest, Hungary

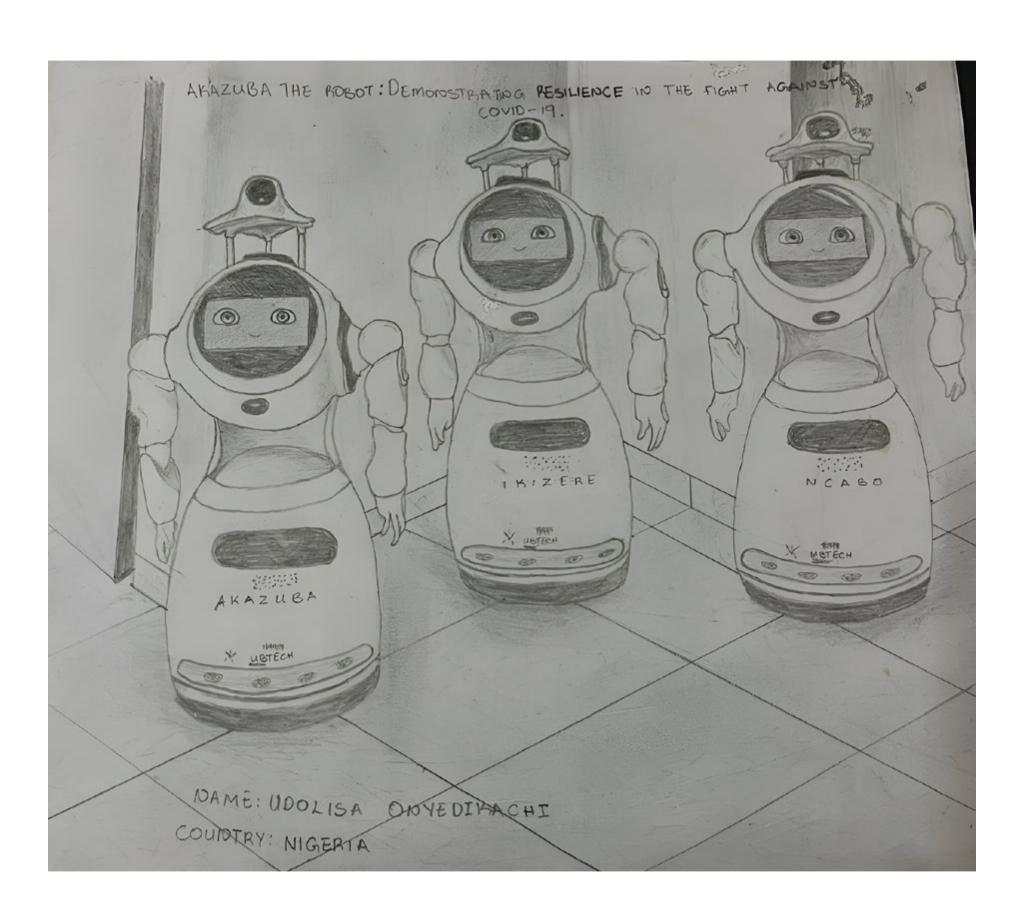
Name of the piece	Round And Around We Go
Year	2022
Medium	Ink and pencil on paper
Format	36 x 24 cm
Artist statement	XXXX



