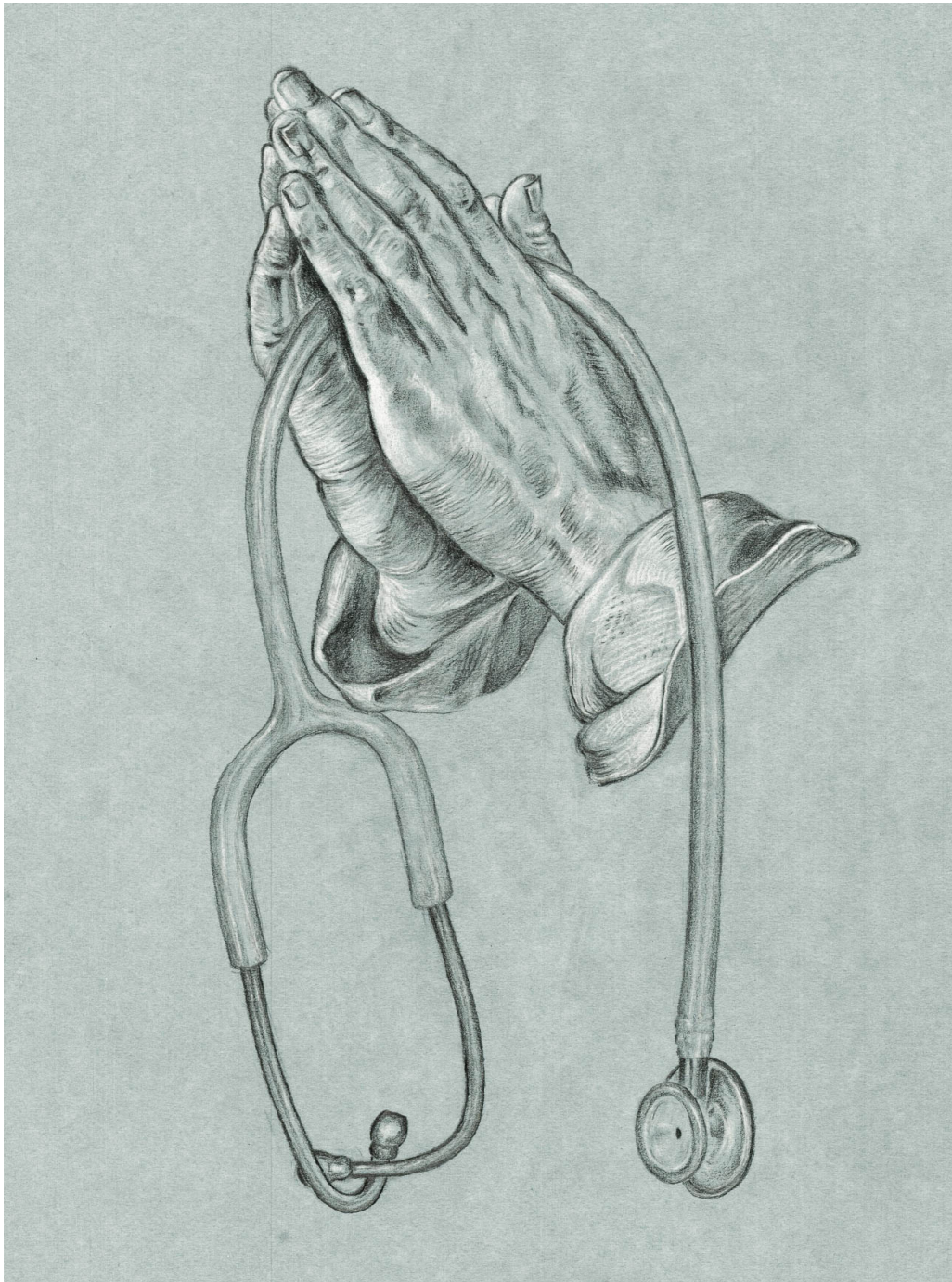




VISUAL ART | SUMMER 2021

Praying Hands

By Laura Wisner



Praying Hands

As an Art History minor in college and a student interested in science and medicine, I've always been intrigued by the intersections between science and the humanities. In late 2019, I came up with the idea for this piece based on Northern Renaissance artist Albrecht Dürer's "Praying Hands," merging my historical and cultural knowledge of art with my reverence for medicine. Not long after drafting this work, the COVID-19 pandemic hit and imbued this piece with more meaning than what it originally meant to me alone. I believe that art absorbs meaning in the context of the world in which it exists, which is time and time again punctuated by civil unrest, natural disasters, and political changes. This piece, in the context of the pandemic, has potential meaning for overburdened healthcare workers, critically ill COVID patients, the general public awaiting novel vaccines as a groundbreaking feat of science, and still many others.

Laura Wisner is a second-year medical student at the University of North Carolina School of Medicine and a contributing artist at *Iris*. She received her B.S. in Clinical Laboratory Science and minor in Art History also from the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill. She is a lifelong visual artist and has been commissioned to create many works over the past 6 years. Her medical and scientific illustrations are also published in multiple issues of *Carolina Scientific*, UNC's premier undergraduate science journal. Learn more about her work on Twitter @laura_wisner, Instagram @wise_aura, *Carolina Scientific* archives <https://www.carolinascientific.org/>, and her budding blog, <https://medschoolandmindfulness.com/home/>.

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