

IDENTITY

EXPLORING VETERAN NARRATIVES THROUGH ART + MUSIC

IDENTITY introduces us to Veterans who have found healing and connection through the arts.



IDENTITY: Exploring Veteran Narratives Through Art + Music is comprised of 21 works spanning mediums from painting and sculpture to metalwork and songs, each piece created by a different Veteran and sharing a portion of their respective stories. Many of the Veterans represented in *IDENTITY* are working through traumatic brain injury or post-traumatic stress and have discovered making art has positively impacted their healing process and increased their connection to the world around them.

The NVMM and CreatiVets will offer four Veteran art classes at the museum during the run of *IDENTITY* as part of the NVMM's resilience and wellness programming. The first session will be a painting class on November 18 led by Shawn Augustson, U.S. Army Veteran, and Central Ohio-based artist. Successive classes include: Collage with Wayne Brezinka on January 13, 2023; Studio Photography with Jason Myers in February and Songwriting/Writers Round Concert in March.

IDENTITY highlights the work of CreatiVets program participants.

CreatiVets is a nonprofit organization that empowers wounded Veterans to heal by sharing their stories and experience through the arts.

Richard Casper co-founded CreatiVets after experiencing firsthand the healing power of art and music. As an infantryman, Richard served in Iraq with the United States Marine Corps where he lost a close friend while on patrol, survived four separate IED attacks, suffered multiple concussions and was ultimately diagnosed with Post-Traumatic Stress and Traumatic Brain Injury.

On his journey to wellness, Casper discovered the therapeutic benefits of art and music, and realized that creative expression was the only thing that really helped him. Richard took ceramics and painting courses and was amazed at how quickly he began to experience a positive impact. Says Casper, “It was like I’d found this loophole—I found a way to talk about it, without talking about it.” The benefits continued when he learned to play guitar and write songs, opening another outlet for creative expression through which he could heal by telling his story.



“Discovering concept-based art and the power of songwriting saved my life. After what it did for me, I knew it could help other Veterans as well, and that’s what I wanted to do through CreatiVets.”

RICHARD CASPER, CREATIVETS CO-FOUNDER

About the National Veterans Memorial and Museum

The National Veterans Memorial and Museum takes visitors on a narrative journey telling individual stories and sharing experiences of Veterans from all military branches throughout history. The National Veterans Memorial and Museum pays tribute to the sacrifices of men and women in service and their families. History is presented through a dynamic, participatory experience with photos, letters and personal effects, multi-media presentations, and interactive exhibits. Together, these elements link our national story of service to the larger context of the world.

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