

## ***100 Smoketrees***

or

## ***Fuck You, Cowboy Artists of America***

Anna Stump

2022-2024

gouache, acrylic, India ink, marker, colored pencil, ball point pen, enamel, and ink pen  
on Rives BFK paper

When I was a little girl, my grandparents had a vacation house in La Quinta. They loved the desert and began collecting “Western” art from local artists, who became friends. My grandfather especially revered a group called the Cowboy Artists of America, who would go on trail rides and paint together. He told me they had a test to join—painting a smoketree that looked like it was smoldering. But there was a catch... only men could be in the CAA. The lesson I absorbed was that even if I got good enough to capture the elusive smoketree, I would never make it as an artist.

I started this series in Twentynine Palms during the summer of 2022. During that intense heat, smoketrees bloom in the Mojave washes. I was going to scrawl “Fuck You, Cowboy Artists of America” on every piece, but calmer voices than my inner child stopped me.

If you would like to collect one or two smoketrees, I will gladly sign them and add my statement. Or not.

## **Ted Meyer – 118° statement**

Anna and I purchased our house in Twentynine Palms about 2 years before covid hit. At that time I was doing figurative images curating work about illness. I was living in the Moonhuts, a place with only a few tiny windows.

When covid hit we relocated into the desert. A place with a different color scheme and wide expanses. I'm not sure when it happened but I started doing work that reflects the colors I could see from our barn/studio and the freedom that open spaces evokes.

Eventually people started floating over the dunes and flying into the solid blue sky of the Mojave.

## Ted Meyer - Biography

Ted Meyer is a nationally recognized artist, curator and patient advocate who helps patients, students and medical professionals see the positive in the worst life can offer. Ted's decades long project "Scarred for Life: Mono- prints of Human Scars" chronicles the trauma and courage of people who have lived through accidents and health crises.

Ted seeks to improve patient/physician communications and speaks about living as an artist with illness. Telling stories about his own art and the stories behind his scar art collection, he offers insight into living with pain, illness, and disfigurement. Ted has been featured on NPR and in the New York Times, Washington Post, Chicago Tribune, and USA Today. His work has been displayed internationally in museums, hospitals, and galleries. As the Artist in Residence at USC Keck School of Medicine, Ted curates exhibitions of artwork by patients whose subject matter coincides with medical school curriculum. Ted has curated shows by artists challenged by MS, cancer, germ phobias, back pain, and other diseases. He is a Visiting Scholar at the National Museum of Health and Medicine, is a graduate of the Aspen Leadership Seminars, was the 2017 Sterling Visiting Professorship at Stanford University and has been TEDMED mainstage speaker.

Ted's rare niche mixes art, medicine, and stories of healing and survival, drawing from his experience as a lifelong patient of Gaucher Disease (an enzyme deficiency that affects bones and joints). Ted spent much of his childhood in severe pain. His work is influenced by his many hospital stays where he began mixing art and medical supplies. (How can you make something out of I.V. tubes, bandages and pipe cleaners?) Contorted, graphic skeletal images appear in his early paintings reflecting his belief that he would not reach his 30th birthday. He now considers himself normal and healthy; outliving friends, family, and early expectations.

New drug treatments and joint replacements have improved Ted's life and this in turn has changed his artistic direction, shifting from "Ted-centric" images to those that highlight other people's health problems. His "Scarred for Life" series chronicles events that suddenly changed people's lives. During an expansive narrated visual presentation, audiences come to understand how a lifetime of chronic illness impacts an artist's work. Ted's curation turns devastating illnesses into a source of artistic expression, giving voice to people around the world living with rare diseases and disfigurement.

Ted's paintings have been shown around the world, from Europe, to Asia, and throughout the United States. With subject matter ranging from introspective, to down-right humorous, his narrative always looks at human interactions.

Ted is a recent recipient of both a California Creative Core grant and CAC Individual Artist Fellowship, and the National Association of Practice's 2024 Patient Advocacy Award winner.

Ted is also a writer, photographer and illustrator. He has written and illustrated several books. "Shrink Yourself: The Complete do-it-Yourself Book of Freudian Psychoanalysis," "The Butt Hello - And Other Reasons My Cats Drive Me Crazy," "Cats Around the World," "Good Things You Can Learn from A Bad Relationship," "Scarred for Life," and "Woman Napping with Animals." His award-winning documentary, "King of Dinoland," follows outsider artist Abe DeLacerda.