

Presents

Anne Raymond, Solo Exhibition

Through December 30, 2012

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Cirrus Cadmium by Anne Raymond

40" x 40"

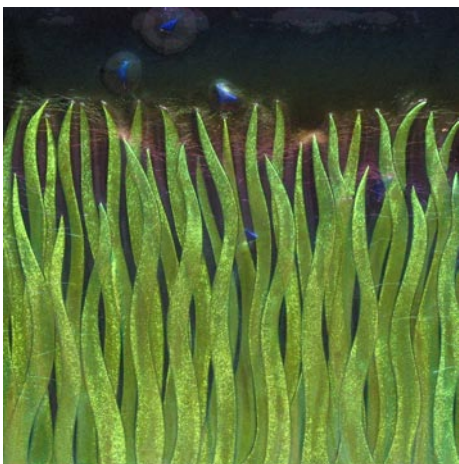
Oil on Canvas

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Waterworks Visual Arts Center in Salisbury, NC, Offers New Exhibits

The winter exhibition, *Art of Faiths – Religions of the World: Diversity and Tolerance* is on view at the Waterworks Visual Arts Center in Salisbury, NC, through Feb. 9, 2012. *Art of Faiths* features three solo exhibitions by artists Syed Ahmad, Alice Levinson, and Robert Radin, and a group show with featured artists Shireen Alborno, Carol Bomer, Robert Crum, and Betti Pettinati-Longinotti. Through an assemblage of photographs, paintings, and mixed media works, these artists express their personal relationships to their faiths including Muslim, Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, and Christianity. The visual images communicate the breadth and complexity of ideas of acceptance and social inclusiveness through art.

Through the use of visual mediums, we hope to promote understanding and tolerance and to prompt discussions about religions and cultures of the world today. Programming for this exhibition will include a public forum led by a panel of artists, theologians, and laity who will discuss how art always interacts and supports religion presently, as it has throughout history.



Work by Syed Ahmad

Together with the ancient Islamic art of calligraphy, Syed Ahmad, Salisbury, NC, creates abstract contemplative works in

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glass. He is fascinated by patterns found in nature, and playing with patterns is his attempt to have a conversation with the Grand Designer. Inspiration for his new body of work comes from the verse in the *Quran* from the chapter Al-Hujurat, 49:13, in which God said "O mankind! We created you out of a male and a female, and made you into nations and tribes that you may know each other."

Ahmad states, "Our diversity is what makes us interesting. It gives us an opportunity to learn each other's way, to learn something new we haven't seen before."

Ahmad uses a technique called glass fusing, where dichroic glass sheets are cut and shaped by hand, and then layered with sheets of black and clear glass in an overlapping collage. The stack of multiple layers is then placed in a kiln and fired up to 1500 degrees Fahrenheit causing them to melt and fuse together. Texture or patterns created in oxidized metals are also used to compliment the glass. The color from the dichroic glass is not created from pigment, but from a thin film coating deposited onto the glass in a highly technical and specialized industrial vacuum chamber. These specialized "interference" colors were first developed by the aerospace industry as an optical filtering device having the property of splitting white light into two opposing spectrums of color where one is reflected and the other is passed through. The dichroic's interesting properties allow him to stack the glass in many layers to achieve significant visual depth in an essentially two dimensional piece. The work compels the viewer to look deeply into the piece while observing the changing hues as you move across it, engaging with glass as a living medium.

Ahmad received his Bachelor of Arts from the University of Texas El Paso. His work has been widely exhibited across the United States and is held in numerous

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private and corporate collections.

Abstract quilted paintings of deep personal and universal faith define Hillsborough, NC, fiber artist Alice Levinson's body of work *Works in Cloth*. Frequent sources of inspiration are biblical and liturgical text, as well as Hebrew poetry. The curvilinear forms of Hebrew script are the basis of the compositional elements in her recent works.

Levinson employs a broad range of surface design processes in her non-traditional cloth constructions, emphasizing layering of color and texture, movement, and intuitive processes. She builds a complex surface of color and image through dyeing, painting, or screen printing. The fabric is torn or cut and incorporated into the compositions. Each piece is built of successive layering of fabric and thread. Raw edges are often left unbound and loose threads purposefully retained. Levinson is experimenting with moving the textile 'off the wall' toward the structural and sculptural. Emphasis on negative space frees motifs and allows shadow-play.

Levinson states, "Nature's forms and patterns are prominent motifs in my work, providing a visual language for exploring human experience. Events in our greater world often become occasions for exploring the inner space of feeling, memory, fantasy, and myth. Written text often finds its way into my cloth making. Sources from biblical text to modern Hebrew poetry inspire image and mark-making."

Levinson is a self-taught artist. Her work has been exhibited throughout the United States and in Israel and is held in permanent public collections including the UNC Hospitals Heart Center, Chapel Hill; Beth El Synagogue, Durham; and the Public Art Commission of Orange County Public Library, Hillsborough.

Photographer Robert Radin, Venice, CA, was born into a Jewish family that immigrated from Russia to New York City. He has no formal training in photography other than to allow the picture to be taken. He started taking pictures on his first mountain trek to Tibet in 1978. The camera became his tool to hold on to a world through which he was simply passing. His exhibition, *An*

Endless Quest, features an array of vibrant and poignant images showcasing other cultures and places from his travels around the world representing a 32-year timeframe. They are cast in faith, found in hope, and timeless in worth.



Work by Robert Radin

Radin states, "Many of my shots I did not take as much as they took me. The feeling, the connection, the enchantment that captured me is the subject. I believe that humanity has much in common and what held me in its magic will find a like place in the feelings of other people. They might not see exactly what I saw, but they will feel what I felt."

Over his career, Radin has been engaged in numerous businesses. And though he continues in business today, more and more of his time is invested in world travel, photography, and the journey of life.

Four artists in a group show exhibit an array of artwork highlighting their spiritual journeys through the creative process. Photography by Shireen Alborno, Charlotte, NC, tears down the stereotype that is attached to her religion and lifestyle as a Muslim. Her work challenges the preconceived notions about Muslims. Alborno's focus is to open the public's minds and force them to reconsider those stereotypes shaped by media influences. She will graduate this May from UNC-Charlotte with a BFA in Photography.

Asheville artist, G. Carol Bomer, is an abstract expressionist painter. Her concern is the human condition surprised by the grace of God. Her paintings reference the Word of God and His creation. Photographs and text are collaged into her paintings to

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