

Rye Brook artist encourages women's heart health awareness

February 7, 2024 at 10:16 p.m.



White Plains Hospital and the American Heart Association rallied Westchester residents to wear red on Friday, Feb. 2 as a part of the Association's Go Red for Women® National Wear Red Day®. Rye Brook native and current resident Marla Beth Enowitz, Westchester's "happy art" artist, was on site gifting 200 painted heart canvases in appreciation of the wonderful staff at White Plains Hospital and to raise awareness for women's heart health.

Children's museum celebrates reopening with Rye Brook mom's 'Mountain' mural

Wednesday, June 23, 2021 9:13 PM

Westchester Children's Museum will reopen its doors to the public for the first time since the pandemic began on Saturday, June 26. The nonprofit marked the occasion with a special members' opening event featuring "happy art" artist Marla Beth Enowitz, founder of [Marla Beth Designs](#), and her new interactive mural, "Climb Every Mountain."

Families attending the members' opening had the opportunity to become part of Enowitz's latest public art display by permanently leaving their handprints in a rainbow of colors.



Marla Beth Enowitz of Rye Brook in front of her "Climb Every Mountain" mural at the expanded, renovated and newly reopened Westchester Children's Museum at Playland in Rye. Courtesy of Co-Communications

"I was so impressed with Westchester Children's Museum's vibrant, colorful space after collaborating on a rainbow drip art workshop earlier this spring," she explained. "For me, it was important to continue the rainbow theme with 'Climb Every Mountain,' evoking positivity and inclusiveness with bright, cheerful colors. Being June, it was also a perfect opportunity to embrace Pride Month with a message of 'be who you are'—it's universal for people of all ages."

Designed for children in pre-k through middle school and located in the historic landmark Bathhouses on the Boardwalk at Rye Playland, Westchester Children's Museum is filled with interactive exhibits not found anywhere else in this region. Families will return to the reopened Museum, now at 100 percent visitor capacity, to find an expanded, newly renovated space featuring increased opportunities for hands-on learning, STEM activities, expanded MakerSpace stations, and interactive programs to inspire curiosity and critical thinking for toddlers through tweens.

"Everyone who donated to add their handprint to the bright uplifting mural by Marla Beth Enowitz is actually lending a hand in reopening the Westchester Children's Museum and supporting our program," said Leta Wong, acting director. "After more than a year of being closed, we couldn't be happier to reopen and see all of our prior visitors come back and welcome our new members and friends to a larger, even more exciting hands-on museum!"

A Rye Brook mompreneur, Enowitz turned her love of painting from hobby to business once the pandemic hit. Her designs, described as equal parts whimsical and sophisticated, are often inspired by the imaginative minds of children. Enowitz's custom pieces are featured in some of the most beautiful private homes and businesses in the tri-state including The First Bank of Greenwich and The Spa at The J House as well as in large-scale public art displays at The Westchester, the Jefferson Valley Mall and The Palace Theatre.

Westchester Children's Museum will resume regular operating hours (Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. and 1:30-4 p.m. following the general public opening on June 26. To learn more, visit www.discoverwcm.org.



The rainbow lining of quarantine

Rye Brook woman inspired by COVID-19 darkness to turn painting hobby into a business

By Sarah Wolpoff

Wednesday, August 12, 2020 9:15 PM

As an at-home mother, Marla Enowitz tends to get caught up in the frenzied "soccer mom" life.

Every day, her schedule revolves around her 11-year-old son Liam and 13-year-old stepson Seth—getting them to Blind Brook schools and different practices, activities and appointments.

When COVID-19 struck, Enowitz's perfectly organized life became chaos. Being a systematic person makes her a great mom, but then she suddenly had to simultaneously take on the roles of teacher, counselor, cook and nurse, all while coping with a new scary, uncertain world.

More than ever, in the last few months Enowitz felt as though she had lost her identity. But ultimately, "the misery of quarantine" inspired her, giving her time and purpose to take it back while shining a needed light of happiness on herself, her family, her friends and now, her customers.

"There were no more support teams for the kids, no more tutors or therapists. Everything they needed I became. I just didn't have anything for myself anymore," Enowitz explained, while noting it's a feeling many Rye Brook at-home mothers are familiar with. "So, I went back to my roots: painting. Just to get away from being something for everyone else all the time. I lost myself in the paint, it's been the stress reliever that I needed during all of this."