Onyedikachi Udolisa

Abuja, Nigeria

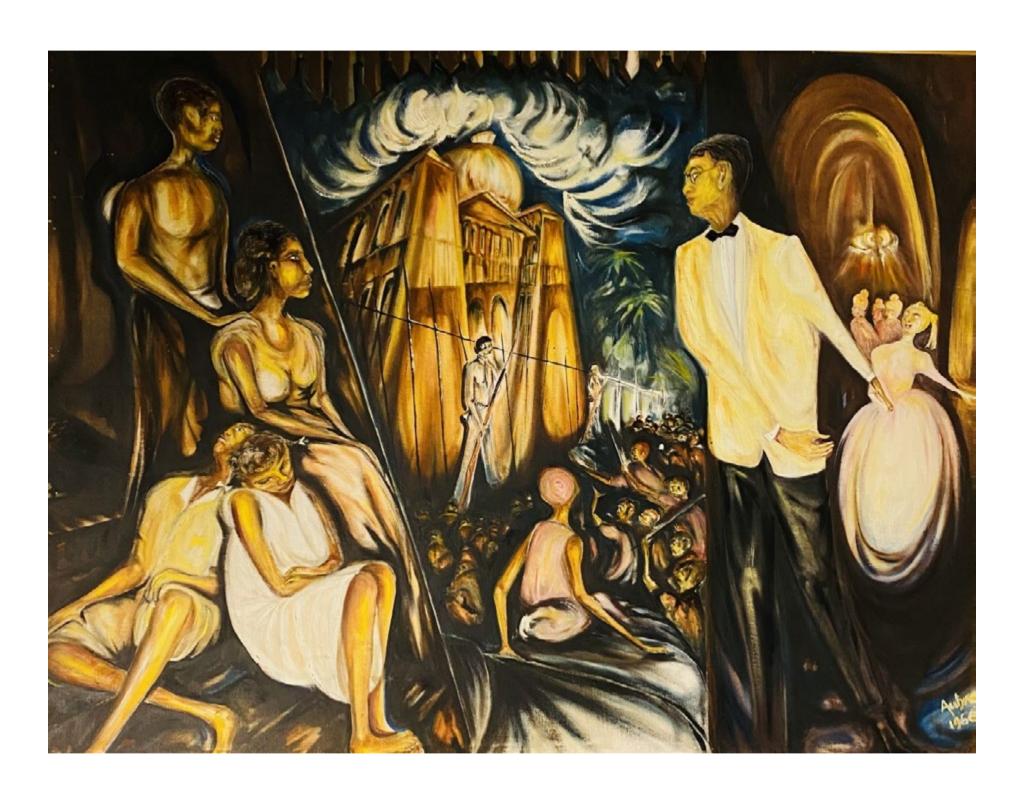
Name of the piece	Akazuba the Robot
Year	2022
Medium	Stencil on paper
Format	34 x 30 cm
Artist statement	In the fight against COVID-19 there was advancement of robots, allowing us to medically care for people without need for contact. Proof of human resilience and adaptation



Aubrey Williams

Washington DC

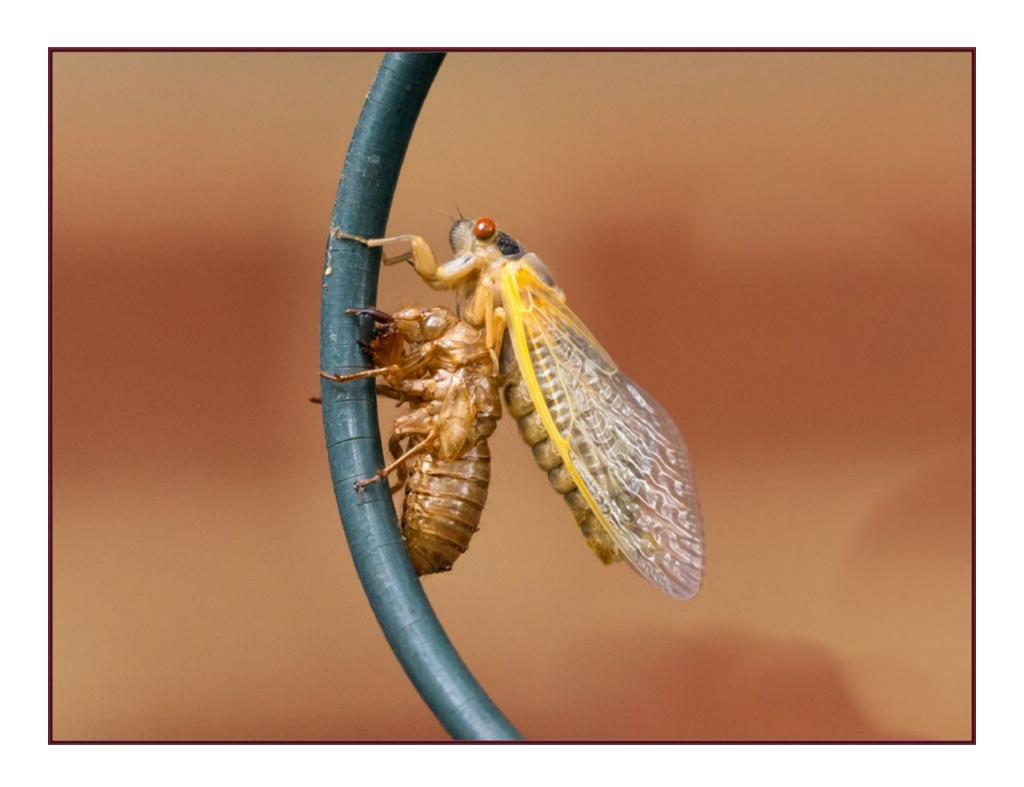
Name of the piece	Protest and Resilience
Year	1966
Medium	Oil on canvas
Format	36 x 48 cm
Artist statement	An oil painting depicting political protest in Guyana. On the left, a mother is surrounded by her children. She is inclined to join the protest but is being cautioned by her son. On the right is a statesman who is drawn to the protest, but he is pulled back by his dancing partner.



