

INTO LIGHT Project,
*a national non-profit organization
dedicated to changing the conversation
about drug addiction and erasing
stigma, is looking for the personal stories
of individuals from the state who have
passed away from a drug overdose/
drug poisoning.*

*These stories become part of a
statewide art exhibition featuring that
person's portrait and narrative.*

Location: Delaware Art Museum, Wilmington DE

Date: June 1, 2023 - Dec 3, 2023

Sponsored by: DE Division of Substance Use and Mental Health with support from Highmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield of DE, in Partnership with DE Division of Substance Use and Mental Health, Office of the Lt. Governor of DE, and the DE Art Museum

For more information contact:

Jane Donovan,

DE State Ambassador, INTO LIGHT Project

302-438-5537

ajdonovan@verizon.net

Theresa Clower,

Founder, INTO LIGHT Project

302-455-9595

tclower@intolightproject.org



About INTO LIGHT Project

Theresa Clower was inspired to create INTO LIGHT Project shortly after the death of her son, Devin Bearden, to an accidental drug overdose in February 2018 in Baltimore.

Having never attempted portraiture work before, she picked up her graphite pencil and began drawing. It was a cathartic experience that allowed her to say goodbye to her son. In so doing, Theresa tapped into an entirely new calling - drawing the faces of others who had lost their lives to drug addiction.

From there, INTO LIGHT Project held the first exhibition in Baltimore in 2019. Since then, exhibits have been held in 7 states, with more booked for 2023.

To find out more about INTO LIGHT Project's founder and Executive Director Theresa Clower, watch this biography



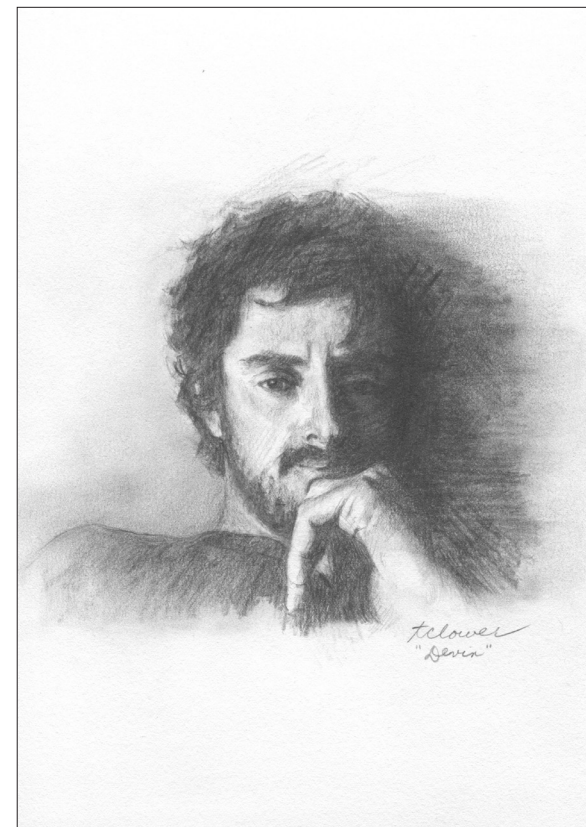
Or visit

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kihkG-z6eFOo>

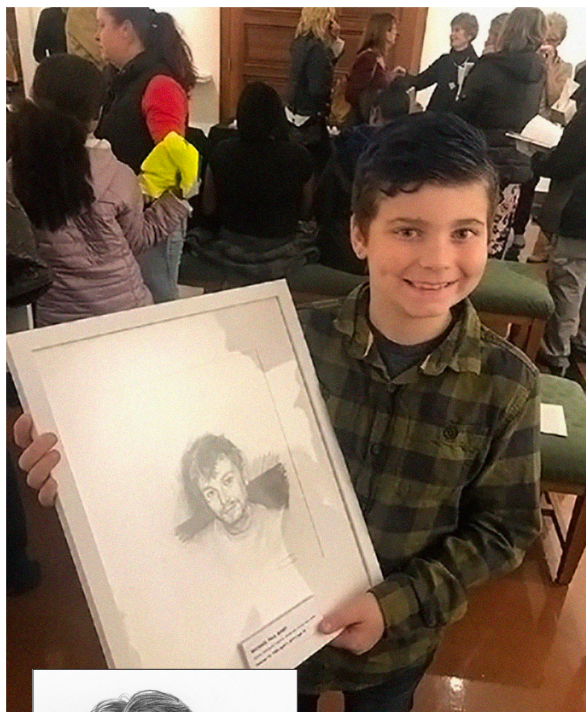
***Thank you for considering a submission
to our project.***

We look forward to working together to change the conversation about drug addiction and erasing the stigma of SUD by helping others to better understand this insidious disease.

REQUEST FOR SUBMISSION



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What is the INTO LIGHT Project?

INTO LIGHT Project creates exhibitions from original portraits and narratives of 41 individuals from the state who have passed away from a drug overdose / drug poisoning. The goal of the project is to change the conversation about drug addiction, educate the public, and alleviate the stigma surrounding drug addiction.

Why it matters

Substance use disorder is a disease, not a moral failing. Those who suffer from it deserve treatment and support, as do their families. Our goal is to change the conversation about the disease of addiction by educating the public and alleviating the stigma surrounding this disease.

The portraits and narratives that comprise the exhibition humanize the disease of addiction and bring awareness to the stigma that those who have it experience.

About the Exhibition

INTO LIGHT Project exhibition is a collection of original graphite portraits of those who have passed away from a drug overdose/drug poisoning, done by an INTO LIGHT Project professional artist. Each portrait is framed and accompanied by a narrative depicting their life as told by their loved ones. The artwork is then gifted to the family at the conclusion of the exhibition. There is no cost to the family to participate.

INTO LIGHT Project partners with museums across the United States, providing an opportunity to view the exhibit of the portraits, and a forum for sharing stories, providing support and offering activities that address the drug epidemic and educate the public. All activities and educational programs are open to the public.

About the Submission Process

Each person who submits their loved one for the project will be asked to send three photos that can be used to produce an original graphite portrait by an INTO LIGHT Project professional artist and to fill out a questionnaire that our narrative writers will use to produce a story about each individual.

There is no charge for participation in the exhibit, though donations to support the project are always welcome. The 41 spaces are available on a first come, first served basis. We especially encourage Indigenous, Black and People of Color to submit as these individuals are often under-represented.

Delaware residents who are interested in submitting an application on behalf of a loved one lost to drug addiction should visit <https://intolight-project.org/DE>, for guidelines.

Please direct any questions to:

Theresa Clower,
Founder and Executive Director
INTO LIGHT Project
intolightproject.org/contact/

