

"The Healer" by John Francis Peters Emerges From Imagination and a Lifelong Love for Nature

Inspired by Shiprock, NM's spiritual landscape, the artist's painting personifies Earth and nature and asks viewers to consider what it means to heal.

ORLANDO, FL, UNITED STATES, September 15, 2026 / EINPresswire.com/ -- For artist [John Francis Peters](#), his painting "The Healer" came from the realization that sometimes we need to focus on healing ourselves.



"The Healer" by John Francis Peters

The painting, which Peters describes as the personification of Earth and Nature, developed in his mind over several years. Its setting is derived from a drive he once took through the Navajo Nation, and in particular the stunning landscape around Shiprock, New Mexico. It is there that a dramatic geological formation rises high into the desert sky. The Navajo name for Shiprock, Tsé Bit'aí, is often translated as "rock with wings" or "winged rock," reflecting the formation's cultural and spiritual importance within Navajo tradition.

Peters remembers the sky from that drive as particularly powerful. It was an atmosphere that stayed with the artist, and one which he would eventually find an outlet for with "The Healer." He infused the piece with a deep emotional current that was inspired by his own experiences with vulnerability, imagination, and the possibility of relief.

"I wanted to create an image that would speak strongly from Earth and Nature," Peters says. "Saying, 'It's time to heal me.'"

Peters painted the sky in "The Healer" shortly after spending two days at Albert Einstein Hospital while his five-year-old son underwent minor surgery. At the time, Peters was profoundly impacted by seeing the children at the hospital whose medical circumstances meant they would likely never leave.

He began to think about the power of an image from the perspective of someone confined to a bed. He began creating a painting that could invite a viewer into their imagination, offering an inward journey that could provide comfort or healing energy.

“As I developed the painting, I realized that at a deeper subconscious level I was being affected in this creation by one of the most intense experiences in my life,” Peters says.

That formative experience occurred when Peters was 12 years old. On a Saturday afternoon, he and friends went into the woods with shotguns for target practice. An accidental shot struck one of the boys in the upper arm.

The moment altered Peters’ perception of reality and responsibility. As the others ran to seek help, Peters stayed with his injured friend. He drew on first-aid lessons he had learned as a Boy Scout, laying his friend down and applying pressure in an attempt to stop the bleeding. He administered mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and held the injured boy’s arm in a position intended to ease his pain.

Thankfully, his friend survived. That memory, combined with his hospital experience and the enduring presence of the Southwestern landscape, became the emotional foundation for “The Healer.”

The work also fits into Peters’ larger artistic practice of translating encounters with the natural world into images that carry emotional and spiritual resonance. In earlier works, Peters has explored nature as a source of imaginative experience, reflection, and responsibility. His painting “Chanting River,” for example, grew from a stormy experience in a West Virginia cabin, while a separate work inspired by Nevada’s Valley of Fire examined the enduring human need to make meaning through place and art.

A young lady recently left [this comment](#) on John Francis Peters Art Facebook page about The Healer: “I love this more each time I see it. There’s a heartbeat in it that’s unmistakable.” For Peters, the painting asks viewers not to consider the Earth and Nature as simply distant scenery, but as a living, breathing presence worthy of attention and empathy.

For more information about John Francis Peters and “The Healer,” contact Otter PR and Lara Rosales at lara.rosales@otterpr.com.

About John Francis Peters

John Francis Peters is an artist whose work is inspired by nature, memory, imagination, and deeply personal experiences. His paintings often move beyond literal representation to explore the emotional and spiritual dimensions of landscapes, human connection and the inner life. Through his work, Peters invites viewers to slow down, look more closely, and consider the

relationship between the natural world and our capacity for care.

Lara Rosales

Otter PR

+1 800-648-6854

[email us here](#)

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