



The Role of Art in Cancer Prevention

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Much is known about Art and Healing

- There are many examples of programs that use the creative arts to promote healing
- There is also a vast body of literature about arts and healing
- Every major hospital and virtually all cancer centers have Arts and Healing or Arts in Medicine programs



Creative Arts and Disease Prevention

- Performing arts and HIV/AIDS prevention
- Creative arts and diabetes prevention in children
- Art and obesity prevention in children
- Art and prevention of diabetic kidney disease in the Australian Aborigeni
- Comparatively less work on the possible role of the arts in the prevention of cancer

The Arts may be useful in cancer prevention in many ways

Participation in the creative arts may have direct effects on overall health and well-being



Libby Baxley: "Woman Reflecting"

- Dance and fitness
- Music, visual arts and stress
- Music or other art forms and immunity

The Arts may be useful in cancer prevention in many ways



Sermet: "Prison: Not a Place, but a State of Mind"

The creative and performing arts may also be useful as a **communication tool** in cancer prevention



Artists Against Breast Cancer

A collaboration among the South Carolina Multicultural Arts Center, the University of South Carolina, Claflin University, and Columbia College.

Have you experienced breast cancer? Do you know someone who has?

Express your experience of breast cancer in a work of art and send that work to "Artists Against Breast Cancer". Your art will be showcased widely at community events organized to promote breast cancer awareness in South Carolina, and in a permanent exhibit on the web. More information at <http://www.scmcac.org>. (803) 269-8631 e-mail: sc_mcac@yahoo.com



Grace Makhuli: "Salaam"



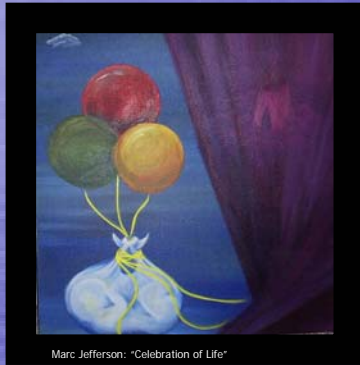
Sultan Ali Garayev: "Four Images Inspired By Love" (Image 3)



Erick Davis - untitled



Libby Baxley: "Woman Reflecting"



Marc Jefferson: "Celebration of Life"



Sermet: "Prison: Not a Place, but a State of Mind"

In Death's Shadow

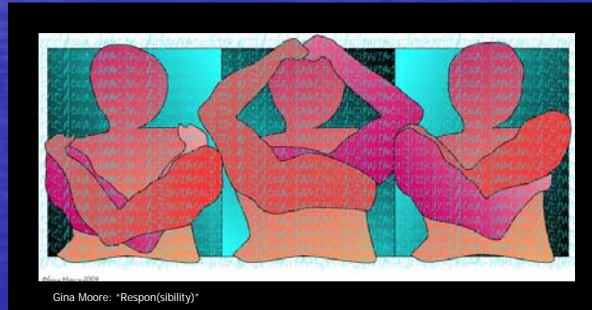
For years you've been stalking me.
Statistically, the odds are in your favor,
But I've avoided you.
I've made myself so ornery,
Irreverent, contemptuous,
No one will lay claim to me.
I need time to practice poetry.
I have unfinished projects.
I have clothing to repair or discard.

You'll just have to wait!
I have people in need of me,
More brittle than I,
Dependent on my care.

I have trips to take--
Places I wish to return to,
Worlds I haven't seen.
For years you've been toying with me.

Enough!
Find yourself another victim.

Ann Weiss, from:
"In concentric Grooves", 1991



Gina Moore: "Respon(sibility)"

You don't need to be a professional artist to participate. "Artists Against Breast Cancer" is open to all artists: professional, amateur, occasional and...improvised!

Original art work contributed to this Program is on permanent display on the SC McAC web site and at art exhibits organized as a part of community outreach events: evenings of art, music, dance, and an open discussion of the options available to women for breast cancer prevention and screening. These include the American Cancer Society "Pink Ribbon Tea" organized each year in October; Women's Health fairs, Breast Health fairs organized each year by Palmetto Health's Community Outreach, and our own events sponsored by the SC McAC, Inc. See: <http://www.scmcac.org>

While Reading on the Porch I See...

