



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.



Bamboo

by Kim Ringle, Openhouse

"Always Beginning - Beginning, Invention, and Discovery"
an AWE Online Exhibit

A Message from the Executive Director

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

Robert Frost: "I am not a teacher, I am an awakener."

It's my pleasure to reach out to you again, celebrate our recent accomplishments, and take this opportunity to acknowledge our incredible instructors who are the beating heart of AWE. I initially had intended to focus specifically on the success AWE has realized in overcoming the ongoing challenges thrown at us all these past months. I soon realized though that each success is the direct result of the skill, passion, courage, and thoughtful consideration of our instructors.

This pandemic has wrought havoc on us and our communities, carving a meandering, and often devastating, path of destruction through our lives. We endure daily updates to our understanding of its future course and face constant revisions to recommended actions. Uncertainty abounds and fear seems as contagious as the virus itself. We've gone from practicing absurd surgical cleaning routines when unloading our groceries to feeling the first hopeful signs of a return to normal with live music and eating out, only to have those hopes dim as we cloister back up in reaction to new variants.

All this while, though, Art With Elders has persisted. Throughout this ever-present uncertainty, we have found a way to continue providing connection and community to our beloved elders through our gift of creativity. As a matter of fact, we are on track to, by the end of this summer, exceed the number of classes we provide to our elders compared to our pre-pandemic offerings. And amidst all this uncertainty, one thing remains clear, our AWEsome instructors have made this remarkable success a reality.

Taking inventory of our accomplishments, it's easy to see what qualities we expect to find in spades in our teachers. As loneliness and isolation continue to increase, we remember our teachers are excellent listeners, using creativity as a point of departure for conversation and comity, thus making firm connections in the midst of accelerated entropy. As mentioned before, things are changing rapidly and often dramatically. Some of you and your senior communities have gone to in-person classes and then, in the course of caution, needed to pivot back to doing things virtually; so you guessed it, our instructors are nothing, if not flexible.

Recently, as loss, both personal and collective, seems considerably more ubiquitous, the essential quality of compassion is ever more relied upon in our classes and among our elder friends. Our teachers are doing more than imparting art-making skills to their students; they are caring, earning trust, providing valuable emotional support, and opening their student's eyes to an ever unfolding world of creative expression. To do all these things well and consistently over a period of service, in some cases over a decade, they must also be uncommonly intelligent and creative.

For several years now, in each newsletter, we take time to acknowledge one of our very special instructors. They and their good work deserve much more recognition than this small honor. As we shine our spotlight on Sarah Dwyer this month, please also take a moment to express your AWE and gratitude to all within our growing ranks of incredible pedagogues and remember, they are not just our teachers but are in fact also awakeners.



Gratefully,

Mark Campbell
Executive Director



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, Hugh Leeman, Stephanie Vlahov, Emily Kuenstler, and Jason Varner not pictured).

Exhibits News

Traveling Exhibits



Artwork Above: *Mermaid's Domain* - by Kay Matsuda, The Sequoias

"AWE at The Sequoias"

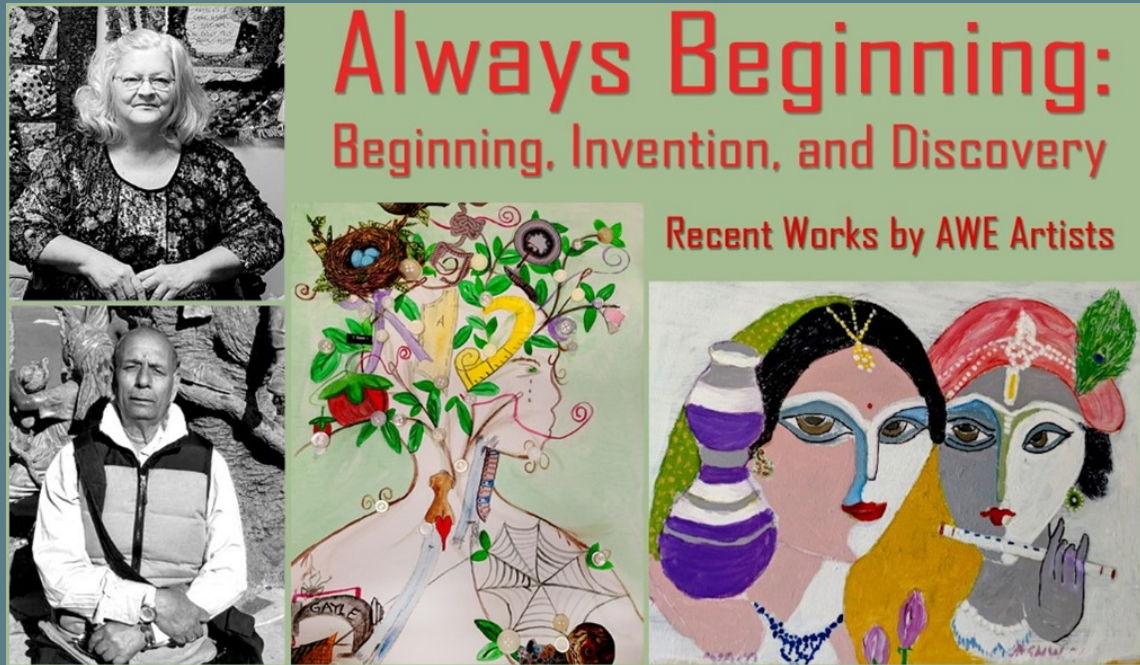
Sept. 13 – Oct. 30, 2021

The Sequoias, 1400 Geary Blvd, San Francisco, CA 94109

<https://thesequoiassf.org/>

We are excited about our first on-location exhibit since COVID-19 appeared on the scene! This exhibit will feature AWE artists from The Sequoias and will include works from AWE participants from several other communities as well. We are hoping to have an opening reception for the exhibit if conditions permit, details to be announced. Please check our website for updates.

