

## The Short Bio (50 Words)

After losing her sight to a stroke in 2016, Nancy Land McCurtin transitioned from sight to insight. Using a unique tactile method of pins and strings, she creates "BlindBrush&Pen" fine art and the *Topsey* book series, proving that vision is found in the heart, not just the eyes.

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## The Standard Bio (150–200 Words)

Nancy Land McCurtin is a Surf City-based fine artist, author, and speaker who redefined her creative world after a life-altering stroke in 2016 left her blind. Refusing to let the darkness silence her voice, Nancy developed "BlindBrush&Pen"—a signature tactile painting style where she uses pins, strings, and heavy textures to "map" her canvases by touch.

Her work is a testament to human resilience, moving beyond traditional boundaries to create art that can be felt as much as seen. As the creator of the *Topsey* turtle book series, Nancy uses her own journey of navigating "deep waters" to teach children and adults alike that challenges are merely opportunities for a new perspective.

Through her studio, she advocates for adaptive art and disability awareness, sharing the message that while she lost her sight, she found a deeper vision. Nancy's work has become a beacon for stroke survivors and art collectors alike, offering a roadmap for turning tragedy into a tactile masterpiece.

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## The Story Narrative (The "Deep Waters" Journey)

### Headline: Sight Lost, Vision Found: The Story of BlindBrush&Pen

For decades, Nancy Land McCurtin saw the world through the lens of a traditional artist. That changed in an instant in 2016. A sudden stroke didn't just threaten her life; it took her eyesight, leaving her in a world of shadows. For many, this would have been the end of a creative career. For Nancy, it was the beginning of an evolution.

The transition was not easy. Navigating the "deep waters" of sudden disability required a complete reinvention of her craft. Nancy began experimenting with tactile boundaries, using pins to mark the edges of her imagination and strings to guide her brush. This became **BlindBrush&Pen**—a method where the canvas is a topography of feeling. She paints not what she sees, but what she knows to be true.

This journey birthed **Topsey**, a resilient sea turtle who, much like Nancy, must learn to navigate a changing world with courage. The *Topsey* series was created to give children the tools Nancy had to build for herself: resilience, adaptability, and the understanding that being different is a superpower.

Today, Nancy works from her sanctuary in North Carolina, creating high-texture fine art that invites the viewer to do more than just look—it invites them to feel. Her mission is simple: to prove that a disability is not a lack of ability, and that true vision is an internal flame that no stroke can extinguish.