Currently, the Center for Creative Connections has nine retablos on view, chosen by Head of Community Engagement, Maria Teresa Garcia-Pedroche. Many of these paintings are also considered *exvotos*, or devotional paintings that serve as offerings of gratitude. The imagery often depicts a saint, people in prayer, and/or a scene illustrating the event for which the artist is expressing gratitude.

In the Center for Creative Connections, we often create prompts that offer visitors a chance to reflect on their own lives in relation to a work of art. These kinds of personal connections can create lasting memories of experiences in informal learning environments. In response to these retablos and *exvotos*, we asked visitors to reflect on past experiences for which they have felt blessed or to share about current situations in which they are hopeful or sending prayers. Visitors can illustrate the experience or situation, write a short description, and add it to our book of retablos for others to view.
Here are a few examples of the thousands of responses we have received.

The obvious, I am grateful for the chance to experience love. I know not everyone finds love in their lifetime. I am grateful for the good and the bad that comes with the item of love. I am willing to pick heartbreak for love. I pray that it will only make me a better person. All I really hope is I will again be able to love myself more than he does.

To be the best me I can be is the best us we can be.

Alicia Aguirre wrote in a company of the child Mateo dedicated this relator to the Virgin Maria de Guadalupe for being cured in the hand of Mateo, which was complete, playing in the changeroom.
I am grateful for the change of the seasons.

— Jasmine Jomes

I'm grateful for my beloved cat that is no longer here, but will always be in my heart.
Dear Lord,

Thank you for my children and grandchildren. I pray our family becomes a stronger unit because of the trials. Amen

I hope that peace will come to earth.