

Without Utterance:

Tales from the Other Side of Language

Ruth Codier Resch

The catastrophe of losing language is told by a lover of observation willing to dig deep into essential memories of self. There is the tender, sometimes horrifying present, and visions of an uncertain future.

Without Utterance; Tales from the Other Side of Language tells the story intimately, personal human stories of moving through chaos to find life. To speak at all was to locate the fewest words to express anything.

She was a young psychologist and researcher, happy, walking through an airport. Then her life was suddenly sideswiped by a story, instantly losing speech. These are stories for anyone who loves a journey, tales to incite the imagination to attain the unthinkable. It is for those who have clamitous chaotic events and illnesses in their lives who want to see affirmation that life is, in fact, possible, possibilities never dreamed.

What Endorsers Say:

"There are stories and then **there are stories**. Through fresh insight and great persistence Ruth Resch found the place in herself where a deep, sensual vision became the practice to a personal and Universal Way of knowing. This is a crucial modern story which reflects very, very old wisdom. This is a **great** story."

-- Gioia Timpanelli, storyteller and author

"**Without Utterance** is a testimonial to neuroplasticity, incredible perseverance and discovery. This book takes the reader on a sensory journey into a world unknown to most, and on the way, creates a wonderful sense of possibilities and hope."

-- Cornelia Byers, M.D, Psychiatrist, past medical director, Providence
Medford Medical Center Inpatient Rehabilitation Unit

"There is probably nothing more inspiring than to witness a person transforming what appears to be a curse and turning it into a blessing. Does the blessing need the curse to exist? Might the blessing actually live in the curse? Dr. Resch takes us deep into the terrifying wilderness of a major health challenge. Her challenge becomes our challenge. It is not a magical story; it is a mystical journey towards healing. It is a story that can change each of our lives."

--- Rabbi Marc Sirinsky

"It's tender, it's a gripping mystery novel, it's visceral, it's heartbreaking."

--- Leigh Kimball, experimental and documentary filmmaker

"I loved being reminded reading **Without Utterance** how precious life is, and how every moment and every experience is something sensed through the magic of the body. In the silence, in the stillness, is where the wisdom of the body speaks and emerges beyond the spoken word and beyond logic."

--- Debbie Rosas, co-creator and founder of the Nia Technique



Ruth Resch with one of her paintings

Ruth Resch and Handsome Dude, her Service Dog



Photos by Marc Sirinsky

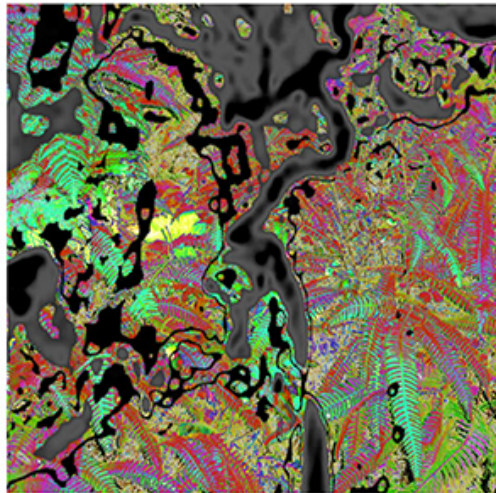
Before the stroke, Ruth Resch was in clinical practice, director of an infant observation research unit, teaching psychiatrists in a medical center, and supervising doctoral students. All that changed.

After the stroke and losing speech Ruth Resch used her skills as a clinical psychologist, psychoanalyst, baby observer, bird watcher to save her sense of self. She felt like she was walking through a wilderness without road signs. She reflected and remembered what she saw and did. Her memoir is an act of ripping herself to her bones, she says, to tell the story as deeply as she can.

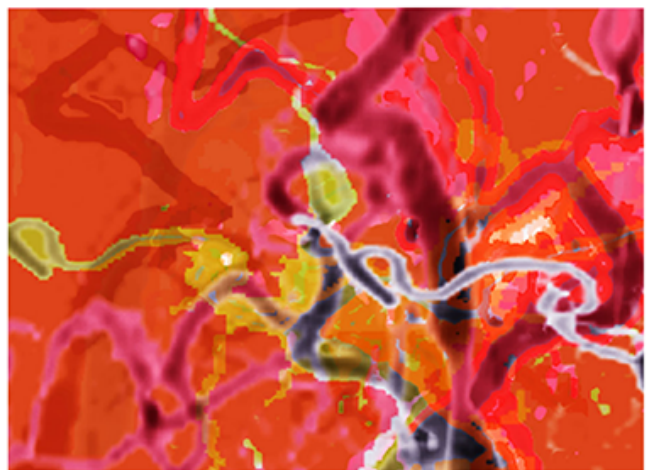
Although neuroplasticity theory was not widely known most of her language recovery, she is, nonetheless, a poster woman for it. The development of her art work, from drawing and painting to printmaking and photography, is a vivid illustration of what neuro-recovery looks like. Doing what one loves, she says, both keeps life afloat and promotes more neurological recovery. The progression from therapist to artist, from no talent to love, is a tender story of how, through adversity and handicap, we can manifest surprising dreams



After the Flood 2



Mosaic



Abstract #5

Currently Dr. Ruth Resch is in private practice in Ashland, OR and also sees patients nationally via Skype.com. She attends as voluntary staff as Psychologist Neuro-Recovery Specialist at Providence Medical Center, Medford, OR, In-Patient Neuro Rehabilitation Service. She is unique in being able to speak and think from both sides of the death line, as patient survivor and clinician.

She gives talks nationally to both general and professional audiences including the National Aphasia Association, as keynote speaker, and to the New Jersey Speech and Language Association.

Before the stroke she was published in major prestigious journals and books in infant and child development.

After she was once again fluent and eager to express the experience of loss of language, she began to write short pieces:

"Memoir of a Lost Adulthood" consumer section of **Topics in Stroke Rehabilitation** (2009)

"Through the Eyes..." in **The PersimmonTree**, an online literary journal (2009).

The American Psychologist published one of her digital portraits on the cover and an interview with her about her art (2006).

The American Journal of Play (2011) published a long interview about her prompted by her presentation at the International Neuro-Psychoanalysis Congress (2010), *"My Damaged Brains are Beautiful: Chaos, Practice, and Play,"* which merited a standing ovation.

Service Dog

Handsome Dude is her Service Dog, a white Standard Poodle, and goes everywhere with Dr. Resch. He is medical alert dog, always attentive to her continuing limitations. She says he is her boss but also her PR, her social front-man. Handsome Dude's presence is a focus for the reality of the unseen in handicap. He is a vital part of her story, as she brings her message of transformation through adversity to the world.

