

October 6, 2023

Britannica Dictionary definition of ART

art /'ɑːt/ *noun*

plural **arts**

Something that is created with imagination and skill and that is beautiful or that expresses important ideas or feelings

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

This article is about the general concept of art. For the group of creative disciplines, see [The arts](#). For other uses, see [Art \(disambiguation\)](#).

Art is a diverse range of [human activity](#), and resulting product, that involves [creative](#) or [imaginative](#) talent expressive of technical proficiency, [beauty](#), emotional power, or [conceptual ideas](#).^{[1][2][3]}

Meaning of art in English

art noun (EXPRESSION)

The making of objects, images, music, etc. that are beautiful or that express feelings:

The story of the “Ghost Pilot” goes back to March of 1971 at DaNang, South Vietnam. Evan and I were Covey FACs flying OV-10s. Evan was flying the most dangerous mission that Coveys flew, but he had gotten into some trouble so the system “grounded him.” Remember, there was a war going on and there were “Catch 22s” everywhere. Since he was “grounded” he was going to miss his “Fini Flight,” a traditional final flight met with a fire hose wash down and champagne toast to celebrate surviving our tours. My fini flight was scheduled and without much thought, I had Evan come along in my back seat. Upon landing, we got the usual fire hose wash down, but we grabbed the fire hose and washed down everyone, including Lt Col Culliven, the commander. Champagne was popped and nothing was ever said about Evan flying.

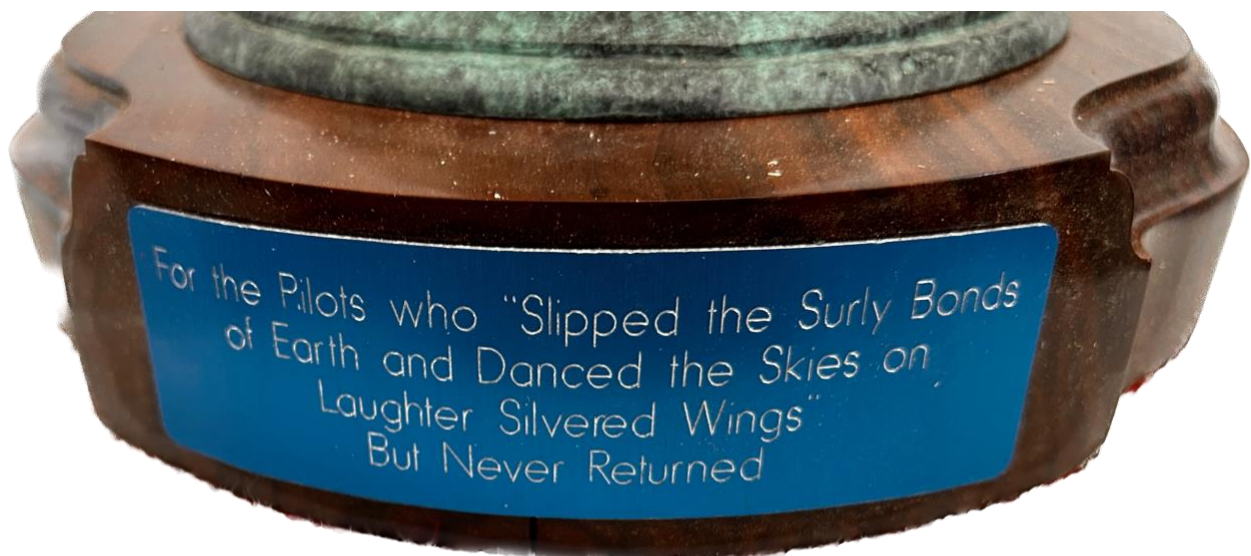
Evan and I remained friends, but not geographically close. I lived in San Antonio for UPT and he was from Laredo so when we returned Stateside it was an easy drive to visit Laredo. Over the years I had a few Texas trips, and Laredo side trips happened a few times. Years later, my wife Judy and I had to deliver some stuff to her son in Dallas, so we combined that with a tour of Texas, and Evan and Mary were a stop. We got to see their beautiful new home and were treated as honored guests. Earlier this year Evan got in touch with an invitation to his 80th Birthday party. I immediately booked the trip and it was an event not to be missed. I quote Evan in describing his instruction to his daughter, who was CIC Party. Evan said he told her that the “Budget was unlimited, but she blew it.” It was quite the party.

While at the party, Evan showed us the original Ghost Pilot sculpture. In August a box arrived from Evan and much to my surprise I now was the possessor of a Ghost Pilot bronze sculpture. The more I looked at it the clearer it became that this had too much meaning to limit it to viewing by only Judy, 8 cats and Zot. Go back to the definitions above and think of the terms “emotional and feelings.” Ghost Pilot has done what great art is supposed to do – stirred emotions and feelings – like nothing in my 80 years. Maybe it is left over from SEA and war, but I think Ghost Pilot helped thaw my frozen feelings.

First thought that went through my head was for those we lost – James “Larry” Hull (my roomie), Rick Meacham (who’s daughter Mindy couldn’t join us tonight), and Jose Ortiz, who I went through training with and only made it six weeks into his tour. The names just kept coming, some from the DaNang Coveys, others from other FAC units, others from my UPT class and finally others that I knew from building the FAC Memorial at the AF Museum with its 266 names including Angela’s dad. The names and faces grew to include those who survived the mythical year, but didn’t survive their return to the world, Skip Franklin, Rick Ottem and Bob Meadows. And the list kept growing with those who physically returned but a part of them didn’t. My friend, Michelle, represents that group. Her dad was a Matine chopper door gunner who mom said was “different” when he came back. She lost the dad she should have had.

Bottom line is that Evan’s “Ghost Pilot” is too important to limit its audience, so tonight we transfer stewardship to the Fort Worth Aviation Museum, where it might continue to stir emotions and promote healing for generations to come. Thank you, Evan for using your God given talent to create this piece that others may find their own meaning in.

Zot Barazzotto
Covey 250 / Rustic 55





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