



art
with
elders

Some Exciting News to Share!

Art With Elders uses the power of art, creativity, and community to enrich the journey of aging.

A Message from the Executive Director

Dear friends and family of Art With Elders (AWE),

I'm pleased to have the opportunity to write today to express our solidarity with you and share some of the progress we at AWE have been making despite the terrific challenges we've all faced since our lives were upturned by the Corona virus. I want you to know that we are keenly aware of, and profoundly motivated by, the recent isolation that has been born of the widespread quarantines. More now than at any time in our 30-year history, we realize the importance of our work providing powerful creative connections among you, our elders, and the wider community. It's almost as if our 30-year historical success has been preparation for this very moment. We have already cultivated the institutional knowledge, the devoted staff, an experienced army of emotionally intelligent instructors, and the growing appreciation and financial support of many of you, our Bay Area neighbors.

The benefit of working with talented artists and intuitively creative partners is that adversity is readily transformed into opportunity. In light of our inability to provide face-to-face classes, we have created the Art With Elders Share Through Resourcefully Using Computers (AWESTRUC) program. Undeterred by the tough restrictions of the quarantine, our instructors have been working on instructional videos, creating weekly online Zoom art classes, and reaching out directly to students through letters, FaceTime, and phone calls.

We see important and necessary transformation, too, in our presentation of student work. Rather than waiting for brick and mortar exhibition spaces to reopen and feature our student work, we recently rolled out the first of our many scheduled online exhibits, coordinated by Exhibits Manager Darcie O'Brien. See below for more details.

While these are important and transformational first steps, they mark just the beginning of the response we plan to meet our predicament. There is so much more for us to do. Our current state of affairs seems overwhelming in almost every sense: political, cultural, economic, emotional and environmental. We have seen hard times like these before. Many of you, our beloved elders, have lived through such hard times and have even helped shepherd us through. We won't rest until we make available creative community connections for all of our constituents. We will prevail. In the meantime, Art With Elders will continue to hear you, connect with you, work with you, and learn from you.

Gratefully,



Mark Campbell
Executive Director

A Message from Our New Board President

Dear AWE Partners,

Now, with so many people recognizing the urgency of being socially connected in some way and coming together “virtually” to protect the most vulnerable of populations we serve, I hope you understand the powerful mission AWE has when we are able to continue to connect and act. We can be a lifeline to isolated seniors.

The Covid-19 Pandemic has shaken all of us, and it has shaken AWE hard because of our very targeted mission. Literally, the doors have not only been closed to our Instructors, they have been closed and locked -- for all the right and necessary reasons of course, the health of our participants.

However, during the past 5 months of the Shelter in Place order, we have not been inactive. We have worked to support our most valuable asset, our Artist Instructors. We have also secured a PPP loan through our banker at First Republic Bank, learned to connect via Zoom with Staff and Instructors, revised grants to address the changes required by Covid-19, held regular Board meetings and reached out to homes, hospitals, and agencies we serve. We have written letters, made phone calls and FaceTimed to stay connected. We have been successful. Even as staffs in the facilities we serve have been stretched to their limits, we have made connections.

If you haven't heard, we want to share how these efforts have become real with our first Virtual AWE Art Exhibit. Hats off to Darcie O'Brien for curating this exhibit that showcases the work our art students have been doing through the virtual classes we have offered. A Job Well Done! We hope you find this Exhibit AWE-Inspiring, and that it inspires you to remain committed to, or become committed, to our AWEsome work. We count on your support to continue and expand our work. We wish we could return to normal as quickly as possible, but recent events seem to say that this is our future for some time to come. We plan on making it an AWEsome future with your help.

If you are touched by our efforts to enrich the lives of those we serve, please step forward and support our work. Your gift will help ensure that we continue to make an AWEsome Connection and help bring a bit more beauty into our world.



Stay safe and be AWEsome,

Dan Rosen
AWE Board President



AWE Artist-Participants Richard Williams (The Sequoias), Doris Backey (Lytton Gardens), Tom ás Lopez (Mission Neighborhood Centers), and Pearl Yue (Western Park Apartments) pictured.

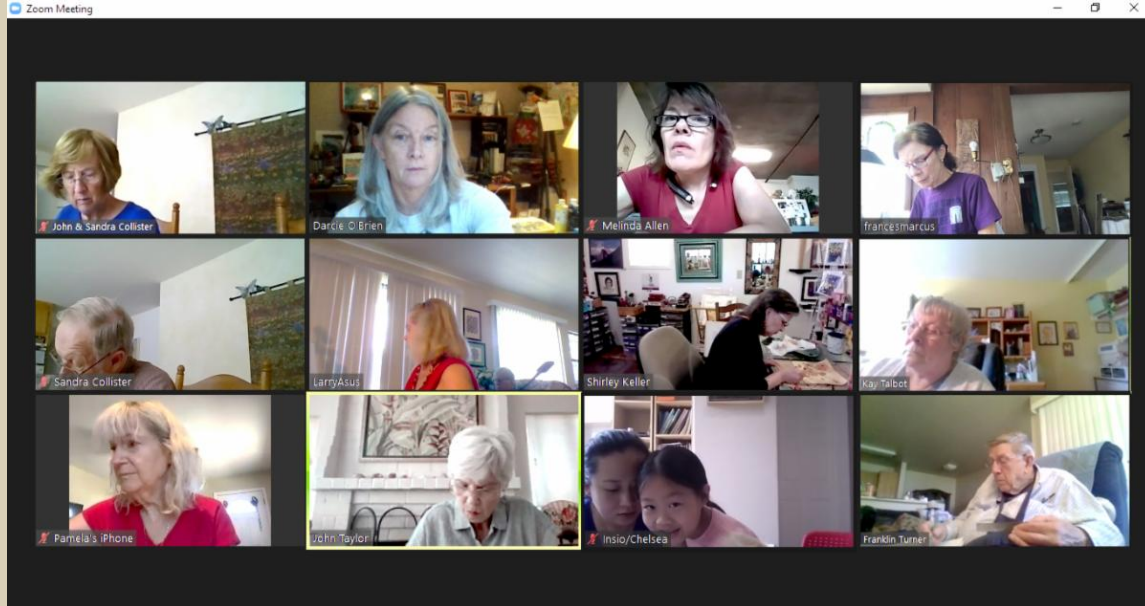
Classes and Exhibits News

Online Classes

Through these challenging times, we have worked to stay in touch with our participants. There have been many hurdles, but we remain determined to offer friendship, and a creative outlet, to seniors during this period of heightened stress and isolation during which many are quarantined, unable to even visit with family members. In March, when health risks to seniors curtailed our usual in-person classes, we began offering online classes. The online classes are a bright spot of hope and joy for us all. Classes meet once a week for art instruction and social interaction.

Through AWESTRUC, our new online art classes program, AWE is able to reach out to seniors in a new way. Art students from beginner to advanced levels can join us to take their creative abilities to the next level with the guidance of an experienced, professional instructor and support from classmates. Our 2-hour, weekly classes include a lesson presentation, classwork review, and work time. Classwork is selected and shared for display in online exhibitions. We are excited to report that our online classes are quite a hit, and we are continuing to add new classes to our schedule.

Individuals and groups, living independently or residing at senior living communities, are invited to sign up for our classes. Students will need a computer, tablet, or smart phone for access to the interactive classroom platform, Zoom. \$15 suggested donation for individuals requested, but not required, first class is free to try. Group rates and full scholarship available. See our [Online Classes](#) page for more information. Please email our Director, Mark Campbell, for details and signup, mark@artwithelders.org.



Artist-participants at work during an AWESTRUC online art class July, 2020.

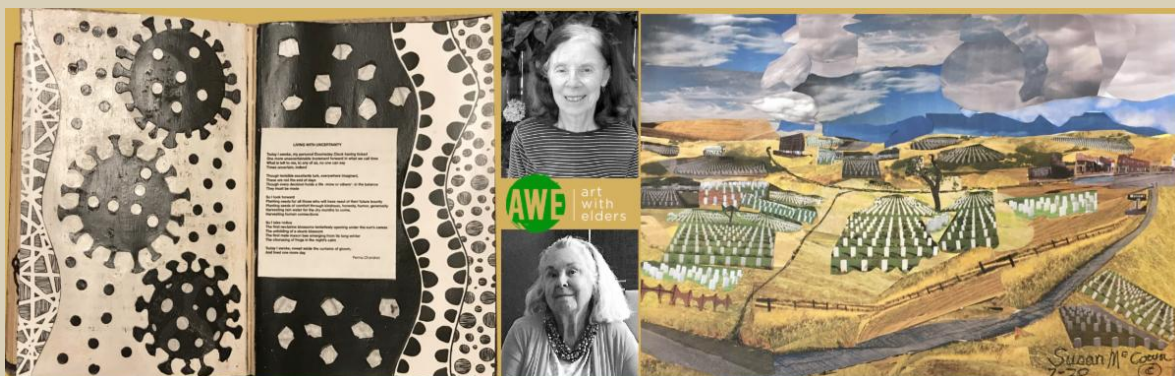
Online Exhibits



Artists Kekun Ouyang (Oak Center Towers) "Tiger" and Sr. Andrea Rangel (On Lok Peralta) "Bird."