Michel Wormser

Bethesda MD

Name of the piece	The 17-year promise
Year	2021
Medium	Photograph
Artist statement	In May 2021, the Brood X cicadas kept their promise and re-emerged for their short and awkward displays after 17 years of absence. Their return in our neighborhoods while our routines were being upset by COVID gave us hope in the resilience of life.



Brigitte Zelenko

Washington DC

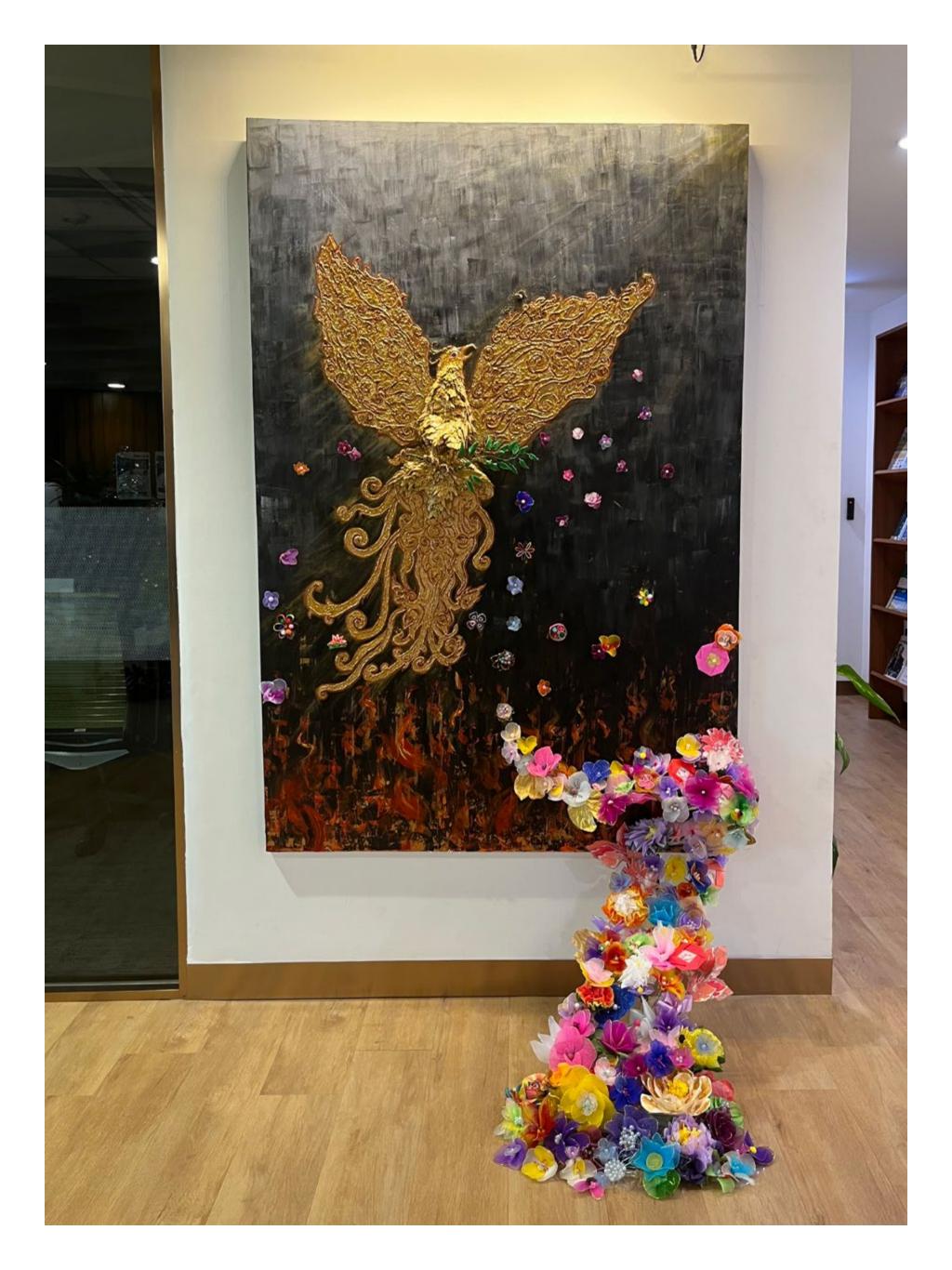
Name of the piece	Covid empty, New York
Year	2021
Medium	Acrylic on canvas
Format	80 x 60 cm
Artist statement	To escape from the long containment and the absence of social activities, I concentrated on detailed paintings inspired by the empty streets of New York City.



