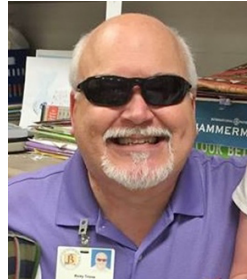




SAIL 2020

Ricky Trione

<https://rickytrioneart.com/>



Ricky Trione is a Christian artist who is physically blind but spiritually sighted. A Fairhope, Alabama native, he enjoyed drawing very realistically in pen and ink until two separate accidents took his vision in both eyes. What could have been career-ending for an artist turned into a path marked with purpose. Ricky now works in a 3D style that includes thick texture paints and molding compounds that allow him to feel his way across the canvas.

Ricky's left eye was permanently damaged in 1993 while serving in the U.S. Army as a captain. Seven years later, a large strip of tire tread from a passing truck on the interstate struck him in the other eye causing permanent blindness. No longer able to do pen and ink, Ricky learned to create art by using textures with the help of a fellow artist. In losing his sight he gained a world where color and texture were more important than perfection, a world where art was fun again.

Perhaps the greatest piece of this story is Ricky's use of his disability to encourage others. The former rehabilitation counselor uses art to inspire and motivate people of all ages and abilities. His greatest joy is visiting schools, hosting art camps, and being a part of events that offer hope and inspiration. His unique lessons demonstrate the joy of being creative and artistic, no matter what obstacles come your way.

Ricky's Inspiration

Ricky's love of art dates back to his early childhood. In 1957 his 17-year-old uncle was paralyzed from the neck down. His grandmother, refusing to let this define her son, purchased art supplies, sent off for mail order art classes, and placed a paintbrush in his mouth so he could paint independently. As a young boy, Ricky watched as his uncle flourished into a notable portrait artist despite his disability.



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Much of his formative years were spent with his uncle. This time period in his life served as a blessing and not only influenced his art, it also led to a calling as a rehab counselor upon discharge from the military. His uncle's passion for art and perseverance despite challenges inspired and shaped Ricky in many ways.

Ricky continues to find inspiration all around him. As a Christian artist, many of his paintings are based on scripture and pay homage to the beauty and wonder of the Gulf Coast where he grew up.

One of his favorite Bible verses continues to be one of his most requested commissioned pieces. Romans 12:2 "*Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.*" Ricky translates this verse on canvas into a message of doing the right thing, even when it's the hard thing.



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