

Coffee House Story

By Robby Jewers



Lake Ontario Painting, by Robby Jewers

Imagine your life was turned upside down. How was my life turned upside down, you might ask?

I'll tell you: because of a heart attack, I died and came back to life with a brain injury to boot.

My heart attack changed my life in this way – it was like a total flip of everything – it was an upside-down experience. Before I was a body builder and an artist. With recovery, I had to learn everything all over again, just like a little baby.

Following my heart attack and brain injury, I lost my connection to painting, I felt I had lost my creative voice.

They say a picture is worth a thousand words, and so when I couldn't create pictures, I started using words. It was only after I found writing as a creative outlet to tell my stories that I was able to try painting again. When I was ready, picking up a paint brush again was like when one of my best friends who I hadn't seen for ages suddenly comes back in my life. All of a sudden, I had such a new lust for life. Painting is now a need for me, like a drug or air. I can't even imagine a day without painting. If there came a day when someone said I couldn't paint anymore, I'd be lost. An artist has to create.

Who knows what's on the path for me next, because I honestly believe that everything happens for a reason. I now have the ability to articulate what has happened to me and to share my story.

I feel so blessed now to be a painter again too and sharing my creativity with the world. Painting gives me so much pleasure and energy. It's like oxygen for me these days.

I feel like I am honestly the luckiest guy in the whole wide world, with all these great people helping me write and to get back to this craft of painting, I'm so honestly blessed. Amen.

Because of the great people that have helped me to come back to life, now I feel like I'm getting stronger, smarter, and more independent. I'm feeling more joie de vivre with what I'm doing now; that I'm on the path to conquer the world, the sky is the limit.

Sometimes it's even hard to be in the moment because it goes so fast for me, my writing or my painting sessions are over so soon, I feel like I didn't capture all the things that I should have captured, I feel like sometimes I could use a better brain for this guy, but I'm doing the best that I can, and I feel like I'm improving all the time, especially recently, my recent paintings, it's unbelievable and when I stand back, I ask, "did I paint that?" and I guess I did.