White streaks; plumes across the blue,
Where high planes left their mark.
Granny carts her baby's baby
To the green shaded park.

Wind's song and electric saw harmonize,
Lazy cat rolls over, stretching, yawning.
Sunlight pours over my naked hide,
A Blue Jay watches from the awning.

Beyond this book between my hands
I read stories in beings and things.
These gifts of Life beyond possession
As baby plays, and Blue Jay sings.

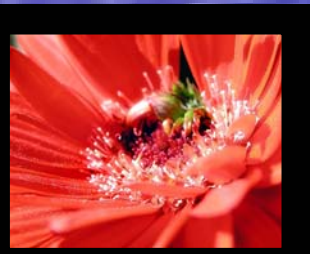
Ramsey Makhuli, 3/13/04



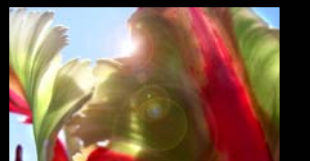
Namgyal Namchak: "Surrender"



Kelli Campbell - untitled



Hamayun Nawaz: "Hope" (1) and (2)



A call to all artists

....Professional, amateur, occasional, improvised

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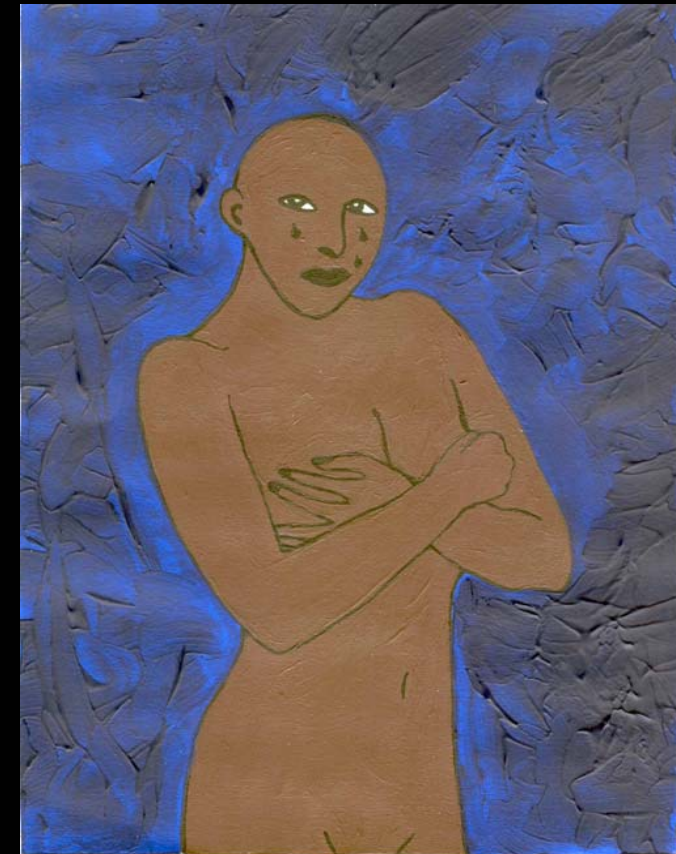
Thirty six works of art were submitted



Sultan Ali Garayev: "Four Images Inspired By Love" (Image 3, Adam and Eve)



