

# *Looking at Art: A Shared Experience*

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Partnership between the Blanton Museum of Art and AGE of Central Texas

Monique O'Neil, Manager of Family and Community Programs

# Find a work of art that speaks to the experience of caregiving

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# CONNECTIONS AT THE BLANTON

PARTNERSHIP WITH AGE OF TEXAS  
EARLY MEMORY LOSS SUPPORT GROUP

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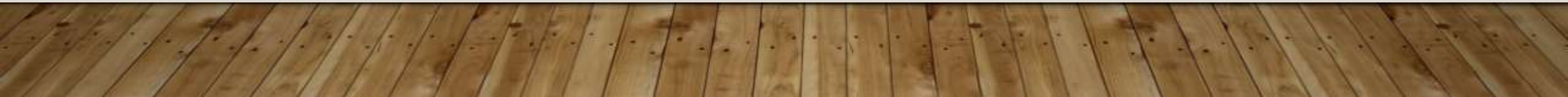


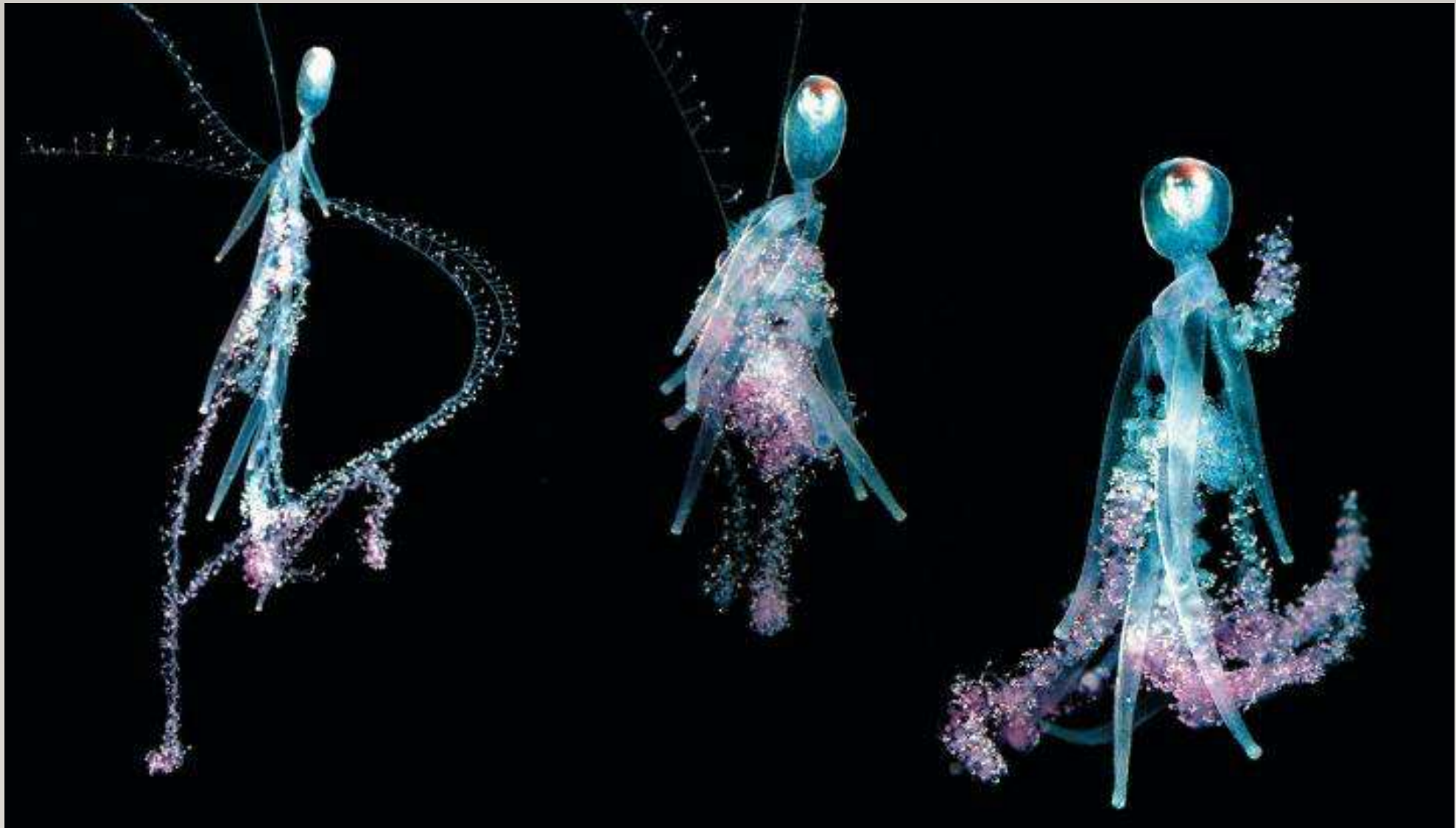
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Siphonophores

# Why is looking at art as a shared experience so meaningful, and for whom?

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Connections at the Blanton has provided a meaningful experience for our clients living with early memory loss and their care partners. Those who attend can feel included – both in the world of art and in our society – where they often either feel excluded or choose to isolate themselves due to embarrassment about their symptoms. Here, older adults with memory loss are accepted for who they are and whatever symptoms they may be experiencing. Their care partners can take a break from their caregiving role and can return to the role of wife, son, daughter, and whole person – enjoying and discussing art as well as connecting with others. In the words of those who attended:

- *“My wife and I experience a closer connection with each other. We both love art!” - from an older adult living with early memory loss; and from his care partner: “This program helped us feel very at home in the Blanton. I feel soothed, expanded, enlivened by the immersion in art - I painting at a time.”*
- *“Nice outing that helped to stretch my horizons of art & discussing art.”*
- *“Great to stay connected with art & museums.”*
- *“I have learned things I have never been exposed to.”*

The Memory Connections Program conduct surveys of all who attend the visits and here are some of their results:

84% Felt their mood improved because of the museum experience;

89% Enjoyed the facilitator;

81% Reported they enjoyed the works of art examined while at the museum;

90% Enjoyed discussing the works of art;

95% Said they were somewhat or very likely to return to the museum;

74% Said this program made the Blanton more accessible to them, as a person living with early memory loss or a care partner

K.C. Lawrence, LMSW

Memory Connections Program Director







Art work created by, *Connections at the Blanton*

**I hope you all enjoyed our time looking at art, talking about art, and making art TOGETHER! – *Thank You***

If you would like to know more information about the museum, or about the *Connections at the Blanton* program, please feel free to contact me!

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