

SUPPORT THE COLLECTION

MDA welcomes your support of its Art Collection, as well as its programs of research, services and public health education covering more than 40 neuromuscular diseases. The Association's programs are funded almost entirely by individual private contributors. Contributions to MDA, a voluntary non-profit health agency, are tax deductible.

For more information about the MDA Art Collection and sponsorship opportunities, please contact:

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The MDA Art Collection

Transcending Barriers to Creativity

A collection of original works by artists
with muscle diseases



THE MDA ART COLLECTION

The Muscular Dystrophy Association Art Collection was established in 1992 to show that physical disability is no barrier to creativity and to broaden public knowledge of the achievements of individuals with disabilities.

The Collection, on permanent display at MDA national headquarters in Tucson, Ariz., comprises some 400 original works by adults and children who have any of the neuromuscular diseases in MDA's program. Artists in the Collection represent all 50 states and range in age from 2 to 82.

The MDA Art Collection program offers artists with muscle-damaging diseases the opportunity to showcase their considerable talents, actualize themselves and articulate their distinctive visions of living with a disability. The Collection proves that the arts can help build bridges of understanding and acceptance.





Young Artists and MDA – Sponsored Workshops

Children’s art is either individually created and donated, or produced at MDA summer camps and MDA-sponsored art workshops. MDA has organized or sponsored some 50 children’s art workshops in conjunction with fine arts museums and galleries nationwide, including programs at the Art Institute of Chicago, Arizona State University,



Detroit Institute of Art, Indianapolis Children’s Museum, Boston Museum of Fine Arts, Scripps Institute in La Jolla, Calif.,

and the National Museum of American Art, Smithsonian Institution, in Washington, D.C.

Led by professional artists and art educators who volunteer their time, the workshops emphasize the basics of art, including scale, color, texture and composition. To date, some 1,000 children have participated in these educational programs. Workshops are planned on request, usually through any of MDA’s local offices.

ARTISTS IN THE MDA ART COLLECTION

Adult Artists:

Adult artists donate their work to the MDA Art Collection. These artists range from creative amateurs — some of whom only discovered their talents after their neuromuscular disorders were diagnosed — to award-winning professional artists who have works hanging in major museums, galleries and private collections worldwide.

EXHIBITS

Selections from the Collection have been exhibited in major museums, galleries and other locations nationwide. Exhibit sites have included the Dallas Museum of Art; Cork Gallery at Lincoln Center and The Forbes Collection in New York; Tucson Museum of Art; Bishop Museum in Honolulu; Chicago Public Library, Harold Washington Library Center; Fort Lauderdale Museum of Art; Los Angeles Children’s Museum; Blackhawk Museum, Danville, Calif.; Sheldon Art Galleries, St. Louis, Mo.; JFK Center at Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tenn.; Philbrook Museum, Tulsa, Okla.; Capital Children’s Museum, Washington, D.C.; and the Henry Ford Centennial Library in Dearborn, Mich.

THE CULTURE OF DISABILITY

The MDA Art Collection illustrates the emergence of artists with a sense of pride in their experiences, including those as people with disabilities. Their work is an important element in, and vehicle for, the unique culture of disability. These works provide those served by MDA with the opportunity to visually communicate their experiences with neuromuscular disease.



ARRAY OF TALENT

The MDA Art Collection is one of the most varied collections in the nation. The versatility attests to the imagination and talent of the artists. The Collection features works in traditional oils, watercolors, acrylics, pen and ink, crayons, pastels, bronze, ceramics and photography. It also includes unusual artistic media such as computer designs and collages featuring corn, as well as paint applied with wheelchair wheels. Subject matter ranges from self-portraits to landscapes, and still lifes to outer space fantasies.

