

Esther Maria Pagan~Professional Bio

I am a Cancer survivor/artist/inspirational performer who uses my own brand of art through community activism and education. I give strength to others sharing my own experiences creatively. Taking my passions and marrying it to my genius, I have found my purpose.

Esther Maria Pagan was born in Youngstown, Ohio but raised in the Bronx. She is a graduate of the Fashion Institute of Technology, Parsons School of Design, and The Swedish Institute.

Ms. Pagan worked in the garment industry in the 1980s. She found her passion to be working with her hands to create and heal. She attended and completed studies at The Swedish Institute, often referred as The Harvard of massage schools, and in 1999 her healing path took her to become a New York State licensed massage therapist.

Her creative side allowed her to develop the skills to be a certified art handler via a grant awarded by the Bronx Council of the Arts that was funded in part by The Municipal Art Society and Lincoln Center.

Her artistic energy was exhibited in the 2010, Just Hats and the fall of 2013 at the Longwood Gallery at Hostos Community College, when she had a autobiographical solo show dedicated to her personal experience having been diagnosed to having breast cancer. She had opted for a bilateral mastectomy on October 17, 2012. The show entitled, My Colors of Cancer, was well reviewed and defined her giving spirit. It is also the subject that documents her experience and will be published along with her blog entrees that explain her ten surgeries that were part of her cancer experience.

Ms. Pagan also has developed her poetic creativity when she was an active member of a poetry collective called, Full Circle Ensemble. Her involvement gave her the opportunity to perform at the National Black Theatre of Harlem in January 2015.

The artistic documentation of her breast cancer in the visual, written, and as performance is a real part of who Ms. Esther Pagan is and strives to be. Her outreach as a survivor has resulted in her speaking to at risk audiences, those experiencing cancer and the families of those women who have had to deal with breast cancer. Her massage skill set has allowed her to literally have hands on with those who need it the most. She is collaborating as a mentor with a group called, "Healing Voices" teaching trauma victims art and poetry as tools for healing. She continues to create and elevate awareness.