Online Exhibits



Artwork Above: ***Self Portrait*** - by Gayle Wannamaker, Open Studios and
Beautiful Music - by Ashwin Sheth, On Lok Lifeways Peralta

“Always Beginning: Beginning, Invention, and Discovery”

Currently in our online 3D gallery, “Always Beginning” features 96 recent artworks from participants in our online and in-person classes. Click on the link below to view the full exhibit!

www.artwithelders.org/online-exhibits

The 2021 29th Annual Exhibit

*Celebrating the wisdom, talents,
and creativity of older adults*

The Art With Elders 2021, 29th Annual Exhibit

We are now collecting submissions for our 29th Annual Exhibit which will be juried by members of the San Francisco Bay Area arts community, Sophie Appel and Cole Solinger of Delaplane, an art exhibition space at 483 14th St in San Francisco.

We are planning for an online opening celebration event Sunday, October 24th from 2:00 - 4:00 pm PDT. The exhibit will be on display in our online 3D gallery starting Sunday October 24th.

See the selected works from our previous Annual Exhibits on our website:

www.artwithelders.org/annual-exhibit

Artist-Participant Spotlight

Louise Gibler

Louise has lived a life “centered in art.” Born in New Jersey, she and her husband Dick met when they were both working for a Superior Court judge. Dick was a landscape painter and she began painting with him, often taking their easels and oils outside to paint together. While living in New Jersey, they began attending classes at the well-known Arts Students League in New York at the time when Jackson Pollock and Georgia O’Keeffe were there. The couple worked and painted together until Dick’s death at the age of 75. She moved to Canada near Toronto where her son was living and joined an art community. “Art,” she says, “saved my life.”



Pandemic 2020

Louise Gibler
Lytton Gardens



The Red Shoes

Louise Gibler
Lytton Gardens

Joy

Louise Gibler
Lytton Gardens



Breakfast

Louise Gibler
Lytton Gardens

Artist Instructor Spotlight



Sarah Dwyer

Sarah has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Studio Art and a Master of Fine Arts degree in Painting. She has taught with AWE since 2013 and currently teaches two classes.

"I like to be of service to older people—they are survivors! I respect the wisdom they have acquired over the years, and I try to learn from them. As an instructor for Art with Elders, I enjoy seeing the happy, surprised look on students' faces when they discover that they can produce a beautiful piece of artwork."

When asked about her own artwork, Sarah said, "The landscapes are paintings of the area where I live. I visually absorb the local landscape, rarely working from photos. Instead, I keep impressions of what I have seen in my memory. During the process of painting, I recall the features of the landscape, focusing on what was most interesting or dramatic about it. I try to recreate the mood of a place, weather conditions and times of the day."

My abstract work starts with a drawing or collage. Sometimes a mandala (a symmetrical structure) is the basis of a painting. Images emerge from a collaboration between my imagination and the materials I work with. For me, abstract painting is a partnership between me and the canvas. It's a give and take. My job is to take my cues from the painting and to render them to the best of my ability."



Whirlwind by Sarah Dwyer
30" x 30" oil on canvas



Astonishing Light by Sarah Dwyer
24" x 24" oil on canvas



Abstract Painting by Sarah Dwyer
30" x 30" oil on canvas



Afternoon Fog by Sarah Dwyer
22" x 28" oil on canvas

Kathryn Werhane Memorial



*Kathryn after swimming the 100th Anniversary Joe Bruno GG Bridge
Swim on 9/18/2017 – photo by Gail Grynbaum*

"Always hopeful, stoic and intuitively compassionate, Kathryn barely let on that she had a serious health issue. Surrounded by existential realities and challenges in the work that we do, I remain forever impressed by Kathryn's capacity to, despite her own monumental challenges and until her very final moments, conjure the power and capacity to encourage and support others. She will be often deeply missed and, even more often, joyfully and enthusiastically celebrated." -- Mark Campbell, Executive Director, AWE

Kathryn was a dedicated volunteer with the AWE program for over a decade. Please visit the recently added Kathryn Werhane Memorial page on our website to learn more.

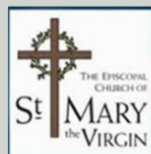
The memorial page features pictures from Kathryn Werhane's retrospective art gallery show, "Ephemeral," a memorial show organized by Debra Resnik, Kathryn's partner of 43 years and curated by Mark Campbell and Barbara Ordahl:

www.artwithelders.org/kathryn-werhane-memorial/

Thank you to our Donors! ^t

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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