

Artists' Statements

Bethany L. Little—*Sleeping Beauty*: This photo touched me in a way that most of my work hasn't. I was on a mission to cover a village medical outreach program in Gumbaz, Afghanistan. As I was walking around, I entered a room where this pretty little girl was lying in her mother's arms. The interpreter told me that the girl had had a fever over 103 degrees for three days and they didn't know if she would make it past the evening. I quickly took a picture and moved out of the room so the doctors could take care of her. I have no idea if she recovered; if she did, she would be about three years old now. I still always wonder if she's around and, if so, I would love to meet up with her and take her picture again.

Leslie Lingo

Ms. Vegas Lockedheart: This image was taken near Container Park in Las Vegas where I took my daughter and niece to spend the afternoon. Outside was a structure in the shape of a heart, with padlocks attached to it. A closer look at the heart revealed couples' names and their messages of true love. Coincidentally, I am from Las Vegas and, ironically, my heart is currently locked against any new intimate ties.

Tangled: During a visit to the local aquarium in Baltimore, Maryland, I found myself smiling and thinking that it must be hard for the jellyfish to navigate the waters so entangled with each other.

Red-eye Flight: I took this photo during an overnight flight from Washington DC's Reagan International Airport to Las Vegas, Nevada, to be with my daughter and celebrate her birthday. It interested me that a place could be so empty and isolating but beautiful at the same time.

Kamayay (Bamboo): The platform serves as the floor of a floating bamboo restaurant on a river cruise in the province of Bohol, Philippines. On my first visit back to the Philippines in fourteen long years, I found it fascinating to discover that things like bamboo restaurants exist. The experience taught me to explore more since I wasn't even familiar with the country where I was born.

Heather Swenson—*Costa Rican Watercolor*: The image comes from Montezuma, Costa Rica, where I was on a vacation with my family.