



Beyond Words: Creative Advocacy Ideas

Sasha Adele and Amy Litzinger

Today we will:

- Hear from self advocates about their experience
- Talk to each other about our ideas
- What have we tried before?
- Try different kinds of art
- Think about different issues that are important to us
- Use art in those issues?

Meet the Presenters: Amy

- I use art in my disability advocacy.
- “It’s ok for people to stare at you when you’re the one controlling what’s on stage”.
- I don’t need help when I create art because there are no mistakes.
- If other people are in it with me it’s because we WANT to be there, not because it’s necessary.
- Art changes the world.
- Art is fun!

Meet the Presenters: Sasha

I'm here because I feel like I do something for once with art.

I feel like I can make positive, effective changes to my surroundings and my outlook.

I'm a activist for BLM, LBGT, and disability rights; most of my art centered around those three areas of society

Art is important.



How I Create: Amy

- Watercolor
- Clay
- Theatre
- Dance
- Acrylics
- Colored pencils
- Open mic
- Digital art

How I create: Sasha

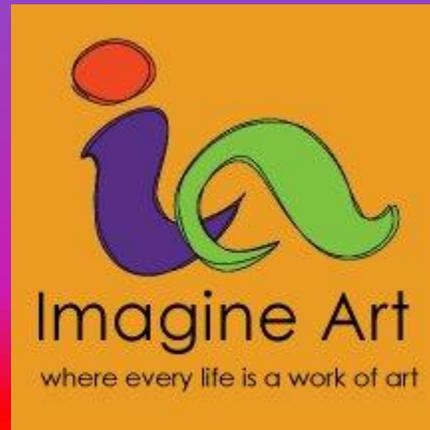
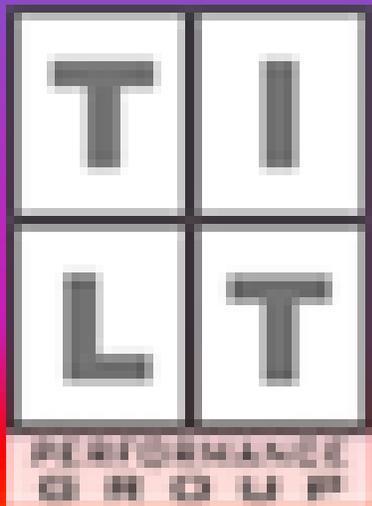
- Acrylic
- Colored pencils
- Oil
- Digital creations
- Clay
- Lighters
- Charcoal
- Blogging

Examples by Amy

Organizations for People with Disabilities



Body Shift
all in dance



The University of Texas at Austin
Informal Classes

VSA

TEXAS

The State Organization
on Arts and Disability

- State-wide
- Multi-medium
- All disabilities
- Often collaborates
- Pictures: Collaboration with Southwestern University's Theatre for Social Justice student organization on writing the script for their "A Mystical Quest To Slay Normalcy" Fall 2007





Body Shift

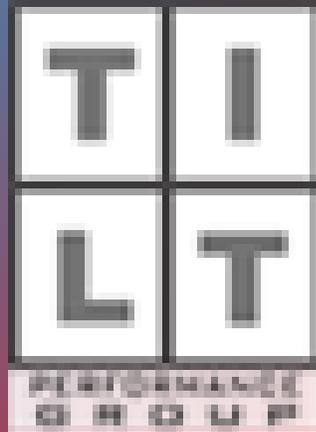
all in dance

- A joint project between VSA Arts Texas and Forklift Danceworks
- Uses the DanceAbility International curriculum, founded by Alito Alessi, with local certified instructors. Dancers with and without disabilities.
- Beginner dance and advanced choreography classes. Beginner classes are held on the second Saturday of each month
- Annual intensive workshops with guest instructors
- Quarterly choreographed and improvised performances in Austin
- Photos: top left: rehearsal for the ADA 25th anniversary exhibit at the Bob Bullock Museum February, 2015. Top right: Body Shift Intensive with Alito Alessi December 8, 2014. Bottom left: "Your Way of Thinking" rehearsal, June 2016. Bottom right: Performance at City Hall, April 2014.



the Color of Money...





