



**PRESS RELEASE**  
**August 2024**

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**"On the Darkest Night, The Stars Shine Brightest"**  
**Artist Melanie M. Brannan Announces Heartfelt Solo Art Show to Benefit Camp Esperanza**

**Dallas, TX:** As an artist, Melanie M Brannan cannot turn a blind eye to the world around her. Her keen eye for color, stroke, and subject matter now extends to capturing joy, hope and compassion for this exhibition. Melanie's solo show, "Camp Magic," will be showcased in the Forrest and Virginia Green Mezzanine Gallery at the Charles W. Eisemann Center for the Performing Arts from October 31 to December 29, 2024.

"After losing a dear friend to nodular melanoma, I've been deeply moved to paint with a purpose," Melanie shared. "Camp Esperanza embodies pure joy, hope and compassion, making it a cause close to my heart."

Camp Esperanza, hosted at Camp John Marc in Meridian, Texas, offers children battling cancer a week-long summer camp filled with joy, adventure, and a sense of normalcy, all under the care of medical staff and volunteers. The camp's mission is to create a safe, fun environment where these children can experience the best medicine of all—hope.

"The mission of Camp Esperanza has deeply resonated with me," said Melanie. "I've witnessed how the staff fosters an environment of fun and inclusion." The camp provides a comprehensive camp experience, including swimming, boating, fishing, archery, arts and crafts and more!

In the United States, more children succumb to cancer than any other disease—surpassing many other childhood illnesses combined. Camp Esperanza offers these children a week of fun and friendship, helping them build confidence and inspire hope.

The camp was brought to Melanie's attention by her friend Carolyn Campbell, who is President of the Bridewell Foundation and leads the art activities at camp. She has been involved with camp for 25 years and is committed to ensuring these children have the best camp experience possible. Carolyn will also be exhibiting several of her award-winning alcohol ink paintings. Also on exhibit will be paintings that the campers helped create as part of Celebration of

Life services for campers who lost their battle with cancer. These paintings were created in the memory of a child, and includes a personal touch of each camper.

In Spanish, "Esperanza" means hope, and Melanie's goal is to evoke these emotions through her art while raising funds for the organization. Several years ago, Melanie produced a show to raise awareness for her friend Maryann, who was battling melanoma. She created a "Celebration of Friendship," featuring over 20 paintings that chronicled her bond with Maryann Wegloski during her struggle with nodular melanoma. Sadly, Melanie had to say goodbye to her friend just weeks before the show's opening, but she found the experience a healing process.

Melanie's exhibit will feature paintings and assemblage pieces that evoke the joy, hope and compassion the kids experience at camp. Sights, sounds, and textures of the summer camp are represented in her pieces, from Oreos to swimming, and horses to jackrabbits and sunsets to star-studded night skies. Other paintings have the theme of hope featuring doves, friendship bracelets and an unusual rainbow installation.

Camp Esperanza began as the vision of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bridewell. In 1982, they partnered with the Children's Medical Center of Dallas to establish a fund that would provide a summer camp for children undergoing cancer treatment. Mr. Bridewell, a cancer patient himself, laid the foundation for the camp's endowment.

For more information, visit [www.campesperanza.org](http://www.campesperanza.org). Those wishing to contribute can do so at [www.campesperanza.org/getinvolved](http://www.campesperanza.org/getinvolved).

Melanie M. Brannan is an accomplished, versatile painter and educator, offering classes through various institutions, including the Dallas Museum of Art, Parish Episcopal School, the Episcopal School of Dallas, North Haven Gardens and Artisan in Santa Fe. For more details and additional photos, contact Melanie at 214.793.4334 or email [melbrannan1@gmail.com](mailto:melbrannan1@gmail.com). Visit her website at [MelanieMBrannan.com](http://MelanieMBrannan.com).

Images: - High-resolution images are available upon request.