

From the age of 6 my husband, John, knew he would be an architect. That was what defined him. He boasted of his ability to sit at a drafting table and draw by hand more quickly and more accurately than any CAD operative.

In May of 2004, at the age of 55 and four years after being diagnosed with Frontal Temporal Dementia, it became apparent that he was no longer capable of doing complex engineering or architectural drafting. So I set up a workstation for him at home: I purchased some "fill in the blank" watercolor pictures and his new job was to paint. While sitting in the familiar position as if at a drafting table, he worked meticulously to do his job.



He painted every picture I could find at the craft store, and eventually I began drawing for him on watercolor pads. Each night we would sit together and he would tell me what to draw. It became our special "together time". For some strange reason, as time progressed (or, perhaps more accurately, regressed) he would only allow me to draw fish, the same one with slight variations. Each night we sat together and fifteen fish of our own design materialized. Each day he would paint them with great joy, putting them in the portfolio before they were even dry and running to our neighbors' to show them off. He was so proud of his fish.

When John died, I hosted a party and family and friends came to toast him and talk about the good times. At the end of the evening, each person took a fish, and we had \$500 to donate to AFTD. John would have been proud. I don't know if I did enough for John during his lifetime, but together we did make beautiful pictures.

Kitty Roth has purchased a domain name, <http://www.johnsfish.com/> and plans to place the remaining paintings on sale, donating the proceeds to AFTD. She has more than 400 fish left.