- Performance group for people with disabilities
- Professional
- Both original shows and existing shows
- Usually about seeing things from a different angle
- Photos: from the first show, an original musical, "45°".



Music From TILT!





The University of Texas at Austin Informal Classes

- The University has a specific track for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities
- The particular class I took was on acrylic painting
- We studied art history, color mixing, and painting technique
- Our final project was to paint from a photograph. This is my service dog, Karma.
- I also took a jazz class, which included music appreciation, history, and culture
- Original photo credit: Laurie Corrick





Clayways

- Small business pottery studio
- Storefront for artists
- Hand building and wheel
- Sign up for classes or book a party
- They usually put the wheel up on cinderblocks for me
- I use one hand to activate the pedal



marmalade skies

- Multimedia, pick your own project art studio
- Mostly decoupage and mosaic
- They're really patient about getting things out for me
- I make a mess
- They join in my horrible singing of Beatles and musicals



Watercolor

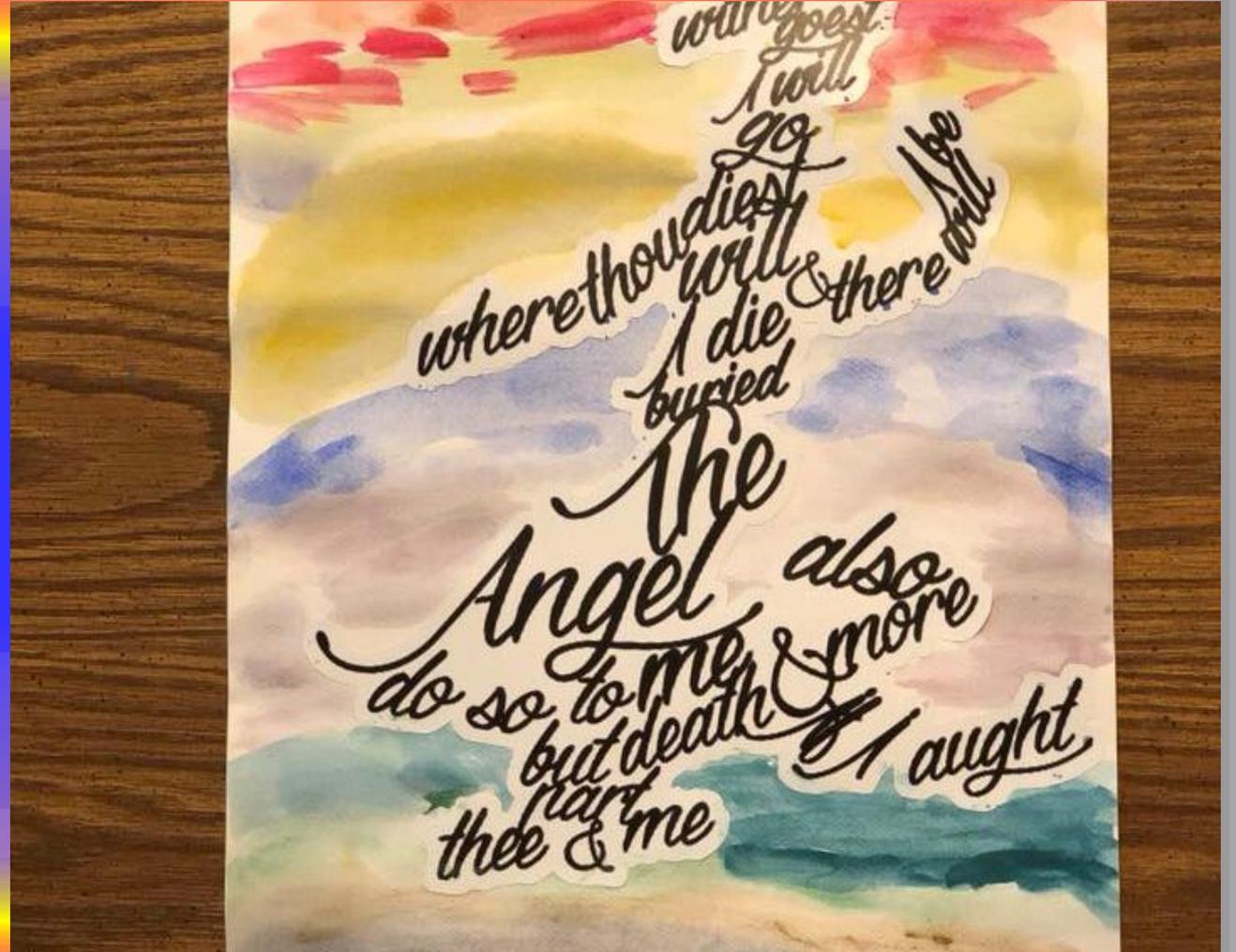


Colored pencils



Mixed media

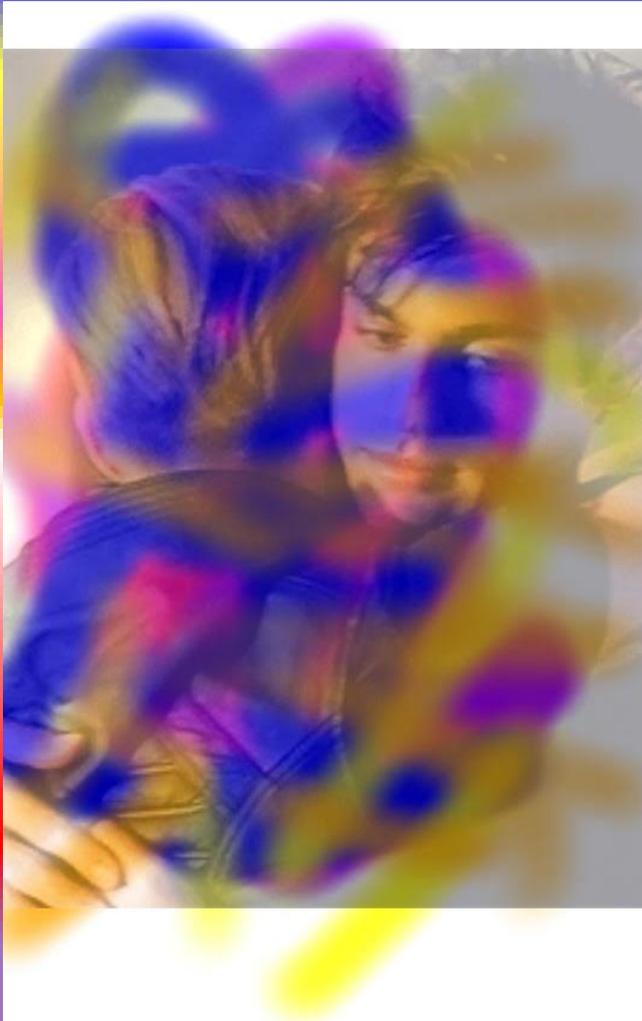
Watercolor and sticker
of book quote



Arcyllics for protest



Digital Art: My New Frontier



- I use technology to create digital art
- Selfies
- Photos
- Gifs from TV shows and movies
- Iphone app called ibisPaintX



My digital art: Communicating without words



- Faster than texting
- Privacy
- In meetings
- Under stress
- Too difficult or painful to speak
- Bigger than words



My digital art: Getting What I Need

- Save and send a lot
- Send more than one
- Creative space to figure out what I need
- Base photo becomes shorthand
- Only disclose to people who need to know
- They know “the code”
- I decide exactly who gets to help and what that means



