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Make a Bid on an NFT by a Dolphin and Support Dolphin Rescue

GALVESTON, TX – We've all heard of Van Gogh, Picasso, and Warhol, but have you heard of Cupid the Dolphin? Art lovers and nature lovers have the unique opportunity to bid on an NFT (non-fungible token) canvas painted by a dolphin named Cupid while supporting the Texas Marine Mammal Stranding Network (TMMSN) efforts. An Atlantic bottlenose dolphin named Cupid created a turquoise and gray canvas during its rehabilitation by the Network in Galveston, Texas. TMMSN digitized the art and this NFT is available for bidding on [OpenSea](#) beginning Monday, Nov. 22. OpenSea is hosting the auction for 30 days.

A fisherman named Christopher Cruse spotted the dolphin on Valentine's Day in 2003 in the surf near Freeport, moved it to the beach, and contacted [TMMSN](#). A common mistake is to push the struggling mammals back into the water—dolphins often beach themselves because they are sick and unable to breathe or avoid predators. Cupid spent 12 months at TMMSN in Galveston and now resides in Six Flags Discovery Kingdom in California. Unfortunately, TMMSN was unable to return Cupid to the wild due to his condition.

For those new to the term NFT, it stands for "non-fungible token." It is a digital asset, such as art, music, or video, linked to ownership paid for by Ethereum-based tokens, also known as cryptographic and cryptocurrency tokens.

"We felt that this was an interesting way to raise funds and awareness for the Texas Marine Mammal Stranding Network," says Executive Director Heidi Whitehead. "We had the art digitized and wanted to share Cupid's talents for the whole world to enjoy and purchase, at least, digitally."

[Cupid painted the canvas](#), with a bit of assistance from his care specialist, on Feb. 14, 2019, his rescue anniversary. The Galveston location of the Texas Network serves as

the headquarters and TMMSN is responsible for the coastal area between Brownsville to Sabine Pass.

The canvas was scanned and uploaded to Opensea, a peer-to-peer marketplace for NFTs. The idea for the NFT came to board member **Randall Peltier** after researching cryptocurrencies and NFTs and making the connection with Cupid's dolphin art.

The [NFT](#) is available for purchase via auction on Opensea.io @Texas_Marine_Mammal_Stranding_Network.

For more information about the Texas Marine Mammal Stranding Network, visit their [website](#). And, to help a marine mammal in need of rescue, immediately call 800-9MAMMAL (800-962-6625).

About the Texas Marine Mammal Stranding Network

The Texas Marine Mammal Stranding Network is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization created in 1980 to further the understanding and conservation of marine mammals through rescue and rehabilitation, research, and education. The TMMSN consists of six regions along the Texas coast, which provide a coordinated response to all marine mammal strandings along the Texas coastline. TMMSN receives limited state and federal funds and relies on donations of time and funds from generous supporters to continue this vital mission of marine mammal conservation.

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Link to Cupid painting Video:

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=2060392820719704>

Link to Open Sea Auction:

<https://opensea.io/assets/0x495f947276749ce646f68ac8c248420045cb7b5e/13891772854815848834005523119472061459178898202220505054500897048362513072129/>

Link to Cupid Photos in Google Drive:

Photos Courtesy of Texas Marine Mammal Stranding Network

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1cZhipiJOrgDilUIBiAwG5syJFTj6uEjoC?usp=sharing>

Link to Cupid Photos in DropBox:

Photos Courtesy of Texas Marine Mammal Stranding Network

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/9376ic4urpp6571/AADsXbQ3TuL1UgksSZWuposKa?dl=0>