



accessible
expressions
ohio



Large Print Labels

A decorative graphic consisting of several colored circles (white, purple, blue, green, orange) arranged in a pattern around the text.

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One of the most accessible and diverse art presentations ever displayed at the Cincinnati Art Museum, *Accessible Expressions Ohio* welcomes artists of all ages with disabilities to share their creativity with visitors. Representing Youth, Emerging, and Professional artists, a panel of practicing artists, educators, and arts administrators selected the works on view from 165 submissions. These jurors also selected those works of art to receive an award.

The museum is excited to host this annual celebration of Ohio artists. This opportunity comes to us as part of our long-term partnership with Art Possible Ohio, a statewide nonprofit that “works with artists of all ages who have disabilities to advocate for accessibility and inclusivity, advance careers in the creative sector, build community, and improve the academic achievement of Ohio’s students through arts integration.”

Emily Strange (Columbus)

Professional

“made it thru” Monsters in my head

acrylic, oil pastel, and ink on canvas

“Made it thru is also a part of my monsters in my head series. When I was at the peak of my addiction, I never thought I would make it to age 30. Now I am 38, and eight years sober, and trying to help others like me see that there is hope. Made it thru is my survival, my way of telling myself I made it, and also telling others they can make it through as well!”

E. Andi Fasimpaur (Dayton)

Emerging

Soul Music

mixed media

“Sometimes it seems as if the only way to freely express what is inside of me would be to rip myself open and expose it directly.”

Flint Garrabrant (Columbus)

Professional

Interrupted

mixed media

“As an educator with ADHD, I have found life post-COVID to be a challenge. My mind, while needing structure to function, rebels against it in search of new and interesting things to ‘chase the dopamine.’ I am often building systems and structures to create a consistent pattern to order my life to find success. Most days, there are unnumbered tasks, events, and individuals that force the pattern to break down. The flow is interrupted, the train derailed. Each day, I must find myself again amidst the chaos. I must see through the glitches in the system to order the world around myself. These interruptions weave in and out of my day, creating their own pattern atop mine. When the work is done, something new has been created. Not what was expected, for better or worse, but worth reflecting on. Tomorrow, the process begins anew.”

Joy Mistovich (Boardman)

Emerging

Lines Between Abstraction

digital

“In this piece, *Lines Between Abstraction*, I first began by using one of my dad’s paintings to create this piece. This was also one of my Ohio State class assignments where students were provided instructions to incorporate play and creativity to alter a piece of art. A student gave me instructions to elongate the painting, and I did that digitally in Photoshop where I drew lines in between the major portions of the painting. I also chose to increase the colors within the background of the canvas as well.”

Emily (Sparta)

Professional

Color Diary

watercolor on paper

“Painting *Color Diary* helped me to take care of myself during some especially hard time periods, when I was feeling fragile and having really intense feelings. Each row was a documentation of an aspect of my life that day. Painting this was a way for me to manage bipolar disorder, but I think that most people can relate to it in some way. I believe that naming feelings gives a person some measure of control and can make someone less judgmental towards themselves or even towards others. When I am painting, I become focused on the movement of the brush, and I calm my breathing. I temper my impulse to act out or to get lost in negativity, over-excitement, or runaway anxiety. I enter a more reflective, meditative state while creating something true and still beautiful.”

"Not solely as an artist, but as a person on the autistic spectrum who faces unique challenges on his personal journey.

– Christopher Wallace

Stephanie Hinders (Powell)

Emerging

Get Out

charcoal

“It feels as though I’ve spent the last 20 years trying to break out of a cage—as if the ‘correct’ version of myself is trapped inside with no way out. It’s this desperate feeling of wanting to crawl out of my skin. Unable to quiet the chaos, if just temporarily. This piece is one of the many moments when depression feels like fighting against quicksand, losing a daily battle against what feels like an unbeatable opponent.”

Xavier Sledge (Copley)

Emerging

Anxiety

chalk pastel

Sara Pescosolido (Lima)

Emerging

The Support

acrylic

Jaden Schneider (Cincinnati)

Youth

Jaden Drawing

wire, wood, and marker

“I like art. My favorite materials are markers and paints. I like to draw. Drawing with wire was hard. I love to read about planets, especially Dwarf Planets.”

Caden Ginn (Cincinnati)

Youth

Caden

wire

Christopher Wallace (Columbus)

Emerging

Concrete Jungle Lord

mixed media

“This is a painting dedicated to my late grandfather (Jesse Wallace), who passed before it could be completed. It symbolizes the depth of my emotions, encompassing love, passion, and hardship. Not solely as an artist, but as a person on the autistic spectrum who faces unique challenges on his personal journey.”