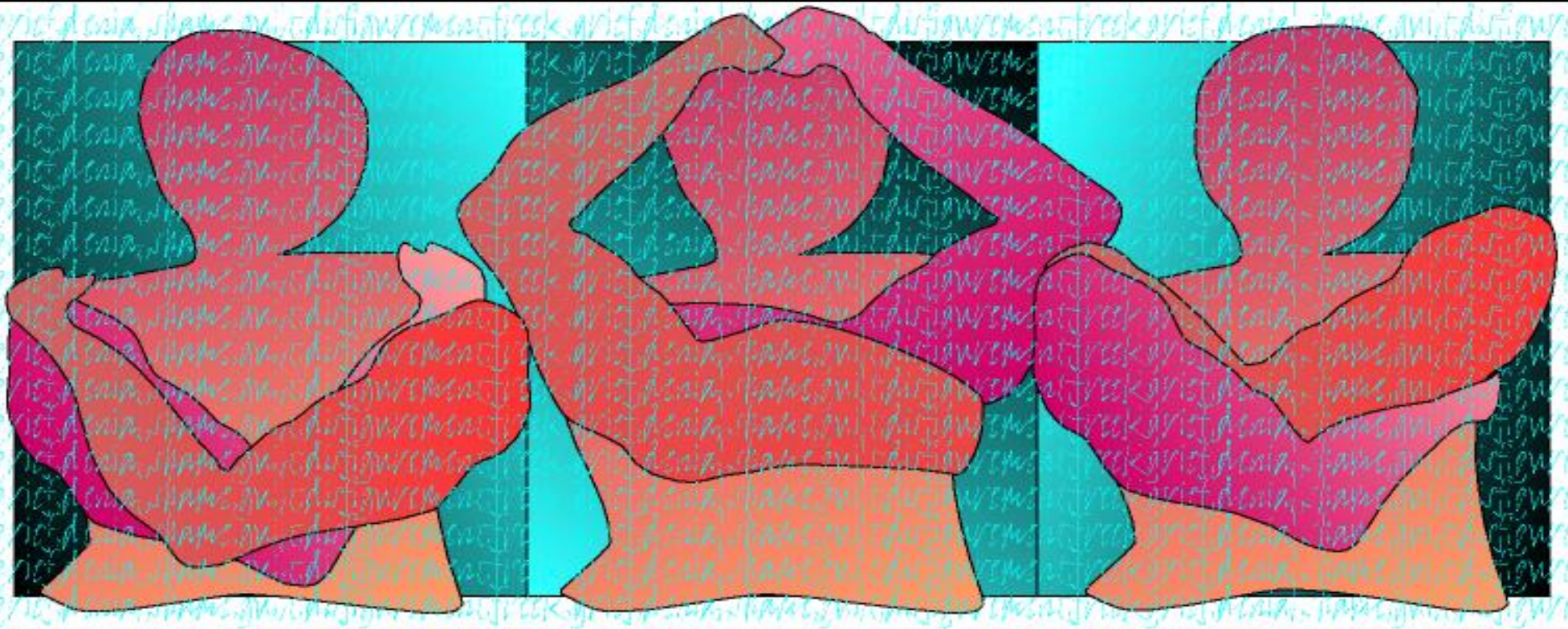
Namgyal Namchak: "Surrender"



Joscelyn Speights: "Blue"

