

BRENTON SWARTZ

My name is Brenton Nicholas Swartz (born 30 October 1978) and I've been a quadriplegic for 26 years. Before my shooting accident, which left me paralysed from my neck down, I stayed in Atlantis where I attended school until grade 10. My first challenge came just two months before when my mother passed away. I ended up in hospital in September 1994 after my accident, where I stayed for eight months and was classified as a C4-C5 quadriplegic. I then went to a school for the physically disabled where I finished grade 12 in 1998.

I then moved into Huis Andries Olivier (a quadriplegic home) which was a three bedroom house, where I had to sleep in a garage and another had to sleep in a Wendy House for the house to be able to accommodate five quadriplegics, while I went to College in 1999 where I studied Computer Aided Draughting and obtained two certificates.

After obtaining my certificates and being unable to further my studies due to non-existing wheelchair accessible transport, I met other quadriplegics who were having art classes at the Bellville Library. With me having nothing to do at that point in my life, I took up Art Classes with the other quadriplegics.

We then moved to a bigger which houses twelve quadriplegics in 2001, situated in Durbanville, and continued my pursuit in studying Architecture from January 2003 and obtained my National Diploma as an Architectural Technician in December 2006. I was fortunate to work for an architectural firm for eighteen months where I gained a lot of experience. I also did some engineering work for an engineering firm for one month.

After my studies I was unsuccessful in getting a job, so I started painting full time in 2008 and was accepted as a student at the FMPA in September 2009 and my contract was renewed in March of 2012. I was fortunate to be involved in several exhibition, but the exhibition with two fellow students was one of my biggest achievements, because the three of us organised the whole exhibition by ourselves.



My message to my fellow humans, is to never give up! Never give up on life, yourself and other people. I you've been dealt a bad hand in life, remember that nothing ever stays the same. Just as the good comes and goes, so too does the bad things in life. Prayer definitely helped me out of my darkness, and I believe it will do the same for you! And hard work always gets rewarded! Sometime it might take a little bit longer than one would expect, but it will come! When a righteous opportunity presents itself, grab hold of it and run with it as best as you can. And always remember where you come from so that you can remain humble, and in any way possible, give back to others in need because there is more happiness in giving than in receiving.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

E-mail: swartzb@telkomsa.net ; brenticholas@gmail.com

Tell: (021) 975 5459; **Fax:** (021) 975 5604

Cell: 072 293 1424

Facebook: www.facebook.com/BrentonSwartzMouthArts

