The Gallery of Art in Giving

Every art purchase funds innovative childhood cancer research

Spring/Summer 2021 Newsletter

Global Arts Live Teams with Biomed Realty

It is with great pride and excitement that Art in Giving congratulates its client, BioMed Realty, and our board member, Sal Zinno, its Vice President of Development.

On December 21, 2020, BioMed received unanimous approval from the Cambridge City Council to allow the development of a new 16 story lab and office tower in Kendall Square, Cambridge. The building will accommodate over 40,000 SF of public space and a performance space that will be operated by a nonprofit and affiliate of Global Arts Live, *585 Arts*.

The arts venue will be located in the lower levels of the building and include a 300-seat theater, rehearsal studio, and flexible meeting rooms. The project is expected to be completed in 2025.

The March 10th Boston Globe article quotes Sal Zinno saying "We felt it was the right thing to do by the community. I hope people will be able to say it's one of the things that helped Kendall transition from more of a 9-5, business-centric area to a real neighborhood." BioMed Realty has budgeted $40 million for the project, which Zinno said would be "delivered in parallel with the larger building, completely fitted out. The city recently approved rezoning the project site at 585 Third St., currently a gravel lot that houses a gas transfer station. We're going to position it to be a success," he said. "It's important to us that whatever we create is sustainable." A huge and warm congratulations to Sal Zinno and BioMed Realty. We are proud and honored to have them on our Art in Giving team. "I look forward to adorning the building with art from Art in Giving" said Sal Zinno.

Update from our Grant Recipients

When Dana-Farber Cancer Institute opened its doors more than 70 years ago and began treating children with cancer, pediatric leukemia was an aggressive and formidable foe. Today, brain tumors are now the most common cancer and cause of cancer-related death in children less than 15 years of age. They are the most common solid tumor in children – accounting for approximately 25% of all childhood cancers. Diffuse intrinsic pontine gliomas (DIPG) are the most common brainstem tumors in children, representing approximately 75-80% of all pediatric brainstem tumors. The median overall survival for DIPG patients is less than one year – ranging from only 8-11 months from the time of diagnosis. A child diagnosed with DIPG today faces the same prognosis as a child diagnosed decades ago. There is still no effective treatment and no chance of survival. With research funding support from the Rachel Molly Markoff Foundation, Dr. Mariella Filbin, in photo above, and her colleagues aim to change the trajectory for DIPG patients.

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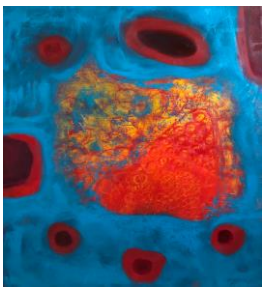
Featured Artist: Adriana G. Prat

I am a visual artist, originally from Argentina, living in Cambridge, MA. I am originally an academically trained scientist with a PhD in Biophysics who has worked locally in academic and biotech settings but, after moving to the USA, I had the chance to experience a more introspective lifestyle that helped me realize my call to become a visual artist.

I produce my visceral paintings in a state akin to meditation, ruminating on an emotion kindled by a personal dilemma such as identity or loss or by global crises such as climate change or the current pandemic. My boldly colored and layered non-representational paintings often depict biomorphic shapes that evoke maps, islands, or the cells of organisms, signaling that I have not abandoned my scientific tendencies. These shapes seem to be adapting to internal or external factors that pollute or alter their nature, symbolic of territory exploitation/exploration or the virus and its spreading nature. Text often plays a vital role in my painting process, manifested as script on the canvas surface itself. I work mainly with oil-based paint but experiment with acrylics to create more fluid textures, and with other mixed media techniques including collage, fabric, zippers. Due to my concern about the environmental impact of consumption even of art materials, I am also currently painting and experimenting with cardboard.

I have exhibited at open studios, galleries, alternative spaces, and museums, in both Argentina and the greater Boston area, and, through a recent art residency, in Iceland. When not at my Cambridge studio or traveling, I enjoy welcoming visitors to a shared studio in the Boston SOWA art district. I am honored to offer artwork via Art in Giving and humbly contribute to the fight against cancer through my creations. Details of paintings can be seen via this link.



