Vanderbilt’s Nobel Laureates: A Visual Tribute to Discovery and Innovation

Six Nobel Laureates are affiliated with Vanderbilt. My goal in this series is to honor each of them with a single piece that represents the theme of an entire lifetime of work. Despite working in different fields, the common thread these people all share is innovation! None of them were afraid to fail, and they ultimately made discoveries or took actions that went far beyond an incremental advancement in a given field. Many of them also bridged the perceived gaps between different fields as part of their work. I hope that my work will cause people to slow down, stop, take a breath and think. Think about the incredible, life-altering effects that many scientists have had on billions of human lives. How easy is it to take for granted clean water or the eradication of polio? The only thing that really advances humanity is innovation, which by definition, requires creativity. Creativity is most often associated with art, and yet how often do we think about the incredible, life-altering effects that many scientists have had on billions of human lives? How easy is it to take for granted clean water or the eradication of polio? The only thing that really advances humanity is innovation, which by definition, requires creativity.

I blend art and science to create visual art intended to honor the many talented scientists, clinicians, leaders and people from all walks of life who work relentlessly to make our world a better place. My art provides all of us the ability to view and appreciate wonders in nature that we may not have noticed before. My work is guided by education and experience spanning modernist architecture, jazz music, philosophy, chemistry, biochemistry and pharmacology. I am influenced by people such as Frank Lloyd Wright, Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, Jackson Pollock, Dale Chihuly, Valentino Rossi and Steve Jobs. I am truly grateful to the Wond’ry for their support for this project and allowing me to share my passion for translating scientific discoveries into works of art.