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©Gina Moore 2004

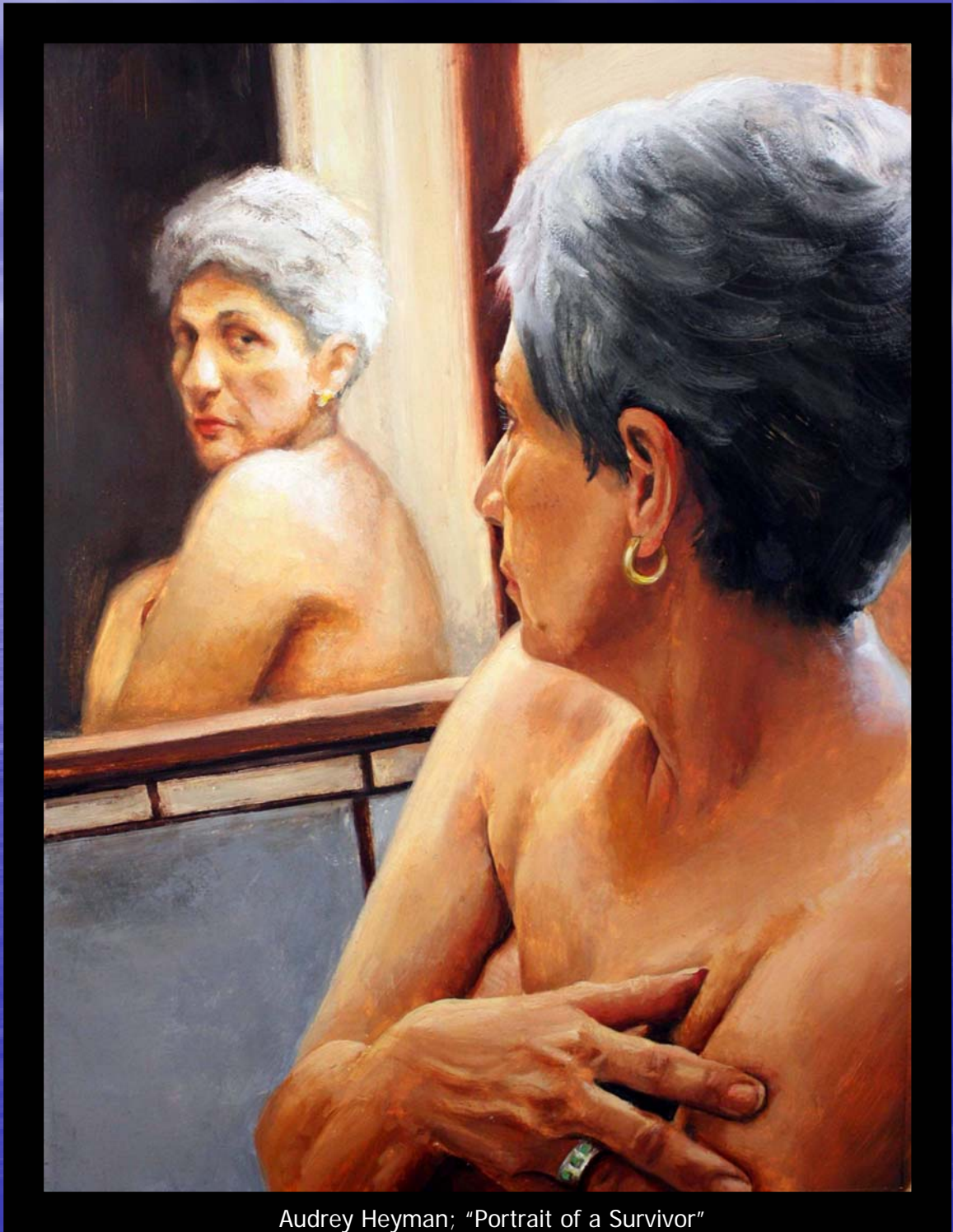
Gina Moore: "Respons(ability)"

A call to all artists

....Professional, amateur, occasional, improvised



Maria Skaskiw: "Colors"



Audrey Heyman; "Portrait of a Survivor"



In Death's Shadow

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Statistically, the odds are in your favor,
But I've avoided you.
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AABC activities

- Art exhibits, held in the context of public education events to promote breast cancer awareness
- Focus groups held to explore barriers to adherence to breast cancer screening
- Questionnaires exploring knowledge and attitudes concerning breast cancer screening

AABC Art Exhibits

- ACS Pink Ribbon Tea, Seawells, Columbia, SC, October 16, 2007
- Columbia College, October, 2007, in collaboration with the Columbia College Department of Art
- Lower Richland HS Auditorium, November, 2007, in conjunction with "Ninacity"
- AABC Art Exhibit and a dance performance, Palmetto Health Women's Health Fair Celia Saxon Health Center, Columbia, SC May 5th, 2007, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm
- AABC booth at Columbia College, March 30th, 2007
- AABC Art Exhibit and Dance Concert, Thursday, November 2, 2006, 7:00 pm W.V. Middleton Fine Arts Center, Claflin University Campus, Orangeburg, SC with a performance by Vibrations Dance Company
- AABC Art Exhibit, Breast Health Fair, October 14th (10 - 2pm), Celia Saxon Health Center Columbia, SC with a performance by members of Vibrations Dance Company
- Artists Against Breast Cancer Art Show, American Cancer Society: "Pink Ribbon Tea", 2006 October 3, 2006, State Museum, Columbia, SC
- Artists Against Breast Cancer Art Show, October 22, 2005, Health Fair, with Palmetto Health Community Outreach Program, Francis Burnes United Methodist Church, Farrow Road, Columbia, SC
- AABC Art Exhibit at the American Cancer Society "Pink Ribbon Tea" The Lace House, SC Governor's Mansion, Columbia, SC, October 1, 2005, 10:30 am to 1:00 pm.
- March 11, 2005, 8:00 pm AABC Art Exhibit and Contemporary Dance Concert: "Experience in Rhythm" by Terrance Henderson, for Vibrations Dance Company, Drayton Hall, USC
- HARAMBEE, at Benedict College, February 26, 2005 "Artists Against Breast Cancer" was there during the day, to display the art work submitted, and provide information about breast cancer screening.