**"Let our positive mind join hands together;
I am possible.**

– Scott Mars

Megan Howard (Galloway)

Emerging

Speculative Odyssey

paint markers

“I’m an artist working with glass, chalk pastels, markers, and paint markers. I have lived most of my life with Behcet’s Disease and Autonomic Neuropathy. These conditions cause severe pain and fatigue, making everyday tasks very difficult.

Making art allows me to release my emotions, visually express and distract myself from pain in a cathartic way, to convey what I’m going through, and to have a sense of purpose. I always keep sketchbooks within reach and do most of my artwork from bed. When I’m feeling well enough, my love of glass art motivates me to get out of bed. Creating art is a type of self-care. Without art making, my mental health would be significantly worse.”

Scott Mars (Euclid)

Professional

We are all doing the same dance

acrylic, Finnabair art alchemy paints, three circular canvases

“I believe in myself, I believe in the dream, I believe in creativity. We can put our minds to positive forces and willpower. If you truly believe some way it will come true. Let our positive mind join hands together; I am possible.”

S.L. Ridenour (Westerville)

Emerging

22 Cents

acrylic

Randy E. Jones (Columbus)

Professional

Inside/Outside

digital A.I.

“What do our thoughts, feelings, and memories become for us? Where do they reside? In our subconscious perhaps like a personal, psychological internal room, perhaps. The main character here is deep in her subconscious, while the outer room depicts a wallpaper of trees. The subconscious room is seemingly as unknown and uncertain to her as it is to the viewer. As these thoughts come to the outer room, we channel them through personal and profound symbols into our art. Symbols, memories, expressions, and feelings. Together with the highest level of the artist’s creativity, it becomes therapy and an essential part of mental health and disability recovery.”

Randy Jones received a B.F.A. from the Columbus College of Art & Design in 1982. He has participated in several wonderful galleries in Ohio, and his work was shown by Eovia Inc. at the Apple Computer Expo in Paris, France. He has been a digital artist for 28 years.

Saya Amend (Cincinnati)

Emerging

It's Time to Get Up

oil on bristol board

“A lot of my work is based around mental health and how it feels. This piece depicts my bed on a day when it felt extremely heavy to get up and out. I wanted this to feel like a dark place in my mind because that’s how it feels sometimes.”

Minnie Lucas (Columbus)

Emerging

My Father's Words

photography

“My father was very controlling, verbally, and psychologically abusive to me my whole life. This past year, I have been creating art to help me heal from the trauma and anger he has caused. I wrote down everything he said that affected me and double-exposed it over my face. Everything I wrote down has a story behind it. These stories go through my head on a daily basis. There are times when I have dreams about these events that have happened. I wanted to show sadness, anxiety, frustration, and anger. This is how I have felt in the past and feel when I think of the stories or think of him.”

Lily Kelly (Chillicothe)

Youth

Trapped

watercolor, acrylic, and colored pencil

“The most important thing is to enjoy the moment.”

Luke P. Cooper (Blacklick)

Emerging

Attention Deficit Disorder

acrylic on canvas

“With *Attention Deficit Disorder*, I strive to articulate my experiences that stem from being neurodivergent. Ever since I was 16, I have fallen in love with the artistic process and its ability to resonate with people and blossom into meaningful feelings and conversations. I find painting therapeutic.”

Accessibility Features in *Accessible Expressions Ohio*

This exhibition celebrates diversity, inclusion, and— most importantly—accessibility. So all museum visitors can enjoy the works on view, we have included several tools to make this exhibition more accessible. These include audio descriptions and artist statement recordings of several artworks, Braille and large print labels, and hands-on interactives.

The museum partnered with Clovernook Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired to bring you 3-D prints of three-dimensional artworks in this exhibition. Please enjoy exploring these works with your sense of touch.

The museum has benefited from a long-term partnership with the Clovernook Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired. Clovernook has been integral in the museum's accessibility journey by providing braille resources, audio content, tactile graphics, and 3-D printed objects. Members from the Clovernook team also regularly facilitate museum staff training and participate in Audio Description Touch tour programs. Three members from Clovernook also sit on the museum's Accessibility Community Advisory Council to provide ongoing feedback on institutional efforts like wayfinding and exhibition accessibility.

Sarah Brown (Euclid)

Emerging

Mending

mixed media

“There is a saying that trauma is an inner wound. It can be open and cause re-occurring injury, or it can be hardened like scar tissue and cause numbing.”

