



So, what's my art story? We all have a story no doubt. Creating art allows me to escape while never leaving the spot in which I stand. It is indeed a "window" to my soul. I read that it's a portal into the artist's life and their unique experiences." I can talk, I have always had plenty of words, believe me. Being of Irish descent, I love to tell a story. But, color, textures, design, lines...they are their own language. I see in pictures, not words. My prayer is that God continues to guide my hand and my brush just FLOWS!

We have had seven losses in our family this year, nine losses in the last four years. We all experience LOSS. There are ZERO words to describe the pit in your stomach, the surreal life you feel you now live. Some were older, some were younger. We were BLESSED to have them all. I've been asked, "How will you get through this?" **Hospice Savannah** reminds me...one moment at a time. I BELIEVE in HOPE, LOVE, NEW LIFE, NEW CHAPTERS and growth. There are layers and layers of grief. I believe in HEALING. I believe in God's eternal LOVE and MERCY. I believe I am to use the gift He gave me. My response to friends and acquaintances: "I will paint my way through this!" One painting at a time. I will escape into each one with abandon and ask God to make my COLORS DANCE and SING on the canvases.

Our lives have been turned upside down and inside out. The anguish has been real. The tears have been like rivers, but many times there are rainbows after a storm. We have been blessed to see them more than once this last year. It is a reminder to us of hope, love, joy and color.

As we "peel back the layers" through the hurt, the pain and the suffering that we all experience in this life, we are left with our LIGHT, our SOUL, our goodness, our gifts. Therein lies our "AUTHENTIC" SELF. That self knows that this world is truly just a snapshot of our eternal life. That self knows WE MUST LOVE, share and give to others, pray, find peace, know forgiveness and share mercy in order for us to reach our next life- to go to our REAL HOME! to be with the ones we love that have gone before us.

Picasso once shared, "Art washes from the soul the dust of everyday life!" Perfectly said and I couldn't agree more. I've felt "dusty", tired and heavy hearted. Painting lightens my spirit and renews my soul. I feel plugged into JOY and enthusiastic about life again. It will NEVER be the same, ever, here on the Earth. But, one day I hope to see their smiling faces again. I hope to feel their love and sense their peace everyday for the rest of my life. I will miss them forever, but will try so hard to honor their memories by the life that I lead and the way that Richard and I raise our children. God, please bless us on this journey. I know that we are not alone and that your love will guide us. I am thankful for these last few months of peace and quiet. My "tank" was on empty.

I have felt uplifted and enlightened these last months and am embracing this new chapter in our lives. My art is a genuine reflection of my soul. Thanks to all who have shared their encouragement, support and pearls of wisdom. I am so very grateful for those gifts and your prayers. May your lives be filled with JOY and COLOR.

Colorful Wishes, always, Ann Luty