Digital Art: Advocacy

New medium, same voice

I park at
polling places

Disability tags,
disability vote

Find someone who makes you

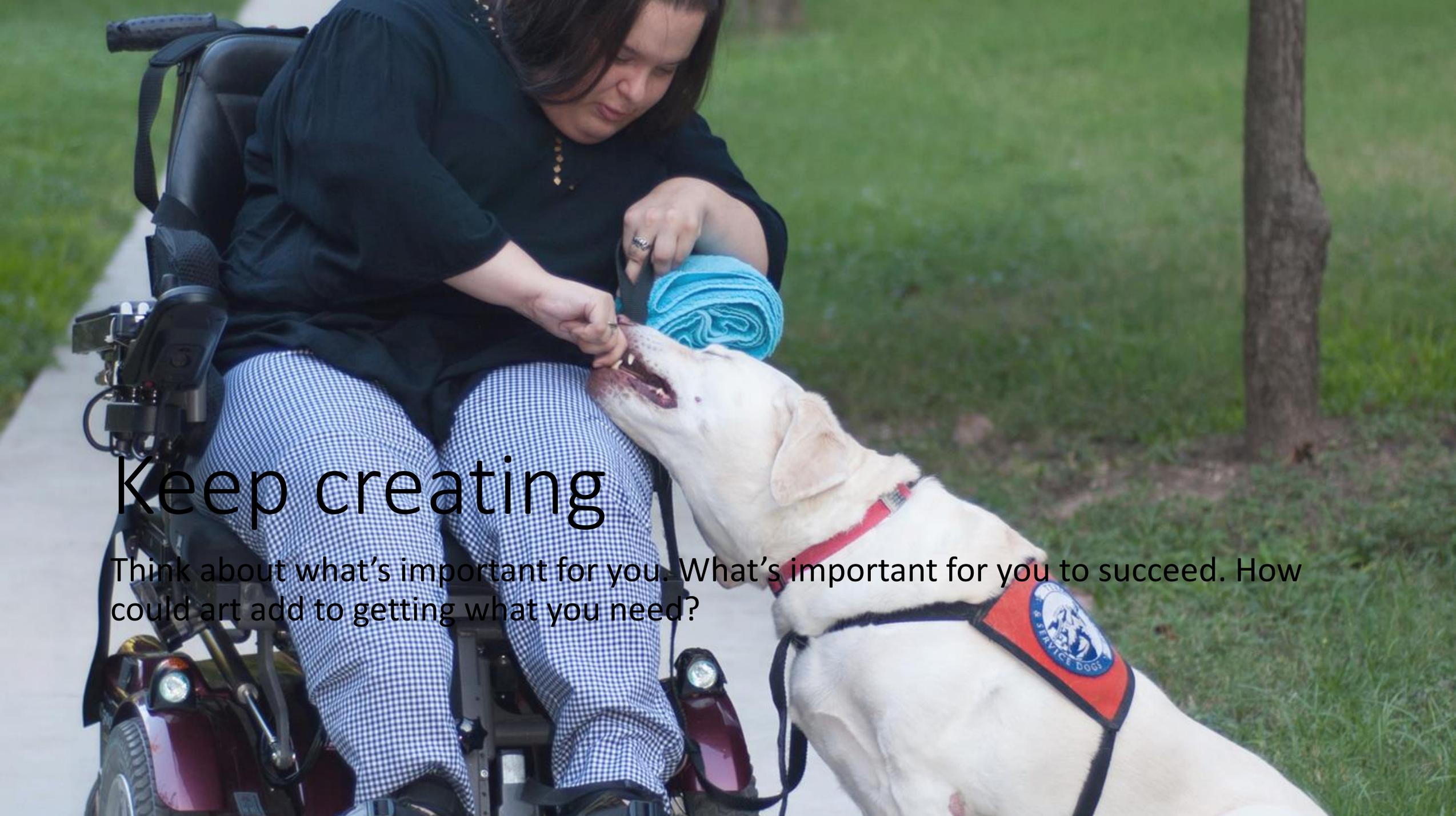
Happy
Spasm

Orange juice

Examples by Sasha

What do you create?

Free time!



Keep creating

Think about what's important for you. What's important for you to succeed. How could art add to getting what you need?

Keep creating

Think about what's important to you. What's important for others to succeed. How could art add to getting what you want?