

Priscilla Brown



1. Is it part of your daily life now?

It's something I've incorporated into my daily life. I've started doing some paint by number paintings. I've worked with some mixed media, painted some real eggs and made them into ornaments. Tried my hand lately at some polymer clay, some jewelry and some faux stained glass at the moment.

2. What do these programs mean to you?

These programs have really been a big game changer for me. I cannot really begin to express how important these programs have been to me. Some days I may not say anything when I come in the door, I may not be able to articulate much, I put a lot of focus on what I'm doing. Other days I might give someone else some ideas, I like to observe what's going on and I can just chatter away. We had one program, it was doing a pressed flowers piece, and that was the hardest thing I had ever done. I could not for the life of me get it put together. I deconstructed all the flowers for some reason and I tried to put it together and had to ask for a lot of help. I couldn't even use the tweezers, I couldn't do anything. But on the other hand, doing something like glass cutting, I could cut it, I could arrange it no problem. These kinds of programs are really essential for me, they're my therapy, they're an outlet. And they're a way for me to engage with other people and to connect, and to be able to learn more about people and to just be able to encourage each other.

It feels like a big cocoon. I don't remember who it was but I had followed someone on Instagram and they were talking about the masks on display through a different brain injury association.

And I thought I want to get involved with somewhere that is going to do this and I want to be able to do my own. When I walked in, the first time I was ever in the office and I saw the masks and read about them all, a part of me just broke and I realized this was a place that I should have been for seven years instead of a year and half.

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

Glass by far was the most fun experience I had. I took my mom with me and she was beside herself. She had an undiagnosed brain injury as a young teenager and we never realized it, but she noticed a lot of similarities to what I was going through. She had fallen off the bed and hit her head so hard that she had seen something similar to stars, but she had experienced a lot of things that I've experienced and we noticed the similarities in this. This was my second time working with glass and it was as enjoyable as the first time and the idea formed in my head and sprung to life on the glass. Growing up in Newfoundland we hear all about the ocean and the icebergs and when I looked at the piece of glass we were working on, it just looked like a piece of ice, like a giant ice cube. There were some oval pieces and it reminded me of how the ice looks when the sun hits it at sunset. I made an iceberg with some seals playing around it and it sits proudly on my side table.

4. Can you talk about this specific piece and what it means to you?

My aunt's mother in law, a wonderful Ukrainian lady from Manitoba, had sent us these ornaments when we were younger. They were made from eggshells. She had carved them out and used various things and made them into Christmas tree ornaments. She had given me a painted Ukrainian easter egg, so I had thought I would this year, for family and friends, make some painted Christmas ornaments. I very carefully carved out the side of a raw egg. Many eggs were sacrificed in the making of this. I very tediously carved out the side of an egg, emptied it out, cleaned out the egg, painted the inside and outside of the egg, and added materials and everything else once that was dry. I used some miniature figurines and various other things and made an ornament that would be sealed and could be hung on the christmas tree. I made about two dozen of these, distributed to coworkers and friends at the office rather than christmas cards which usually get torn up and tossed away. It was just something different.

