



**Noyes**  
Museum of Art  
STOCKTON UNIVERSITY

THE NOYES MUSEUM OF ART OF STOCKTON UNIVERSITY PRESENTS:

# Michael Monaco

June 1963-July 2021

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## Artist Bio

Michael Monaco was born in 1963 and grew up in New Jersey. As a teen, Monaco attended Morris Catholic High School in Denville, NJ where he played on the varsity football team. Monaco was unable to graduate from high school because in 1980, when he was only sixteen years old, he was in a very serious car accident. This accident caused Monaco a very serious spinal cord injury which led to him becoming a quadriplegic. Although this accident was severe, it did not stop him from getting his GED and later attending the County College of Morris in Randolph, NJ. At the County College of Morris, Monaco graduated with an Associate's degree in Business administration. After his accident, he went through extensive Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy. Occupational Therapy is where he learned to sign his name by holding a pencil in his mouth. After mastering to hold a pencil in his mouth, he moved to paintbrushes and has been creating paintings for over twenty-five years.



Michael Monaco Website- Bio

## Artist Bio Continued

Monaco is well known for his amazing art paintings and has been in many exhibitions all over the world. He was part of the Association of Mouth and Foot painting Artists, Worldwide and has been featured on CNBC, The WB, WNBC and WABC TV. His paintings also decorate the lobby of the William H. Keck Spinal Cord Research Center at Rutgers University in New Jersey. In the spring and summer months, Monaco performed mouth-painting demonstrations in parks near his home. He also served on the Board of Directors for Christian Overcomers. This is a nonprofit support group that provides field trips and away-from-home entertainment to people with disabilities. Michael Monaco was also very skilled in computer technology and was able to create his own website for himself, friends, family, and local businesses. Monaco resided in Lincoln Park, New Jersey and where he continued to create his amazing paintings before passing July 2021.



American Artist- MFPA USA





Michael Monaco  
Life is a Bowl of Cherries  
Acrylic Paint  
N/A



Michael Monaco  
Purple Flowers  
Acrylic Paint  
N/A





Michael Monaco  
Heaven Garden  
Acrylic Paint  
N/A

## About the Artist Disability and the impact of artist work

Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) is damage to the spinal cord that results in the loss of function such as mobility or feeling. The effects of SCI can differ and depend on the level of the injury. Spinal Cord injury can be divided into two types of injuries, complete and incomplete. In Michael Monaco's case, he has complete SCI. This means that his cervical spine was injured, there is no function below the level of the injury; no voluntary movement or sensation and is equal both sides of the body resulting in quadriplegia. Unfortunately, there is no cure for Spinal Cord Injuries but there is research still being done and there have been advances within the research.

Michael Monaco is a member of the Mouth and Foot Painters Association. This Association supports and promotes artists with a disability or illness create art work with their mouth or feet instead of their hands. Monaco's work inspires others and he has become a role model for painting with alternative methods. Without knowing Monaco's background, one can characterize his artwork as beautiful landscapes he has recreated.



Michael Monaco Website: Gallery II



## Artist Contact information

Website: [http://www.michaelmonaco.com/contact/contact\\_us.php](http://www.michaelmonaco.com/contact/contact_us.php)

Social Media Links: N/A

Other Links and Resources: <https://vdmfk.com/>

Video Link:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=67yLfNI6nO0&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=67yLfNI6nO0&feature=emb_logo)



Michael Monaco Website: Gallery I



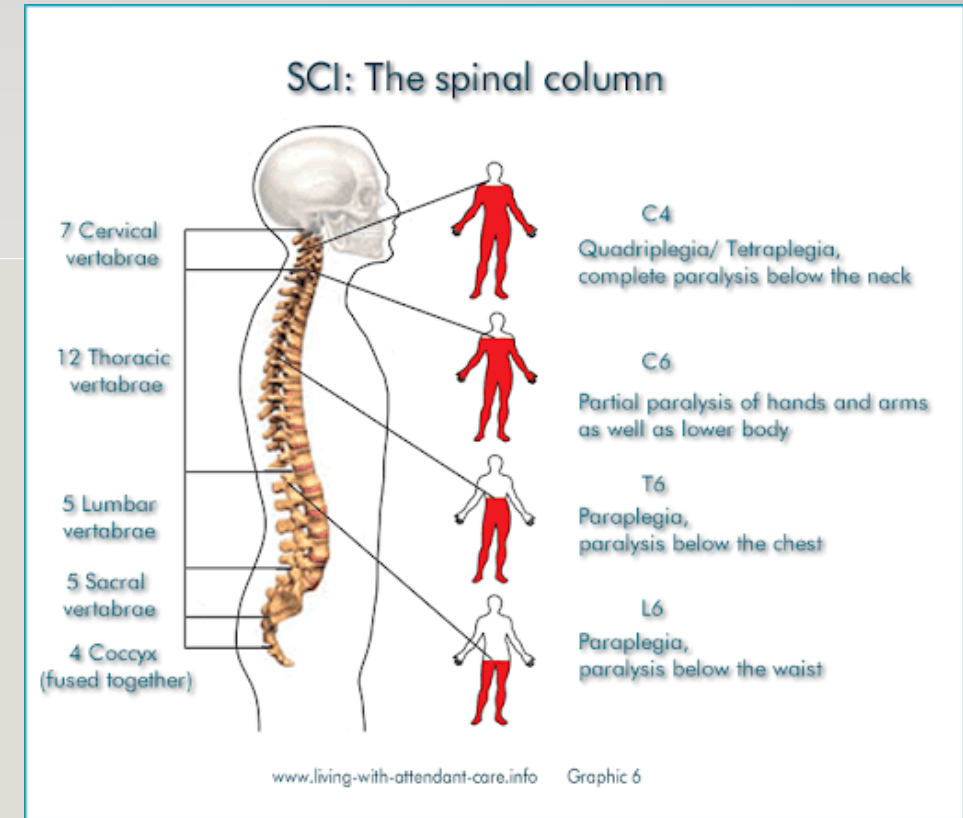
## Resources about the disability

Website: <http://www.michaelmonaco.com/page16/page16.html>

Social Media Links: N/A

Other Links and Resources: <https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/spinal-cord-injury/symptoms-causes/syc-20377890>

Video Link: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dKtBC2Sg\\_Bg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dKtBC2Sg_Bg)



Living with Attended Care/ Spinal Cord Injury

# Student Information

Name: Bethany Hill

Year: Junior

Major: Health Science



Colourbox.com : Seamless Pattern





## Personal Comment About the Artist:

While doing my research about Mr. Monaco, I found out that we live in the same town. On his website was his email and I decided to take a chance in emailing him, in which I was thrilled to get a response back. In December 2020, I was honored with being able to meet him.

Monaco was very humble, nice, and welcoming. I had the chance to asked him a few questions and he was very happy to answer them for me. I found out that Mr. Monaco has had many people meet with him, has had many interviews, and has been featured on different television shows. Mr. Monaco shared with me that he started painting after he found the Association of Mouth and Foot painting artists. He started off painting for his enjoyment, eventually progressing to into his own business. An interesting fact he shared with me was if the canvas was bigger and harder to reach, he would turn the canvas upside down to paint. Mr. Monaco did not just paint canvas's but also creates holiday cards, greeting cards, and many other things that can be found around the world. Mr. Monaco was incredibly talented and he was more than happy to show me more of his work. Before Leaving, Mr. Monaco shared a piece of his art work with me and I was able to keep it.







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