AABC Focus Groups

- Six focus groups
- Three with college-age women at USC, Benedict College and Claflin University
- Three with women aged 35-82 in Columbia and Orangeburg
- Each held for 2 hours, conducted by a trained moderator
- Written focus group guide
- Discussion audio-recorded and transcribed

Analysis of Focus Group Discussion

- Qualitative analysis, conducted by Rachel Bowman, guided by Dr. Heather Brandt
- Code book, refined and annotated with subsequent rounds of analysis
- Numerous recurring themes identified with considerable differences between age groups



Hamayun Nawaz: "Realization"

Focus Group Discussion Results

- Apprehension about breast self exam, clinical exam and mammogram – elements of distrust in medical system
- Fear of diagnosis
- Barriers to early detection and care: financial, transportation, but also personal, psychological and cultural



Art in breast cancer awareness and education

- “Art pieces would not necessarily teach them about breast cancer but women can learn about the seriousness, the intensity...it would cause them to appreciate and value what their breasts are to them”
- “Everybody will have something different, a different shape or different idea, and they can tell them what happened to them, how they experienced, and what was going on” –3
- “I think it’s good...because a lot of people can’t articulate and express themselves...So doing it visually, you will get more of an insight into the way they feel about it” –4
- It would create an interest in breast cancer awareness (1, 4), and allow those who have experienced breast cancer to express their feelings (1, 3).
- FG1 participants felt that art might cause women to appreciate the seriousness of breast cancer, as well as promote discussion of breast cancer within the community.



AABC Questionnaires

- A total of 164 participants, mostly adult women (76% were of ages 18-49, an additional 16% were 50 and older) were included in this study.
- Participants could earn a total of fifteen points on the knowledge, attitude, and practice (KAP) score.
- The average knowledge, attitude, and practice (KAP) score was 51% (N = 164).
- Overall, 84% of participants were categorized as possessing satisfactory knowledge of breast cancer, and 71.5% reported performing breast self-exams, at least occasionally.



AABC Questionnaires

What do you think about asking women to make pieces of art to express what breast cancer means to them?

Do you think that these pieces could help other women learn about breast cancer?

- Total number of participants: 164
- Excellent or good idea – 125 (76.2%)
- Not useful, irrelevant – 9 (5.5%)
- No opinion or no response – 30 (18.3%)

Examples of individual comments

- Not comfortable, No
- I really don't care about them making art. No it won't help others. Just give them a brochure on it.
- I don't exactly think art pieces would be appealing to most women but anything is worth a try
- Asking women to show their breast is unacceptable even though it is art. I do not agree with it and would never show my breast as work of art.

Examples of individual comments

I believe that it would be a great idea for women to transfer their feelings about breast cancer onto a painting because their expression can be seen. I believe this would be a way to inform other women about breast cancer and persuade them to go and get regular mammograms

Examples of individual comments

- It is a wonderful idea. I do think it could help other women learn about breast cancer, in a new and different form
- Definitely! It would prove that women fighting breast cancer are not alone and that there are always people willing to support them
- I think it's a wonderful way to express what they feel while still showing that they are still beautiful. I think it will make women more aware and want to know more
- I think it is a good idea. You are expressing yourself without words, yes it helps
- I think it is excellent and the pieces on display were all breathtaking. I think the pieces grab your attention and pull you into where the information is.



Acknowledgements

Dr. Heather Brandt, USC ASPH

Dr. Gemma Geslani, Claflin University (Now at St. Louis University)

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Omici Uwagbay, USC, now in Medical School at MUSC

Kendra Mack, Claflin University

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Palmetto Health Alliance

The Celia Saxton Health Care Center

The SC State Museum

The Arnold School of Public Health

Benedict College, School of Honors

Columbia College

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