

## Give Me Wings by Susanne Schuenke

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Recognizing the contribution art has had in the Mayo Clinic environment since the original Mayo Clinic Building was finished in 1914, *Mayo Clinic Proceedings* features some of the numerous works of art displayed throughout the buildings and grounds on Mayo Clinic campuses as interpreted by the author.

**S**usanne Schuenke, PhD, was born in Dusseldorf, Germany. She completed her doctorate in Art History at the University of Cologne in 1986, and moved to the United States in 1991.<sup>1,2</sup>

Surrealistic in style, *Give Me Wings* displays a series of imaginary and whimsical butterflies. Each set of wings extends upward; and mischievous cartoonish eyes peer out from 3 of the 6 lepidopteran characters. Flight seems just a wing-stroke away and is energized by a passing breeze. Or perhaps the creatures are perched after a long drink of nectar from alighting on a nearby flower.



Through further study of the psychology of the mind, Schuenke disclosed that she came to realize the butterflies in *Give Me Wings* were actually representations of herself and her family.<sup>2</sup> Of her process for painting, the artist notes:

First, I draw, then I do a water color and then the oil. The drawing is like singing a melody, and the watercolor is like chamber music with 5 instruments, and the oil painting is a symphony.<sup>2</sup>

Schuenke maintains a studio in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida.<sup>1,2</sup>

*Give Me Wings* is painted on a 14 x 6-foot canvas in oil and gold leaf on Belgian linen,<sup>3</sup> and is located in the lobby of the Davis Building, Mayo Clinic campus, Jacksonville, Florida. It was donated to the clinic by Frank League.

Photo(s) courtesy of Ms Jennifer Serrano Withers, Office of Continuous Accreditation, Licensure, and Compliance, Mayo Clinic, Jacksonville, Florida.

**Margaret R. Wentz**

1. Susanne Schuenke About the Artist. <http://susanneschuenke.com/about/>. Accessed August 18, 2020.
2. Schuenke Susanne. The Ponte Verde Recorder. <https://pontevedrerecorder.com/stories/susanne-schuenke,10273>. Accessed August 18, 2020.
3. Art and Healing: A Self-Guided Tour of Art and Exhibits at Mayo Clinic's Florida Campus. Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research: 2010.