

IN MAY

I received a call from a patient I had seen two years earlier, when participating in a medical mission in El Salvador. Carmen is a mural artist from Perquin, a poor rural mountain village on the Honduras border, and told me then that she was planning her first visit to the US. A description of this mission was published here in 2010, and included Carmen's surgical procedure and mural artwork on page 50.

She called to ask if I could check her prosthesis during her brief visit to Staunton, Virginia, where Mary Baldwin Women's College sponsored a women's outreach through Walls of Hope. Since 2005, Walls of Hope is an international art and human rights project of education and diplomacy that is now expanding its art and community-based activities beyond El Salvador. To create bridges of

collaboration, public art projects and site-specific interventions are organized, as well as weekly classes to teach the skills of visual arts: painting, drawing, and sculpture. (wallsofhope.org)

Carmen continues to paint beautifully; ironically this year, her patient travel destination was a mere 20 minutes to my office.

Your own practice has unique aspects, even if its all in one area. Consider sharing your experiences, techniques, and ideas by converting them into a journal article. Your creative writings are in many ways similar to Carmen's inspiring masterpieces and can extend well beyond our journal's reach.

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