

The Creative Heart

Answering the Challenge of
Cancer through Imagination,
Spirituality, and the Art

Wednesday, October 21, 2026

9:00–10:30 a.m.

1275 York Avenue | Room 107

Featuring multidisciplinary artist **Anne Patterson**
and multi-instrumentalist and vocalist
Michael Mustafa Ulmer.

This series explores how imagination, spirituality, and artistic expression can enrich cancer care, offering creative pathways to meaning, connection, reflection, and well-being. Dedicated to the memory of former MSK Chaplain Carlos D. Cuartas (1957–2020), the series honors his belief in the healing power of creativity and spirituality in the face of cancer. Each program features new artists and creative perspectives.

Complimentary for all participants, the series welcomes patients with cancer, family caregivers, and healthcare professionals working in oncology.



Memorial Sloan Kettering
Cancer Center

Scan here to register, or visit:
msk.org/CreativeHeart



Continuing Education Credits

- AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)[™]
- NYS Psychology Contact Hours
- NYS Social Work Contact Hours
- ANCC Nursing Contact Hours

Questions?

Contact cme@mskcc.org

Featured Artists



Anne Patterson is a Brooklyn-based multidisciplinary artist whose immersive installations have transformed some of the most iconic spaces in the world — from St. John the Divine Cathedral in New York and Grace Cathedral in San Francisco to Lincoln Center, the Kennedy Center, and the Brooklyn Academy of Music. Working across painting, sculpture, and large-scale installation, Patterson explores how our senses overlap to create experiences greater than the sum of their parts — guided by her own synesthesia and a deep, lifelong dialogue between the visual arts and music. Her installations function as what she calls transitional objects: works that use affect to open new spiritual and emotional experiences for those who encounter them. That her work is held in the collections of Memorial Sloan Kettering and New York-Presbyterian Hospital speaks to how art can meet people in moments of vulnerability, uncertainty, and hope — opening something in them that words alone cannot reach.

Michael Mustafa Ulmer is a multi-instrumentalist, vocalist, composer, and teaching artist whose musical journey spans jazz, African percussion, neo-soul, and contemporary dance — rooted in Detroit and fully alive in New York City. Over 25 years, he has performed and recorded alongside legendary artists including James Blood Ulmer, Donald McKayle, and Nana Camille Yarbrough, and brought his artistry to iconic stages including Carnegie Recital Hall, the Kennedy Center, and the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. A member of the world-renowned percussion ensemble Palms Down, founder of the music education platform WoRld ViBrAtIoN STUDIO, and a deeply committed teaching artist in New York City public and private schools, Michael brings to every space a rare combination of technical mastery, cultural depth, and an abiding belief in music as a living, breathing force — one that moves the body, opens the spirit, and reminds us of our shared humanity.



Series Director

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