



The Gallery of Art in Giving

Every art purchase funds innovative childhood cancer research

Newsletter Fall 2024

Greystar: Our newest real estate client

Somerville Artist **Chie Yasuda** and **Matt DeNoble**, Sr. Director, Life Science Investment Management at Greystar, displaying *Rhythm of Universe*, painting recently purchased.



"**Greystar** is proud to support Art in Giving's mission by acquiring a striking piece from Somerville artist Chie Yasuda for our new lab building, 74 Middlesex Ave. Art in Giving's impactful mission combines beautiful artwork with essential pediatric cancer funding, enabling us to support both a local artist and a meaningful cause connected to the types of R&D activities that will be performed inside the walls of 74M." **Matt DeNoble**



Rythm of Universe
Watercolor
28" x 28"



Supernova
Watercolor on canvas paper
58" x 27"

Featured Artist: Chie Yasuda

Chie Yasuda's work is improvisational, creating a visual mixture of harmonies through a variety of media, including ink, colored pencil, oil pastel and Japanese pigments. Like an improvisation, Yasuda's work is process-oriented. She is driven by her fascination with interactions between water, paint and paper. The result is a kind of whimsical "dialogue" between artist and paint.

The beauty and deep complexity of the world fascinate Yasuda. She seeks to illuminate the beauty of everyday life in her work, first by paying careful attention to how very interesting one can find even the most banal things when one seeks a deeper understanding of their existence. For example, her "Supernova" series is inspired by the question "Where does life begin?" This has led her to research the births and deaths of stars, how "star stuff" allowed life to develop and supernovae as the distant and fundamental origins of the human species. In Yasuda's art, human joy is a jubilation that mirrors its origins in an exploding star. The awareness of the beauty of the cosmos mirrored in the beauty within human beings made of stardust is a common philosophical thread in her Art. Yasuda lives in Somerville, Mass., with her husband and son, where she is active in the local arts society. She regularly participates in the Somerville Open Studios program. In 2015 Yasuda's art peace was selected by City of Boston's special show for Emerging Artists.

[Please view more of Chie Yasuda's paintings here.](#)

Update on progress from 2024/2025 Grant Recipients



Dr. Suzanne J. Baker
St. Jude Children's
Research Hospital



Dr. James Chen
Stanford University
School of Medicine



Dr. Mariella Filbin
Stanford University
School of Medicine

Studying DIPG cell invasion

Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma (DIPG) cells inflict devastating damage, as they not only continuously divide, increasing the size of the tumor, but they also invade into the surrounding healthy brainstem tissue, disrupting normal function. Thanks to the generous support from Art in Giving and the Rachel Molly Markoff Foundation, the Baker lab is exploring model systems to investigate how communication between DIPG tumor cells may drive their ability to invade. They developed model systems in which DIPG tumor cells with different invasive properties infiltrate three dimensional cultures of normal human brain cells. This foundational work sets the stage for next experiments to understand how specific types of long-distance signals between tumor cells contribute to DIPG cell invasion and tumor growth.

Our lab is pursuing small molecules that can specifically inhibit aldehyde dehydrogenase 1A3 (ALDH1A3), an enzyme that plays important roles in glioblastoma and other human cancers. Toward this goal, we have synthesized and tested several fluorogenic substrates for ALDH1A3 and identified one that can be used to rapidly screen chemical libraries for ALDH1A3 inhibitors. We recently screened over 200,000 compounds for inhibitors of ALDH1B1, a related enzyme that promotes colorectal and pancreatic cancer, and we plan to initiate our ALDH1A3 screen by the end of this calendar year. These screens will help us develop ALDH1 isoform-specific antagonists, which will be valuable tools for studying how these enzymes contribute to tumor growth and important first steps toward new cancer therapies.

Therapeutic approaches for pediatric high-grade glioma (pHGG) have proven ineffective, leading to dismal survival rates among affected children. Our study addresses the inadequately understood immune microenvironment of pHGG, and the intercellular communication networks within these tumor cells at single-cell scale. Our research highlights notable age-related differences in the immune landscape of pHGG. A key finding is the identification of SELPLG (CD162) as a novel potential inhibitory immune checkpoint in pHGG. Our work provides a comprehensive resource that delineates myeloid and T cell subpopulations in pHGG at single-cell resolution, offering invaluable insights for the glioma research community.

New art at Café Flour BioMed's Sidney Research Campus

40 Erie Street, East Cambridge

Please click on each image to get information on artist, medium, dimensions and price.



Wonderful front page in Metro West Living- August 2024

Please click on image and scroll down to see the full article by Metro West Living



Next newsletter:

- Mosaic Collaborative Team building Workshop at Biomed Realty
- Update on Research Grants
- Featuring new Art in Giving artist: Greg Burns

Thank you for reading this newsletter

If you have an idea, a lead or willing to get more involved, it will be a pleasure to hear from you

[email](#) or call us at 617 877 4230