Myanmar Country Office

Naipyidó, Myanmar

Name of the piece	The Rising Pheonix
Year	2022
Medium	Acrylic and Mixed media on canvas
Format	182.9 x 121.9 cm
Artist statement	The artwork we created in the Yangon office is a demonstration and reflection of the collective artistic skill of the team. It was true teamwork, everyone contributed to it. The motif of the Rising Phoenix provides a different meaning to this artwork. It is reflection of not giving up hope, keeping one's aspiration in face of adversity. It's that motif, where this painting becomes a stronger emotional power and shows the resilience, reflects the resilience of colleagues especially after the two years of unprecedented challenges, through COVID and the coup in Myanmar. It's a painting and a piece of collective artwork that looks to the future and hopes and aspirations of everyone. All of us have learnt something and every single one of us has made our contribution, and continuing to make out contribution. —From collected interviews



Who we are Interviews





Paper Flower workshops



Maria Teresa

- Creative and Resilient Staff: Featuring Kathleen Otoo Kathleen Otoo shares her creative journey into quilt making during the pandemic
- Creative and Resilient Staff: Featuring Mahdia Sbih
 Mahdia Sbih shares her creative journey during the pandemic
- Creative and Resilient Retiree: Featuring Dominique Lallement Dominique Lallement shares her artistic journey before and after retirement.
- ► <u>Creative and Resilient Retiree: Featuring Elizabeth Casqueiro</u> Elizabeth shares her artistic journey during the pandemic as well as advice for staff nearing retirement.
- ► Creative and Resilient Staff: Featuring Joanne Anand
 Joanne shares her interesting career take, creative journey, and the pandemic.
- ► Creative and Resilient Staff: Meet Amanda Katherine O'Brien Amanda discusses painting, mental health, and personal resilience.
- Creative and Resilient Staff: Meet Catiana Garcia-Kilroy
 Catiana discusses the upside to pandemic communication and her photography project on Japanese American incarceration camps.
- Creative and Resilient Staff: Meet Tom Perry
 The interview with Tom Perry highlights how he found ocean
 photography as a grounding creative practice throughout the
 pandemic.
- Creative and Resilient Staff: Meet Roxana Bravo Roxana Bravo discusses virtual reality, health, and photography during the pandemic.

