

To Ron (1943-2024)

By: Tamara A. Arzumanova Corinaldi

(2024, Acrylic on canvas, Four 36X36" panels)

These paintings honor the life, dedication and spirit of Ron Goldschmidt. Ron was a family physician who started his career decades ago at San Francisco General Hospital. He devoted his career to pushing for progress in HIV care. As the founder of the National Clinician Consultation Center, he was adamant that the key to caring for patients had to be holistic.

The color, strokes and incorporated musical notes evoke his dedication to jazz, his vivacious spirit, fortitude and his energetic personality; all of which he applied to his work, his life and his music.

The backdrop of this work lends to Ron's love of gardening. At the bottom and the beginning of our journey, we find ourselves deep in empty soil, lost in the darkness with only thin roots to lead our way. Inspired by Ron's never yielding and hopeful spirit, I chose to include the illusion of thin white roots. The proficient musician, even as a physician, could transform the slow-paced emptiness and the perception of disorder into thriving energized music and life. Each outline of an arm that alludes to roots, transitions to skin and finally into the veining of a thriving plant. These lines are composed of people's names that we have lost to HIV.

As our eyes move up to the center, connected arms and bodies serve as a transition to the story of HIV care in both Ron's ideologies and in the paintings. They illustrate the connectivity that Ron worked to create to provide holistic and human care to people with HIV and their families. Finally, at the top, we see brilliant and lively plants. They reflect the advancements that have been made in HIV care.

Like Oscar Peterson's Hymn to Freedom (Ron's favorite song) the painting starts out slow, the notes like the thin roots are sparse on the page. As the music elevates and human connection is made, we transition to the canopy in which the names of the people we have lost still exist as our yesterday, but more prominently stands out quick, paced, energetic notes from Mr. Peterson's song.

As a final nod to Ron, a turned over mug with coffee pours to enrich the plants. Ron unapologetically watered plants with the remnants of his coffee. It is a suggested method in gardening. Even in these most trivial habits, his quirky energy was at its core driven by knowledge and care.

