

# *about the exhibit* **AGONY & ECSTASY**

NEW ART BY NANCY KNIESE, JULY 3 - 29, 2013

“**Agony and Ecstasy**” tells of a journey of intense healing. It is a story of a transcendent human experience, of a soul in deep pain, and finally, a transformation into exquisite freedom.

## *of agony*

Nancy Kniese’s poor health (and subsequently the end to her career as an Air Force Nurse) began with the L- Tryptophan contamination in 1989. The poisoning left extensive damage, creating an autoimmune disease dubbed “Eosinophilia Myalgia Syndrome” or “EMS”. This new man-made disease caused over 1,500 cases of permanent disability and at least 37 deaths. Her prognosis, and her fate, was uncertain.

At just thirty-four, Nancy realized her career was over, and she would not even be able to perform menial tasks. She struggled with her pain and began to look to spiritual teachers, old and new, for comfort.

## *of ecstasy*

Nancy’s path of self-discovery took twenty-three years. Her healing journey was emotional, physical, and spiritual. At the very end of 2012, she began to paint in a state of pure joy and gratitude, and the result was obvious. “I have had an incredible journey,” Nancy said, “and I realize now that everything, no matter how painful, can be embraced and become love.”

The “Agony and Ecstasy” exhibit is curated by fellow artist Tadashi Hayakawa. He mentored Nancy in the concepts of abstract painting. “He was a blessing,” she said. “I hope as a viewer, you will feel this journey with your heart and receive it.”