Resilient! - Jul 15-Sep 15, 2020

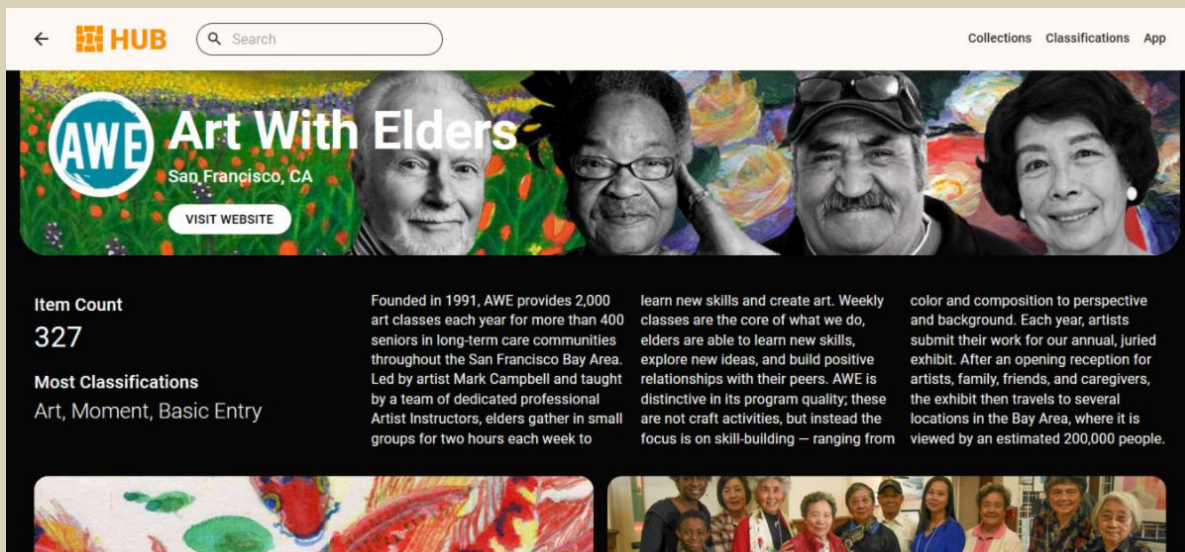
We are very proud to present our first exhibit since our program has gone online due to the pandemic. We will continue to exhibit new classwork on a bi-monthly schedule, and have other exciting exhibition plans in the works! For our latest exhibit "Resilient!" we have included one piece from each artist participating in our online program who chose to submit entries. The group represents 91 artists from across the Bay Area, Vallejo to San Jose. You can view the exhibit on our website July 15 through September 15, 2020, <https://www.artwithelders.org/online-exhibits/>.



Artists Fran Marcus "Living with Uncertainty" and Susan McCown "THEY HAVE NAMES."

Pandemic Response Art - Jul 15, 2020 - Ongoing

Artists from the Vallejo Hills and Friends class created work for a small group show called, "Pandemic Response Art" which can be viewed on our website, it follows the Resilient! exhibit, scroll to bottom of page: <https://www.artwithelders.org/online-exhibits/>. We will continue to build this collection by adding theme-related works from other class groups.



AWE Exhibits linked to our website via the CatalogIt Hub.

AWE CatalogIt Feature

Later in this month, the AWE program will be featured by [CatalogIt](#). CatalogIt is a web platform for archiving, cataloging, and displaying collections of all types. AWE uses CatalogIt in connection with our website to help manage our exhibits and class portfolios. The feature is in conjunction with CatalogIt's updated website launch. The CatalogIt team is a great fan of our program and the artwork created from it, and we are honored to be one of their featured clients.

Exhibits Schedule

Bi-monthly Online Exhibits - With "Resilient!" as our starter, we will be showing bi-monthly online exhibits of artwork from our classes, next one will be Sep. 15 – Nov. 15, 2020.

AWE CatalogIt Feature - In August, AWE will be featured on the newly revamped CatalogIt website.

Community Features - Coming soon: As a part of our exhibit series, we will focus on some of our partner communities, creating an in depth feature and art exhibit to share their story with you.

Community Living Campaign Classes - In September, we will be offering a series of classes through the CLC who make it their mission to "cultivate connections to help seniors and people with disabilities age and thrive at home." Learn more about them here: <https://sfcommunityliving.org/>.

28th Annual Show and Celebration - October is the time when we traditionally hold our big Annual Show and Celebration. This October, our 28th Annual Show and Celebration will be an online multimedia presentation, more details coming soon.

AWE Presentations on Well-Connected

On Thursdays Nov. 5, 12, and 18 we will be offering three different presentations on Covia's **"Well-Connected"** program which offers services to seniors online and by phone. Here's our lineup:

11/5 Art With Elders: Annual Exhibit Highlights

Highlights from the 30-year history of the AWE program and it's Annual Exhibit. Presented by Art with Elders Executive Director Mark Campbell and Exhibits Manager Darcie O'Brien

11/12 Creative Environments

Teaching Artists and Artist-Participants discuss building and nurturing deep relationships in a creative environment.