Healing Required

Acknowledging my pain

Being self-compassionate

Re-connecting with myself &

Re-writing my narrative

Sheree Green (Westerville)

Emerging

Outer Voice/Inner Thoughts

paper, wire (kinetic sculpture)

“I live with a condition previously known as Multiple Personality Disorder, but with further understanding now called Dissociative Identity Disorder. Throughout my life, art has provided avenues toward recovery and healing, and sharing expressions of my inner world has helped in many ways. Since the day in sixth grade when I saw a photo on the cover of our Weekly Reader magazine of a graceful mobile created by Alexander Calder, I have been enthralled with mobiles—viewing them, creating them, and teaching how to make them. The miracle of achieving perfect balance while maintaining total freedom of movement for every part has held my fascination for almost 60 years. This mobile represents the shifts and changes in the words I speak to the outer world vs. my opposing inner thoughts and feelings. It’s a challenge to keep all in intricate balance throughout my growth and healing, with changes in each area affecting all the others.”

Sandy Hartke (Oregon)

Emerging

Black Jar and Opal Marble (Schrodinger's Cat)

glass

“Tucked away in the darkness of space remains a jar, where, like in the Schrödinger’s Cat experiment, we don’t know if anything is in the box or not. The point is to not disturb the experiment in any way for fear that the experiment would become ruined. It does not matter if something exists within the jar. All we know is nothing at all, and that’s what matters, the mystery of not knowing who we will become, and remembering who we were. The growth of the artist rests on the decision to keep on moving. What we do know is that if with time and patience, with a little effort, the secret will be revealed in due time.”

Heather Moore (Columbus)

Professional

Zorya

duck egg, batik dye, beeswax, vintage egg box

Lisa Merida-Paytes (Cincinnati)

Professional

Vertebrae

porcelain, acrylic, steel wire

“As an artist with disabilities caused by Spinocerebellar Ataxia 5, a rare neurological disease that is progressive, affecting my ability to walk, talk, balance myself, and use fine motor skills, my artwork not only considers the essential structure of skeletal or embryonic animal references but has become a vehicle to interpret transformative changes occurring in my body caused from the progression of the disease. Also, my work researches and brings awareness to people living with disabilities while pushing the boundaries of contemporary art. My work discusses these concepts by focusing on movement’s copious flow, a manner of passage of the living body to one’s gait and gesture. This work drives examination and permits curiosity, uncovering aspects of human nature and wonder of origin. These juxtaposed ideas reveal blurred distinctions between connections and dysfunction exhibited in multimedia multivalent invocations of the body.”

Rick Fravor (Toledo)

Professional

Gilded Tranquility

acrylic on canvas

“*Gilded Tranquility* captures serene moments in nature. As we navigate life’s challenges, this piece serves as a reminder to seek solace and nurture our mental well-being. The golden hues symbolize the enduring beauty in moments of serenity, providing a visual retreat for the soul.”

Rebecca Gonzalez-Bartoli (Columbus)

Emerging

Learning to Breathe

acrylic on canvas

“While on a wellness trip to West Virginia, I found peace and healing that I was lacking in the city. I was struggling to take in a breath there, but once I was out in the open, seeing the mountains and waterfalls, I realized breathing could come easy, too. Nature is my self-care, and breathing in the fresh, calm air has taught me to rest. Healing is natural out here, and I am finally at ease.”

Jacs Fishburne (Columbus)

Professional

Maya Floating

acrylic on canvas

“In case one needs a mental reset, try floating.”

"Art has and continues to be a form of expression, coping, connection, and joy.

- Jennifer Scholl

(Setton) Bock (Dayton)

Emerging

(Re)Growth

acrylic

“Project theme was growth. A period of recovery after a near-death experience in 2017 came to mind. The background is based on 3 Lakes Park in Virginia, where I used to shoot lots of wildlife photography before moving to Ohio and COVID. The figure represents myself and where I had ailments both in the aforementioned 2017 and the latter 2018.”

Jennifer Scholl (Dayton)

Emerging

In Bloom

mixed media with acrylic paint

“Jen Scholl is an artist who grew up and resides in Dayton with her husband, Aaron, and their cat, Ninja. She loves to explore a variety of art mediums, including acrylics, watercolor, pastels, and photography. Art has and continues to be a form of expression, coping, connection, and joy. This helps her to stay present and grateful for all of life’s ‘ordinary’ beautiful moments. In short, art is the voice Jen never had. Creating art is the empowering vehicle for growth and her slowly emerging resilience.”

Ashley Snyder (Sugar Grove)

Emerging

This Earth in Beauty Divine

mixed media

Jesse Fields (Norwalk)

Professional

Sweet Modern

acrylic

Jesse Fields is a prolific acrylic painter of abstract expressionism. Color, mood, and his unique designs are seldom repeated giving his art patrons always something new to behold.

