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When Art and Cancer Meet, It’s More Than Just a Pretty Picture

*Cancer survivors put their experiences on canvas in traveling exhibit at*

*Huntsman Cancer Institute June 4-8*

May 18, 2007, Salt Lake City—Hospitals and clinics typically don’t lend themselves to artistic display, but from the start, Huntsman Cancer Institute (HCI) at the University of Utah has provided inspiration and hope to cancer patients through art. On Monday, June 4, 2007, HCI’s Wellness Center continues the tradition when it hosts an exhibition of 50 pieces from the 2006 *Lilly Oncology on Canvas* (SM) International Art Competition and Exhibition sponsored by Eli Lilly and Company in partnership with the National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship.

“Art can be an important part of healing,” says Janet Bloch, oncology nurse practitioner and director of HCI’s Wellness Center. “The Wellness Center treats the whole person with comprehensive services during his or her cancer journey, including a fitness program, various support groups, yoga, acupuncture, and community sport activities. Plans are underway for a therapeutic arts and dance program as well. The *Lilly Oncology on Canvas* exhibit is a natural complement to those services, and we are proud to host the exhibition on behalf of our patients.”

The exhibit—free and open to the public—will run through June 8 and is part of an international tour of hospitals, cancer centers, and art galleries. HCI is the only Utah destination this year.
The 50 pieces were chosen from more than 2,000 entries from cancer survivors, their families, friends, healthcare providers, and caregivers representing 43 countries. The paintings will be displayed throughout HCI, with featured exhibits located across from the Wellness Center, on the second floor near the glass walkway that connects HCI with Huntsman Cancer Hospital, and by the Cancer Learning Center, located near the first floor lobby.

Because the pieces represent the emotions, struggles, and successes the entrants may have experienced during cancer treatment, parents are cautioned that a few of the pieces may be too graphic for children.

**Art at Huntsman Cancer Institute**

Huntsman Cancer Hospital, located next to HCI and connected by two glass walkways, has hundreds of original works of art on permanent display. The paintings, photographs, sculptures, and textiles have been donated by the artists or by patrons who purchase and then donate the piece. Many of the works hold special meaning for the artist or donor. The art is displayed in the lobbies, exam rooms, hospital patient rooms, and hallways—anywhere that art can make a difference in a patient’s outlook.

**About Lilly Oncology on Canvas**

*Lilly Oncology on Canvas* is a biennial, international art competition providing anyone affected by cancer the opportunity to express visually and in narrative the life-affirming changes that give that journey meaning. The inaugural competition was conducted in 2004, open to women from around the world diagnosed with cancer, their families and friends, cancer advocates, and health care providers. In 2006, the competition was opened to all cancer patients. More than 2,000 pieces were submitted from 43 countries. The call for entries for the 2008 competition will be announced later this year.

View one of the prize-winning paintings from the 2006 competition: