

## Rebirth- Artist Statement

By: Molly Phelps

I personally made this artwork to express the rebirth that comes from breast cancer survivors and to remind women who have suffered from this illness that they are still the beautiful women they were born as. Having breasts does not define a woman's femininity and fighting and surviving that fight just makes them stronger in the end. The scars they are left with should be reminders they are cancer veterans who fought and won their battle rather than cancer victims. Those who have lost the fight with breast cancer will always be remembered by their loved ones and recognized for their hard battle with cancer that they fought to live through. The flowers that I have painted in this piece symbolizes the beautiful rebirth of a survivor and expresses that though they may have scars and feel like they have lost a part of them, they are still feminine and their womanhood hasn't been broken in anyway because they have lost their breasts. Each flower drawn and painted represents a symbol of strength, hope, and healing which is what any survivor of cancer has to have to live through the pain of fighting. Wrapped around the woman's neck is the pink breast cancer ribbon that is worn as almost like a medal of honor for fighting and surviving. The lotus flowers that are located in the center of where her breasts would be represents rebirth and renewal, the lavender represents peace and healing, and the snowdrop flowers represents hope. The golden background I chose to paint behind her stands for her strength and her achievements from winning the battle of cancer and the olive leaves on her head stands for the peace she feels after her fight and being done with her illness. I made the woman in this picture black and white to allow the bold colors of the flowers and ribbon stand out to help show the symbolism in this painting and that this was dedicated to breast cancer survivors. As a person who has known women who have suffered this great illness I wanted to make a meaningful piece for them and let them know that they have accomplished more than what they recognize in themselves and I hope they see this through my artwork.