

Shattered Yet Strengthened – Artist Statement

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Have you ever met someone that fights their battles with everlasting faith? If not, it truly is inspiring and everyone should have someone in their life that leads by faith. I never realized how strong and relentless my nanny was until I saw her forgo such harsh storms, as she sheltered her wings of faith through a storm known as “colon cancer.” She lives her life fulfilled with the gospel and she continually looks to the Lord for guidance as she stumbles in and out of sickness. Nanny insists on telling me the ways of life, continuously encourages me to be myself, and places a strong emphasis on following my dreams. I wanted to enter this contest and dedicate this art piece to my nanny because I want to illustrate that even though she was frightened when she heard the breaking news about her cancer, she fiercely took hold of the storm that was surrounding her and chose to fight with faith. Within this work of art, I am trying to express the feelings that my nanny as well as my family felt as we watched her become weak physically but strong spiritually. I chose to draw an eye in the center of artwork to place strong emphasis on the fact that my nanny “looked” to God in times of distress. I utilized scribble art within the iris of the eye to illustrate the confusion and anxiety that she was feeling by the overwhelming news that would forever change her life as well as her “view” about life in general. The shattered glass in the falling teardrop symbolizes how broken she felt when her world was turned upside down. The use of dark mediums in the background within this work of art were used to express the storm going on in her life as well as the fierceness that she exhibits every day. The use of the navy blue in the ribbon, ombre background, and teardrop represents colon cancer. I sketched the wings because she uses her faith to life her up and carry her through the storm that she faces every day. The word art that I utilized was to represent that my nanny is “wordy” and I will always remember our talks about life. I chose to title my artwork “Shattered Yet Strengthened” although the terrifying “news” which is represented by the use of newspaper within her wings, shattered her physical life, it strengthened her spiritual life. The navy blue colon cancer ribbon in the center of the eye was to illustrate that she would always “see” this disease as bringing her closer to God.