

This is a painting I have been working on in the period of social isolation, during COVID-19.

I have loved being able to get my paints out of their box and experiment again. Art has always been an important part of my life yet, in recent years, I have found it a challenge to express myself in the way I had been so freely able to do in the past. Therefore, to have this opportunity to be creative, amid the uncertainty and anxiety, has brought joy to me once again.

Although sometimes I search for meaning in what I paint or try to tell a story through my creative expression, it often fails, or I struggle to do so authentically. In the end I realise that this is God's gift to me, He has given me my unique way of worshipping him and in my creativity he reminds me again that it is in my joy that I draw close to him, for joy is at the heart of God's plan for us.

– Bethany Joy