

Unspoken: Survivor Stories

7th Annual International Call for Art

Exhibition Dates: September 1–30, 2026

Submission Period: July 1–August 17, 2026

Link: <https://azartalliance.com/unspoken-survivors-stories-vii-2026/>

About the Exhibition

The 7th Annual *Unspoken: Survivor Stories* exhibition provides a platform for individuals impacted by suicide to share their experiences through art. Presented during National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month, the exhibition seeks to foster connection, understanding, hope, and awareness while reducing the stigma surrounding conversations about suicide and mental health.

Since its inception, *Unspoken: Survivor Stories* has provided a safe and compassionate space for artists to share experiences of loss, resilience, remembrance, and hope. Through visual storytelling, participants help create opportunities for dialogue, understanding, and support within their communities.

This year's exhibition will be presented as a virtual gallery, allowing participants from around the world to share their stories and perspectives.

Venue

A virtual exhibition presented by Arizona Art Alliance, Arizona Artists Guild, and Your Art Your Story, and promoted through partner websites and social media platforms. Be sure to follow us on Facebook and Instagram to see and share the posts.

Eligibility

Open to anyone impacted by suicide, including:

- Survivors of suicide loss
- Survivors of suicide attempts
- Individuals whose lives or work have been affected by suicide
- Mental health professionals, first responders, and others working in the field

This is an international call for art.

Artwork Guidelines

This is a trauma-informed exhibition intended for audiences of all ages. Artwork may address difficult experiences and emotions; however, submissions may not depict, promote, or glorify violence, suicide methods, death, or self-harm.

Entry Fee

\$10 per artist for up to three entries.

To help offset exhibition administration and online platform costs, a modest entry fee has been introduced for the 2026 exhibition.

Artists are encouraged to submit a brief artist statement (150 words maximum) to accompany their work.

Acceptance

This is a non-juried exhibition. Acceptance notifications will not be sent. However, an email with the exhibition link will be sent to each artist.

Curators reserve the right to decline artwork that does not meet exhibition guidelines. If a submitted work is deemed inappropriate for inclusion, the artist will be contacted and invited to provide a substitute piece.

Exhibition Catalog

A digital catalog will accompany the exhibition. Participating artists will be listed by name along with artwork title(s) and sale information, where applicable.

Submission of artwork signifies agreement to these terms.

Sales

Artwork may be offered for sale; NFS (Not For Sale) works are welcome.

Arizona Art Alliance does not take a commission on sales. All sales inquiries and transactions will be handled directly between the artist and buyer.

Copyright & Image Use

Artists retain full copyright to their artwork.

By entering the exhibition, artists grant Arizona Art Alliance permission to use submitted images for promotional and educational purposes related to this exhibition and future *Unspoken: Survivor Stories* exhibitions.

Curators

David L. Bradley
Tess Mosko Scherer
Arizona Art Alliance

Kristel Nielsen
Your Art Your Story

Special Events

As part of *Unspoken: Survivor Stories*, we invite participants to join us for two trauma-informed creative workshops. These workshops provide opportunities for reflection, creative expression, and connection for those impacted by suicide.

Whimsy & Witness – Spirit Doll Making

September 1, 2026 | 6:00–8:00 pm

Location: Arizona Artists Guild

Across cultures, dolls have served as vessels for stories, prayers, protection, and remembrance. Using fabric, wire, fibers, and found objects, participants will create a personal spirit doll through an intuitive process of exploration and meaning-making. Each doll becomes a unique expression of memory, resilience, hope, or personal meaning.

No prior art experience is required. All materials are provided.

Kintsugi: The Art of Repair

September 20, 2026 | 1:00–4:00 pm

Location: Arizona Artists Guild
18411 N 7th Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85023

Inspired by the Japanese practice of kintsugi, this workshop explores the beauty that can emerge through repair. Participants will break and reconstruct a ceramic bowl while incorporating imagery and words that reflect personal experiences, resilience, and transformation. Through this process, participants are invited to consider how life's fractures can become part of a renewed sense of wholeness.

No prior art experience is required. A \$20 materials fee is payable to the instructors on the day of the workshop.

<https://azartalliance.com/creative-journey-workshops-2026-schedule/>