

Title of Artwork: Three Ring Circus

Dimensions: 54" x 48"

Medium: Oil on linen

Statement:

The monumental painting *Three Ring Circus* explores the relationship between empowerment and powerlessness. It discusses the power of the human spirit to overcome adversity. To move lives forward.

The marionette dominates this painting, and is shown as determined and fierce. She seems to have an indomitable will. The Puppeteer quite possibly represents "Fate", which has taken control of the lives of the people who seek the services of Hanger Orthopedic Group. For those people of any gender who have lost limbs – they must face the challenge of wresting control from the hands of Fate. Of recovering responsibility for their own lives - for with responsibility comes freedom.

Sitting soulfully to one side is the bedraggled inner child. When disaster occurs, the human psyche returns us to a period in our lives when we experienced complete powerlessness and dependence: our early childhood. It is within us to either succumb to this helplessness, or to find a way to overcome it. Recognizing this emotional vulnerability is key to understanding the feelings of helplessness that a devastating injury can bring to us.

The marionette grasps the strings with great conviction, and thereby grasps her freedom, staring directly into the eyes of the viewer as if to send the message forth like an arrow. The recovery of control over one's life can be assisted by others, but ultimately it will be determined by one's self. Only we can triumph over "Fate."

The power of choice remains for the patient, who is faced every new morning, with a fork in the road. An opportunity - in the wild and unpredictable Three Ring Circus of life – to grasp their freedom, and move back into power and fulfillment.