

## Aurora Center for Well Being

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### This month's feature: An artist's transformation

Is there an art to healing or is healing an art? We took the opportunity to ask Susan Rowbottom a veteran nurse, now an artist, about her professional transformation.

Life is a journey. Certainly anytime we are bold enough to listen to our inner voice or intuition, we may see our life dream unfold before us. Susan Rowbottom began her career working as a nurse. During her clinical career she cared for a very diverse population of patients suffering from acute and chronic conditions.

A true caregiver, Susan balanced the complexity of a professional career while she and her husband raised 5 daughters. In retrospect, Susan shares with us that she has always felt her creative efforts were expressed by her nursing, and it was not until after her 5th daughter was born that she felt the urge to convey herself through paint.

Art expressed through her work as a healer is now coming forth in another medium on canvas. Creativity has always been part of Susan's life, but the discovery that painting could bring another form of joy into her life was part of her self-journey and discovery.

Susan describes her painting as an act of meditation. Directed by her intuition she feels as though she becomes part of the process, living in the present moment of the art unfolding before her. Her images come in layers, and are painted with the same technique.

Rowbottom states, "There is an intangible, profoundly positive effect of being surrounded by beautiful images."

It seems this artist is contributing to making her local community a beautiful place to live. Many of the pictures Susan paints are of family, friends or the things she sees where she lives and works. You will often find her work displayed in Wauwatosa where she resides. From the perspective self care to world care, we are able to see how Susan brought a new focus of joy to her personal life, and through its expression and eventual access to others has expanded in making an impact on the community in which she lives.

"Everyday I see something, something so beautiful, it almost moves me to tears. My emotions are triggered by natural elements, and I often see images as a dimension beyond what others describe they may see in a scene," shares Susan.

Art has introduced another perspective over the years. Painting has brought her to the realization that it is possible to create a life with a purpose of living to work rather than working to live. Is this another potential secret to life happiness?

The art work provided is entitled "Venus" and is a representation of how the night sky looks in January, with the planet Venus very close to the crescent shaped moon. Rowbottom selected this piece to share with you to illustrate the mysterious color of the night. She is often drawn to the twilight sky for its intense blues and teals.

The casual observer or the untrained eye might miss the view from which the painting occurs. Susan points out that the scene is already elevated, and the viewer must imagine his or her point of origin from which the picture is painted.

If you are the artist, from what perspective would you be painting, from another 2nd story window, or on the branch of a nearby tree? Maybe you're sitting on a grassy knoll peering up to the night sky? Now as you look at the painting and imagine your perspective, notice the limbs of the tree reaching up toward the night sky, intertwined.

This intertwining of wood according to Rowbottom is a symbolic representation of our interconnectedness as humans and our need for each other. There are many things we see in nature that are symbolic to human need. Susan prefers to select a view and then leave it to the viewer to interpret his or her own message. What message does your inner voice suggest?

To view or purchase the work of Susan Rowbottom, [click here](#).



Never underestimate your ability to have an impact on world care. Share what Susan has created with others. Extend her personal and community impact with others and you may have an impact on someone, somewhere in the world.

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