

Your Neighbor

Painting With Cancer

The illuminating deep hues of Jean Morley

BY ABBY LUBY
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

When you look at Jean Morley's art, you can feel her move, sense her sway seamlessly as she deftly streams brilliant color to paper. Morley's paintings are now being shown at Hayfields Market in North Salem until the end of October.

We last reported on her show in June when Morley was being treated for cancer. Today she undergoes chemo once a week and even though treatments are a big part of her life, Morley masterfully refocuses on her art with an energy she claims adds more days to her life.

"I'm on limited time, and I'm okay with that," she says. "My focus is to be true to myself and not allow anything toxic feed my painting. Cancer has allowed me to do this."

In 2018, Morley was diagnosed with late stage cancer and given two months to live.

Oncologists struggled to pinpoint the cancer and it wasn't until her radiologist son Christopher Morley, studied Jean's X-ray and MRI images and detected the cancer.

"His artistic eye found the cancer," Morley recalls. She attributes his inherited artistic genes that led to a more effective and life-extending treatment.

"In my mother's case, what

caught my eye was actually the absence of something that should have been there, a violated fat plane that normally surrounds our organs," explains Christopher Morley. "I've always enjoyed the interfaces and blurred lines between art and science and years of radiology training ingrain a deep appreciation of subtleties, and the stories that our patients carry with them."

In fact, Christopher Morley's technical knowledge of imaging led him to co-invent a revolutionary medical device shows hard to detect tumors. Known as the SurgicalAR platform, Christopher Morley and neurosurgeon Osamah Choudhry invented the medical visualization tool which uses augmented reality and AI to create exact 3D holographic images of cancer cells or tumors. SurgicalAR has been a giant leap in the surgical world. Anxious to share his knowledge, Morley created an Instagram account (@eyesofmedicine) showcasing the hidden beauty of medical imaging and now has over 20K followers.

Although the SurgicalAR platform was not used to detect Jean Morley's cancer, her son and her two daughters Catherine and Elizabeth have strongly supported her to pursue healthy practices such as yoga, and connecting with spiritual healers. Morley has just received a new jolt of life



PHOTO: ABBY LUBY

Artist Jean Morley beside her current show at Hayfields Market.

from her first grandchild and her son's new baby.

"The creative life force keeps me going," she says. "My cancer scans are steady and instead of waiting to die, I'm living my life."

Her work in the current show reveals a fresh vitality. "Bubbles of Joy" is a buoyant, effervescent infusion of turquoise, cyan, lemony yellows and greens. Explosive swirls of blues erupt in "Fireworks Flowers" and "Beautiful Disruption" offers hot volcanic currents of rich scarlets and

rushes of metallic gold. Crisply outlined blooms in "Blooming Gardens" have weightless twinkly greens and yellows that percolate off the paper.

Morley has extended her signature style by framing her work in handsome wooden trays with a protective laminate and having her art on writing cards.

That Morley's cancer has been classified as NED (Remission or No Evidence of Disease) for the last year, is what she considers the miracle of a strong mental atti-

tude and spiritual strengthening.

"The self-healing potentials available to people are not used nearly enough," she says. "People hear cancer, and they stop living - they worry and just wait to die. But life actually can go on. For me, it's been the expression through my art of these deep emotions that is setting me free."

Morley's show is up until Oct. 31 at Hayfields Market, located at 1 Bloomer Rd. in North Salem.

Read article in the *North Salem News*