After her new invigorated hobby received positive feedback on social media, she decided to take it a step further to benefit her own personal development and the community. Since then, she's started selling her vivid, sparkly acrylic paintings to brighten up the homes of anyone who needs it during these grim times.

"I just wanted to create a little beauty for a world that turned scary and dark for so many people," Enowitz said. "And I wanted my kids to see me doing something positive. Because I would just sit and worry about school and Zoom and how they wanted to eat mac and cheese three times a day. I didn't want that to be the takeaway for my family. This is going to be a page in history and one day COVID will be over. I just wanted to do something where my family and friends can look back and see something positive about it."

Now 42 years old, Enowitz has been painting her whole life. Born and raised in Rye Brook, some of her most profound childhood memories are collecting her art supplies and easel and setting up camp in front of the television to watch Bob Ross—the famed "happy little trees" artist of the 80s and 90s who taught her how to use art as meditation, who made videos her children look at now and think they're from a century ago, she laughed.

At summer camp, she always took painting lessons. While getting prepared for a career in advertising at Ithaca College, her art classes consistently served as her favorite part of the day. Enowitz then lived in New York City for a few years before returning to Rye Brook, in the BelleFair community, to come full circle in finding a permanent home.



Marla Enowitz stands in her Legendary Circle home on July 20 to showcase the paintings she was inspired to create during the COVID-19 induced quarantine. Sarah Wolpoff|Westmore News

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"I feel very settled and at peace with everything I tried to do with my life. And now I can put that on a canvas," Enowitz said. "And other people can see my personality, which is really trying to always be positive and look for something beautiful."

Enowitz is a put together, planned out and organized person. That's made her a successful at-home mother and also explains why COVID-19 quarantines and the associated lack of order made her so anxious.

It's also why a lot of her work incorporates rainbow drip art. The walls of her Legendary Circle home are covered by her paintings. Most of them are samples, she explained, to show people what she can do. Customers can view the general patterns and request specific colors and a canvas size.

Over the last three months, she's made around 30 pieces. Half of them are currently hanging in her clients' homes. Seven of the commissioned works are large, five-foot canvases, but Enowitz wants to go bigger. Soon, she plans to bring a ladder into her garage turned studio safe haven—her she shed—to work on masterpieces even taller than herself.

Through drip art, Enowitz drops acrylic paints onto the canvas at different angles and sometimes rotates it to make various designs.

"It's very organizing for me, for my brain, to have these straight drips. I really like the linear way it looks," she explained. "And then in the background I do blurred colors and lines and there's just something about it. I find it peaceful to look at. Then you have the little sparkles in there and that's just my little touch of smile."

The therapeutic benefits Enowitz defines with her art is two-dimensional—it's helped her stay sane in this scary world, and she thinks her pieces bring medicinal peace to her customers.

Most of her paintings utilize an array of bright, complimentary colors; it matches her lively personality. Enowitz is always laughing and constantly smiling—though nowadays it's hard to tell behind the face masks, she laughed.

The colors, she explained, are beneficial for the soul by creating an atmosphere of positive vibes.

"People like art, no matter what their personality, and people can appreciate bright colors. It's like color therapy, certain colors give you positive endorphins," she said. "I also add sparkle glitter to every work, it's like my signature thing. It's always going to have some glitter whether you like it or not. But I use acrylic glitter paint, so it'll never fall off."

Enowitz is motivated by helping the community through these dark times with art—to make people smile with beauty. Keeping with the theme, she has other artistic ventures in mind. In the future, she plans to donate pieces for fundraisers, such as giving Congregation KTI some art to auction off. When the COVID-19 chaos dies down, she'd like to donate her time to teach art classes at children's hospitals. Enowitz loves children.

This summer, she's taken great joy in hosting paint parties for kids in the BelleFair community.

"That's been so much fun. There's no camp, no one knows what to do, and it's a socially distanced activity for the neighbors," she said. "They get their kids together, I give them little canvases and easels, and it's the sweetest thing in the world. We all do rainbows."

"I try to spin it with the message of what a rainbow can bring," she added, "that tomorrow is a better day."

At this point, Enowitz said her pieces range from \$200 to \$700; however, she's flexible about prices. To her, the most important thing is making her art affordable to whomever it speaks to.

Check out her work at marlabethdesigns.com or through the marlabeth_designs Instagram page. The artist says anyone interested in her work can contact her there.

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