

Artist Statement - Gabby Chapter Two

Gabrielle Clark

October 2018 marks the two-year anniversary of my cousin Gabby's death. Every month since her death brings new memories and conversations with her mother. We talk of Gabby's struggle through childhood leukemia and her many hospital stays throughout her cancer journey. During each stay, Gabby always had her sense of humor and shined with never faltering hope. My drawing is a representation of an actual photo of Gabby peering out of one of the hospital's windows. Whenever she peered out the window, she always talked about her plans for the future and her love of butterflies. Her conversations would bring her out into the world and into the future. The clouds represent the storm that continued throughout her life with the beautiful butterfly symbolizing her strength and perseverance. I now believe that Gabby would ponder her dreams not only to bring herself out of her everyday circumstances, but also to help her mom overcome her emotions as well.

My aunt still struggles with the loss of her daughter. Our whole family releases balloons shaped as butterflies on the anniversary of her death. We celebrate her life and help my aunt heal the wounds that have been left on her heart. I hope one day my aunt can find strength while she peers out a window knowing her daughter is there listening and wishing her on-going peace and happiness.