

COLLIN ROWLAND

seeding miracles

words | photography
DOUG GEYER | TRACY DOYLE

Metal encasing melted plexiglass.

This inorganic marriage typically wouldn't evoke thoughts of life and light, of growth and God. But when combined with the fertile imagination and hope-filled heart of multimedia artist Collin Rowland, a miraculous transfiguration occurs.

Steel and plastic become seeds.

Through a trinity of entities—Rowland Fine Art, GLOW Gallery, and Rowland Augur, a partnership with engineer and metal master Dan Augur—Rowland is eager to plant as many seeds as he can. Deep talks with Augur about God and life often lead to unexpected visions for art. After one such talk, Rowland sketched an image on a napkin that Augur was immediately drawn to. *Spark of Life*, a layered sculpture of photography, laser-cut metal, and plexiglass, sprang to life.

"The photo for the piece was shot through a skylight with dew all over it. The reason for that is because it had water and light. *Spark of Life* is a metaphor to try and capture this invisible energy, this power, that makes anything grow. What kind of miraculous power, even from a scientific perspective, can make something transform, like a seed to a flower? It's a miracle in itself. My personal mission is to be a seed planter—seeds of life, of hope, light, inspiration. The purpose of all this is to glow, to radiate light and love through the arts, through various media. To plant seeds."

Rowland discovered the healing power of art as a young boy. With a heart filled with pain, he retreated to his room to escape the toxins of a soured homelife. He was able to find some solace in his solitude by redrawing the covers of comic books. It was on a school bus that his gift was first appreciated by classmates as they bounced

down a country road in rural Kentucky. Though conceived in isolation, his art eventually birthed connection—to others, to himself, and ultimately, to the Designer.

"I would close the door and draw for hours and hours. I needed, though I didn't know it at the time, a therapy. The more art that I created, the more it was appreciated, the more important it became to me. In the process of falling in love with art and music and dancing, they became sacred to me. I started thinking, if these paintings and drawings are precious to me, and we're all living, breathing sculptures, then we must mean something to the divine Creator. If he sees me the way I see this drawing . . . then, oh my gosh, we must be loved! That was where my faith journey began. If it wasn't for my painting, I wouldn't believe in God."

Through the years, whether studying art at the University of Cincinnati or touring the country with the band Love Assembly, Rowland was eager to find how best to focus his love for God through the arts. It was his wife, Shelli, who encouraged him to channel his devotion through photography. This artform morphed and melded with other media into dynamic expressions and installations.

"I want to tell a story, for there to be metaphors. For people to dig deep and draw out meaning. I want to awaken, to remind people whose they are."





Novena



Rowland is eager to continue growing as an artist, to stay fresh and open to new ways of telling a message. As he casts his eyes toward the horizon, his hopes are set on sharing his art and his visions with an ever-expanding audience. He and Shelli are also looking forward to new adventures with their children, Zion, Amelie, and Gianna. They are planting seeds in the rich soil of their minds and hearts, celebrating as they grow together.



Captives Set Free