Marianne Philip (Columbus)

Emerging

Bicentennial Park

mixed media

“As a self-taught artist, I let my creativity flow, trying not to have any preconceived ideas about the end result. This allows my results to be raw and unfiltered. I hope that others experience that escape and feel as if they can take their minds to the settings within each piece.

Before the pandemic, I was drawn to darker colors and shadows. My process of creation had always been, and continues to be, a refuge from my past and present struggles with opioid addiction as well as from symptoms of depression, anxiety, and bipolar disorder.

Since the start of the pandemic, I have experienced increased isolation and loneliness. Since spending more time on my own social distancing, my creativity and productivity have increased. I now find myself drawn to brighter colors, in contrast with the bleak reality we are all living in. I wake up at first light and work on art projects, and I continue all day until nightfall!

The pandemic has taught me that I can find my creative sanctuary regardless of what is going on with the world and no matter what tools I have at my disposal.”

Wenn Yockey (Mansfield)

Emerging

Kaleidoscope

acrylic, watercolor, and gesso on canvas

Sam Murray (Grandview Heights)

Emerging

Influx

acrylic on canvas

Aylsie Geier (New Carlisle)

Emerging

Window of Home

batik

“This reminds me of Wet Mountain Valley in Colorado. My mother was raised there, and this reminds me of old places left...”

Sarah Misinec (Jefferson)

Youth

Collision Impending

spray paint and pencil

“Much of space is unknown to us, and therefore, endless possibilities await us.”

Beth Kagel (Columbus)

Emerging

Snails Pace

digital photograph

“This piece is an amalgamation of ICM (Intentional Camera Movement) and my love of colors, textures, and repetition of pattern, and movement. This is a new exploration of my creative process that is pushing me outside of my comfort zone. As an artist who happens to have a disability, it’s crucial for my mental health to continue to challenge my artistic of the every day.”

Devon Brandenburg (Cincinnati)

Youth

Blue Lines and Pink Dots

acrylic

“I like to paint, but I love to draw the most. My favorite color is pink. I like to draw cartoon characters. I used cardboard and paintbrushes to put paint on this painting. I prefer to only use paintbrushes. I added many layers of paint and even added a paint pen. I like this painting because there is so much going on.”

Echiekon Tamu Wenrich-Clegg

(Amherst)

Emerging

Swallowing The World

mixed media collage and acrylic

“consumption is king.”

Matt Swift (Columbus)

Professional

At Water's Edge

pigment print from video on canvas

“This work is part of a print, audio, and video set of 12 works titled Intrinsicity that explores a dystopian fiction as artistic self-help therapy that began during the pandemic.”

At Water's Edge video:



Rita Elswick (Lakewood)

Emerging

“Fire Within”

photograph

“There is a fire within every one of us. The flame inside us points to all the ways we burn with passion, curiosity, and love. We all should nourish the inner flame inside of us by the practice of cultivating and nurturing our inner vitality, passion, and motivation. By taking care of our emotional, mental, and spiritual health and well-being in order to maintain a sense of purpose, enthusiasm, and resilience. By having a fire within us, it strengthens us as individuals. It gives every one of us a purpose. Living as a disabled individual, this fire within us is even more enhanced because of the struggle to survive. My advice is to be that spark within your SOUL. Your purpose awaits YOU. It’s the fire that fuels our passions, drives us towards our goals, and fills our lives with purpose. Be that flame.”

Arlo Wren Esposito McDiarmid

(Columbus)

Youth

Three Ships Time Traveling

acrylic paint on acrylic

“Three starships from different timelines are converging. The ship inside the comet is sucking in compound 805. It is drawing energy from the ships to power the pris-marine hyper weapon that fires its hyper laser into the center of the star, wolf 359. This is making it explode, damaging two of the three starships.”

Dakota Robinson (Napoleon)

Emerging

“Magic of the Seasons”

sculpture

“I feel like every season has something in it that is magical. I tried to express the beauty of the seasons in my miniature diorama using my creativity and skills in mixed media sculpture.”

Kristin Morris (Columbus)

Professional

Harpy

3D mixed media, ceramic, acrylic, glass and resin

“I am a sculptor and mixed media artist primarily working in clay and found objects. I was exposed to ceramics in my early childhood when I made and sold small ceramic animals. I later pursued a studio art degree before attending art school, majoring in illustration. I am inspired by fantasy, folklore, fairytales, and illustration. This ceramic piece is based on the ‘owl/woman harpy’ from folklore. However, it bears more semblance to an owl. ‘She’ has resin fangs and glass eyes, which give her a spooky, otherworldly appearance. The feathers are sculpted up and down her back wings and also cover her claws. The addition of the found objects makes her more ‘realistic.’ Sculpting small details really helps with my severe OCD, and I crave the sense of concentration and order that it brings, which in turn helps my anxiety!”