11/19 Student-Directed Creative Learning

Teaching Artists and Artist-Participants discuss the benefits of student-directed creative learning experiences.

Artist-Participant Spotlight

Hui Lan Li

Born in the Canton province of China in 1940, Hui Lan has been passionate about physical exercise all her life. In her youth she played at least five sports, including volleyball, track, and basketball, and frequently won prizes for her athletic abilities. Even today she exercises two hours daily, and practices Qi Gong and Tai Chi.

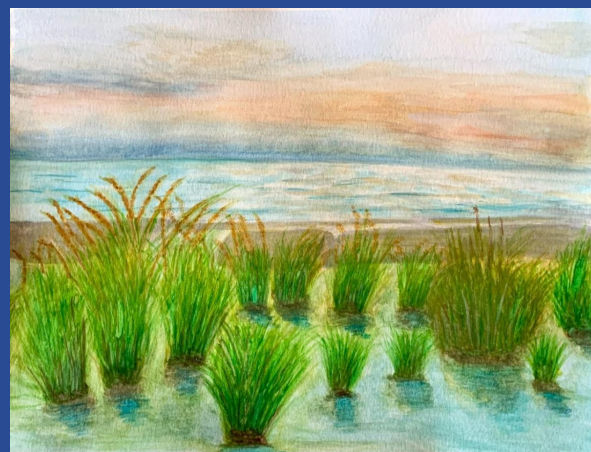


Hui Lan, who came to the U.S. in 2000, worked as an elementary school teacher in China. She married in 1964 and has two daughters and two grandchildren.

She describes herself as a happy person who loves to be of service to others. In addition to caring for her husband and apartment, she helps out at the local farmers' market. AWE classes were Hui Lan's first experience in art, she has been creating art in AWE classes at Oak Center Towers with Artist Instructor Insio Che since 2013. Over the years, many of her works have been selected for our Annual Show and Exhibits program. She frequently paints scenes of Nature's beauty in her favorite medium, acrylics.

By the Lake

Hui Lan Li
Oak Center Towers
2020 - Resilient! Online Exhibit





Grand Canyon

Hui Lan Li
Oak Center Towers
2019 - 27th Annual Show

Springtime by the Ocean

Hui Lan Li
Oak Center Towers
2018 - 26th Annual Show



Spring Blossom

Hui Lan Li
Oak Center Towers
2016 - 24th Annual Show

Artist Instructor Spotlight



Above: Dmitry and student Gloria Rojas

Dmitry Grudsky

Dmitry was educated in Russia and holds a Masters Degree in Fine Arts from the Tashkent Art Institute. This intensive training exposed him to a broad range of artistic styles, building on a strong foundation in classical Western European art traditions with stylistic infusions from Asia Minor. Dmitry is skilled in bi-lingual communication, and was initially taught English as part of his foundation training.

"Working for many years in the Eldergivers organization, I established warm and trustful relationships with our residents. Having art classes on a regular basis I am always looking forward to see my students and I am sure they were anticipating to see me as well. It was a well maintained, organized, smooth process of learning art skills, practicing, exchanging news and just socializing in the class room. Since the COVID19 epidemic struck in March, we all had to change our social commitments. In order to be safe, all Art With Elders in person classes were cancelled. With the support of On Lok administration and activity directors, we restarted our classes, online. I hope that more residents will adopt new technological skills and feel comfortable in online classes."

Dmitry's work was recently selected to be shown in the DeYoung Open, <https://deyoung.famsf.org/exhibitions/de-young-open>.



Crazy Hairdo

by Dmitry Grudsky



Drum It by Dmitry Grudsky



Dialog by Dmitry Grudsky



Memory Tree

by Dmitry Grudsky



Tunes by Dmitry Grudsky

To learn more about Dmitry or to view more of his artwork, please visit his website:

<https://www.grudsky.net/>



AWE Staff and Artist Instructors

Left to right: Darcie O'Brien, Mei Mei Everson, Insio Che, Virginia Jourdan, Yvette Brown, Santiago Gervasi, Veronica Rojas, Betty Rothaus, Dmitry Grudsky, Min Lee, Mark Campbell, and Sarah Dwyer (Zoe Hall and Jason Varner not pictured).

Thank you to our Donors!

Art With Elders appreciates all of our supporters. Together we are truly changing the lives of hundreds of Bay Area seniors. We strive to open hearts and minds to new worlds, new discoveries, new joys, and subsequently, fresh meaning in life.

Thanks again to all of our donors for making this work possible!



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Visit our Website

Art With Elders | 415-441-2650 | info@artwithelders.org | artwithelders.org

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