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Community News

**Alzheimer's Orange County's Unique Memories in the Making®
Auction Showcases Recollections of People with Dementia Preserved
Through Art**

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HUNTINGTON BEACH...Alzheimer's Orange County's (AlzOC) will hold an online, virtual art exhibit and silent auction featuring the nonprofit's poignant 2021 Memories in the Making® Collection created by program participants. Subject matter for the exhibit's 28 pieces done by Orange County artists including some from Acacia Adult Day Health Services in Garden Grove, ranges from nature, seascapes and desertscaapes to still lifes, pets, wildlife and more.

The online auction is set to start on April 1, 2021. Greeting cards featuring art from the collection are on sale now. Purchases will benefit AlzOC's support services and the signature art program. To view the artwork, and learn more about the artists, visit <https://www.alzoc.org/mim-2021/>

The art program was created to provide a meaningful activity for persons with dementia, while focusing on creative expression as a form of communication. When the disease affects language, art becomes a more suitable form of expression. With the stroke of a paintbrush, participants are able to express themselves, often painting memories from long ago or images that represent their hobbies and passions.

Prior to the challenges of COVID-19, classes were offered at adult day centers and memory care communities. Fortunately, participation can also be a one-on-one activity through an in-home care agency or with loved ones in the comfort and safety of home.

"People with Alzheimer's are often able to reach outside of their dementia to paint a picture that reconnects them with a past memory, demonstrating that the essence of these individuals is still there," said AlzOC CEO and President Jim McAleer.