

Andrea Baumann



1. Did you make any art before becoming a member of the BIAWW?

Yes, I had done some art prior to my brain injury and prior to becoming a member. After the brain injury, I found it harder to get started with doing art. I would get easily overwhelmed and not really know where to start. I still enjoyed art and craft projects, but didn't often find the energy to do it.

2. Is it part of your daily life now?

Art is part of my life again now, and I really appreciate it. I enjoy doing arts and crafts on my own and sometimes in a group. What do these programs mean to you?

The art programs have been a great point of entry for me to join in group activities with the BIAWW. It has also encouraged me to make art again on my own. I know that when I attend a BIAWW art program that it will be accessible to people with brain injury and that I will be able to go at my own pace. I also look forward to meeting other members at the in-person events.

4. What medium do you like to work in the best? What was the most memorable program for you?

My favorite medium with the BIAWW art programs is the fused glass. I really enjoy the process and seeing how my piece turns out is always a fun surprise.

5. Can you talk about a specific piece and what it means to you?

I can talk about my fused glass plate that is a beach landscape. I enjoyed using my creativity and trying something new when I made this fused glass piece. I found the environment very supportive and I had a lot of fun putting this together. I met other brain injury survivors and got to chat with them while we worked on our pieces. I also thought the instructor was very helpful and kind. Overall, this was a really good introduction to fused glass work and I appreciate that it was inclusive of people with brain injury.

6. Why do you think these programs are important?

Art programs for brain injury survivors are important because they give us an opportunity to express ourselves creatively through art. They also give me the opportunity to meet other survivors, to connect, and to be part of a community while doing something fun and meaningful. I appreciate these programs, especially that they are either free or inexpensive, and that they are accessible to people with brain injury.