Artist Workshops



- Painting Workshop with Marina Jaber, Oil Painter from Iraq
 Join Marina to learn more about basic oil painting, colors, and composition
- Gouache Painting with Lisa Murphy Check out this Floral Art Workshop by the artist Lisa Grand Murphy and learn more about gouache painting techniques.
- Printmaking with Adi Segal, Printmaker based in Washington, DC (NOT to be added to YouTube)
 Join Adi as she explains her craft, and the art of printmaking.
- Spray Painting Workshop with Hakim Idriss
 Learn to spray paint with graffiti artist Hakim Irdiss from the Comoros.
- Watercolor Painting with Amit Romani Come learn the techniques of watercolor!
- ► Textile art with artist Christine Chetty from Seychelles

 Learn the techniques of sewing and fabric collage with Christine from Seychelles.



Irina Mishurny Santini

Resiliency Collective Sculpture "Flourishing Resilience"















Global

This sculpture is a part of the ongoing exhibition Creative Stories of Resilience: Enduring, Adapting, Thriving. This refined artistic sculpture, which is shaped like a human, was made using flowers that were knitted, crocheted, or otherwise creatively constructed by WBG staff, retirees, and families. It uses flowers as a trans-cultural symbol of beauty and rebirth, and it symbolizes how strong each of us is in the face of unforeseen difficulties.

This piece was also brought together with the expertise of locally based artist Lee Anderson of ManneqART. ManneqART is an international arts and education nonprofit that inspires creativity, teaches problem solving skills, and rewards excellence in sculpture on the human form.



Resources for mental health



Mental Health & Wellbeing Unit

- Individual Counseling & Support
- Manager Consults & Guidance
- Mental Health & Wellbeing Library
- Mental Health & Wellbeing Webinars (Archives)
- Natural Disasters and Traumatic Events
- Psychosocial Support Programs & Events
- Psychological Support in Emergencies
- Relaxation & Meditation Programs
- Quarterly Newsletters

REACH OUT

24/7 Psychological Support Helpline

+1 202-458-5600

Counseling team

+1-202-458-4457

hsdcounseling@worldbankgroup.org

Family Consultation Service

+1-202-458-5550

familyconsultationservice@wbfn.org

Domestic Abuse Prevention Program

+1-202-458-5800

daprevention@worldbank.org

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Liliana **G** Bonnie **Galat**

Catiana Garcia-Kilroy

Elena **Grant** Ana Isabel **Gren** Rashi **Grover**

Claudia Alexandra Gualteros

Lucie **H.G. Tran** Maria **Hablützel** Josebe Bilbao **Henry**

Ruthy Hyatt
Vanditha Jain
Bogna Jezierska
Sharmishtha Kulkarni
Dominique Lallement
Maria Teresa Lim
Vincent Lim
Vanessa Lim
Kyaw Soe Lynn

Samuel Munzele Maimbo

Rest **Mchome** Maria Elena **Moioli**

Apoorva Reddy **Neelapu** Amanda Katherine **O'Brien**

Sanja Pesic **Ostojic** Kathleen **Otoo** Joan **Pandit** Anushuya **Pandit** Robert **Pearlman**

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Virginia Yee
Brigitte Zelenko

Myanmar Country Office

The exhibition *Creative Stories of Resilience:* Enduring, Adapting, Thriving has a virtual component, which is this flipbook, that can be enjoyed without boundaries of space. For the colleagues in Washington DC, the physical exhibition is on display in the Preston Lounge (March 20th to April 17th) at the MC building, and at IFC (April 19th to May 31st) displays a selection of submitted artworks.

The collective artwork that has been created in partnership with the artists of ManneqArt (live link) with contribution of hand-made flowers by colleagues and families around the world, will be unveiled on March 28/2023 in the JDW Atrium and will be on display in MC and IFC through May 2023, to be then incorporated in the World Bank permanent art collection and remain in permanent view on Campus as a joyful memory of this collective art project. Images of the collective artwork will be on display on the Art Program website FURL: Art/

For those who are interested in exploring the visual arts, this flipbook contains the links to the artists' workshops from artists around the globe that have been offered in hybrid format by the World Bank Art Program and IFC through 2022 and 2023. If you are interested in continuing your education with one of these artists, we will be happy to connect you.

