



Jessica Hope Lawhorn

Artist

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Jessica Lawhorn is a native of Knoxville Tennessee. She was born in the fall of 1976 with cerebral palsy and has lived her entire life in a wheelchair. Her parents and brothers taught her that her life would be full of challenges, but she could accomplish most anything through hard work, dedication, and perseverance.

Jessica took this advice to heart and knew she must have a positive attitude and strong work ethic to live a full and productive life. She learned to play piano and played/recorded music as a member of the JLawhorn Band. She graduated from Bearden High School in 1995 and then attended the University of Tennessee before there were such things as online classes. Jessica lived independently and graduated with a degree in Political Science in 2003.

After a physical setback, she was forced to move into a live-in care facility. Instead of bitterness, Jessica found ways to inspire and give joy to others. She took a painting class, and her instructor said she showed some natural talent. He encouraged her to develop that talent through constant practice and add her own unique perspective. In that same year, her painting won a national contest and was used on the cover on a company-wide Christmas card.

Living with her disability taught Jessica to think “outside the box”. She believed she could turn her hobby into something that reshaped the world by new and distinctive art creations based on her experiences and view of the world.

Jessica is currently living at Westmoreland Health and Rehab where she delights the residents and staff with her drawings and acrylic painting. She specializes in cartoon characters, animals, still life, and nature scenes. Her personal favorite are animal drawings.