Coping as an Artist during the Pandemic

"Over the past 15+ years, I have developed a mailing list, of almost 1000, from the people who have visited my studio for various events. Since I have not opened my studio for events since March 2020, I have been sending out monthly emails to my list, explaining that I would not be participating in First Friday or Second Sunday because of the pandemic. I encouraged them to visit my website or contact me to arrange for a private visit to my studio. As a result, I have been able set up private studio visits and have been successful at continuing to sell my work. Since I have not been at the studio during events, I also have a sign on my door encouraging people to reach out to me by email or to visit my website."

Stephen Silver Link to art page

"In the past, artists who have created fine art had a place to show and sell their art. A great deal of the artist's energy and time is spent on research, planning and the overall creative process but not necessarily used in the marketing arena. We live in the age of social media and that includes how we communicate and how we have to learn how to sell our art. There are multiple platforms for the artist to consider:

- Develop a solo or group website
- Tweet and then tweet more
- Email then email more
- Zoom
- Small showings of art pieces
- Donate a piece for an auction
- Loan art that demonstrates your creative strengths that reflect the artist in you
- Publish articles if possible
- Communicate, communicate and communicate!

Remember, we live in an age of electronic communication, digital visits with families/friends and virtual reality. The pandemic simply pushed us further into that trend which like it or not it is here to stay. Change is truly constant and so goes today's artist. Facebook mailings and showings are essential as are tweets to maintain an artist's profile. My experience has been that an art agent is helpful although no doubt can be expensive."

Irwin Thompson Link to art page

Board Member Fred Kramer's Personal Collection of Art in Giving pieces!

Artists: Audrey Markoff Wilson Pollock Frank Taira Eliane Markoff

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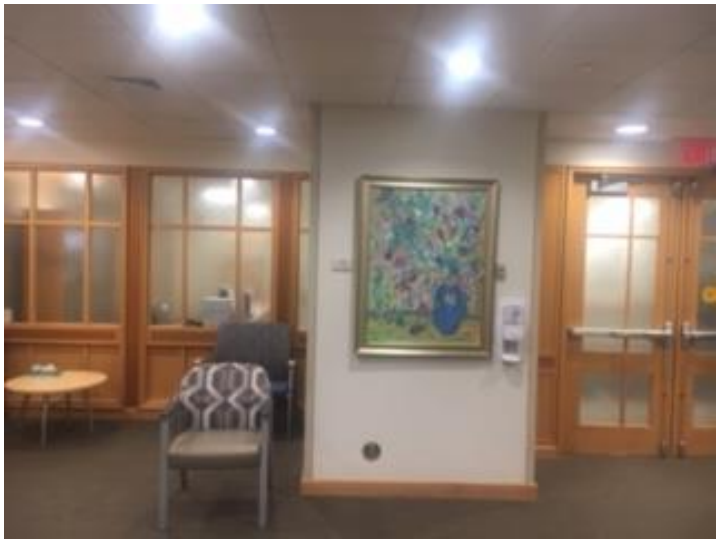
Dr. Filbin is collaborating with Dr. Suzanne Baker at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital to better understand these intractable tumors and the cells that surround them. DIPG is considered immunologically "cold" because it is difficult to stir up an immune response against these tumors. Using tissue samples and animal models, Dr. Filbin is studying immune cells right within these tumors to determine if they can be stimulated as an effective tool for treatments.

One method they are using is single-cell sequencing, which is a process that reveals the code contained in RNA, a messenger that carries the instructions from DNA to create proteins. Unlike standard methods that measure gene expression in large numbers of cells, this approach enables us to isolate and study individual cells. Using single-cell sequencing, they can analyze every cell in each tumor sample, gaining a more granular picture of the dependencies and interactions between tumor cells in their larger context. In the last six months, Dr. Filbin and her lab members have been able to perform experiments on 10 tumor samples, including sequencing the immune cells as well as tumor cells, and are analyzing this rich and first-of-its-kind data set. Preliminary analysis shows a wide range of different immune cell types, and their individual programs, present in DIPG tissue; this has never been described before and offers a new look at the "cold" immune environment of DIPGs.
Further analysis will tell them which "brakes" are put on the immune cells and makes the tumors not respond to and kill tumor cells like they are supposed to do. Once identified, the hope is to block these brakes and unleash the immune system towards killing DIPG cells. This strategy has been successfully applied to other cancers, for example melanoma. This information is valuable to help better design new immunotherapies to effectively treat this devastating brain tumor.

Art in Giving at Newton-Wellesley Hospital



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