

*The Spiritual Power of Art:
Myth, Religion &
Mystical Experience*

Exhibit Catalog

Art Exhibit
Art-Spirit Adventures

September 12, 2015 —
January 5, 2016

Life Force Arts Center
1609 W Belmont, Chicago
LifeForceArts.org 773-327-7224

*The Spiritual Power of Art:
Myth, Religion & Mystical Experience*

Opening Reception

September 12, 2015, 6:30—10 PM

Closing Reception

January 5, 2016, 7—9 PM

Free admission to exhibit &
Opening and Closing receptions

Open Gallery Hours

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 1:30 - 6:30 PM
& by appointment

*Artists Featured in Myth, Religion
& Mystical Experience*

Steven Blaine Adams	Pat Heydlauff
Joseph Ahn	Laurel Iazard
Wendy Allen	Shauna Aura Knight
Anna Applegate	Colleen Koziara
Sharon Bechtold	Jessica Kronika
Mary Burton	Lorraine Moretti
Cortez Curtis	Susan Mullen
Kurt Fondriest	Britt Posmer
Dorothy Graden	Kao Ra Zen
Amy Hassan	Diana Rudaitis
Jamilah Hassan	Sujata Tibrewala
John Henderson	Sarah Rose Warman

About *Myth, Religion & Mystical Experience*

Experience art as a vehicle for Otherworldly encounters with Source, God, Goddess, ancestors, spirit guides, Archetypes and mythology as Life Force Arts Center presents the art exhibit and multiarts show *The Spiritual Power of Art: Myth, Religion & Mystical Experience*, running September 12, 2015 to January 5, 2016 at Life Force Arts Center, 1609 W. Belmont, Chicago IL 60657. Opening Reception is Saturday, September 12, 2015 from 6:30 - 10 PM. Closing Reception is Tuesday, January 5, 2016 from 7 - 9 PM. Open Gallery Hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays 1:30 - 6:30 PM, and by appointment. Admission is free to the exhibit and Opening and Closing Receptions. Workshops, performances and other events related to the theme of Myth, Religion & Mystical Experience will be held as part of the show. For more information, please contact Joan Forest Mage, Artistic Director, 773-327-7224, joan@LifeForceArts.org.

The Spiritual Power of Art exhibit series explores three different meanings of "spirit": Human Spirit, Universal Energy and Mystical & Religious Experience. The exhibit *Myth, Religion & Mystical Experience* exhibit focuses on art as a vehicle for Otherworldly encounters with Source, God, Goddess, ancestors, spirit guides, Archetypes and mythology.

The artwork in this exhibit features a wide variety of media including painting, photography, sculpture, mixed media and installation. Life Force Arts Center Artistic Director Joan Forest Mage says, "It's fascinating to see the interpretations artists have about the theme. At LFAC, our art exhibits create sacred space in which events become healing rituals: performances, concerts, poetry readings, workshops, lectures are all infused with transformative power to heal and enlighten the those present."

The Spiritual Power of Art: Myth, Religion & Mystical Experience is the third exhibit in the four year *Life Force Arts Manifesto* series. Each year (2015, 2016, 2017, 2018) Life Force Arts Center will focus the theme of its shows on one section of its core statement, the Life Force Arts Manifesto

The mission of **Life Force Arts Center (LFAC)** is to create transformation and community through the spiritual power of the visual, literary and performing arts. We focus on the arts as a common ground of human expression, where artists of diverse spiritual traditions present artistically excellent exhibits, events and publications to awaken human potential, create spiritual transformation and connect audiences to the mystical dimension.

Steven Blaine Adams

Duirway to the Mysteries (2015)

11 x 6.5

Pyrography with Colored Pencil

\$200

The English word “door” comes from the Gaelic and Sanskrit “duir”, a word for solidity, protection and the Oak tree. Oak is King. Its strength is unlike other trees. It holds its leaves through the winter until spring, then sheds them. The Oak is also struck by lightning often, leaving the trunk gnarled and withered; yet Oak survives. The Oak represents primeval strength and the ability to overcome and survive.

The Moon in the artwork has a symbolic connection to the imagination, the unconscious, intuition and magic. The Oak also provides protection on your journey. Together, the Oak and the Moon open the “duirway” to inner spirituality and the mysteries of life. This artwork can be used for meditation and journeywork.

Steven Blaine Adams, LFAC Artist in Residence, is an artist and designer who works with natural materials like stones and crystals to create artwork and jewelry with symbolic and spiritual resonance. He is LFAC’s Associate Artistic Director and also LFAC’s store designer. The son of an astrologer and Tarot reader, Steve has been doing readings professionally for over 30 years, combining the wisdom of Tarot with the healing properties of stones. Steve attributes meditation, art, ritual and spiritual connection as instrumental catalysts in his path towards healing.

Joseph Ahn

ahnjosephkt.wix.com/joseph

Acephale: Guardian (2014)

23 x 8 x 7

High fired stoneware with terra sigilata

\$500

Guardian has a rough staggered surface inspired by steep mountain forms in Southern China. The forms had such a magnificent presence to them they seemed to be ancient guardians protecting the neighboring provinces.

Acephale: Meditation (2013)

17.5 x 6 x 5

High fired stoneware with terra sigillata

\$450

Meditation is a meditative piece inspired by the worship of the Mountain Spirit. The cavernous forms reflect the practice of visiting caves in mountains to meditate or pray to gods common in both East Asian and Native American spiritual practices.

Acephale: Totem (2014)

15.5 x 6 x 7

High fired stoneware with terra sigilata

\$400

Totem is a smaller piece, its size made to make the figure more intimate. The empty cavern in the full-bodied chest makes a focal point, allowing the viewer to empty their own thoughts into the space as they engage with the figure.

My series, Acephale (headless god), came by how individuals and societies project themselves onto abstract forms in nature. We use the features of our surroundings to reflect, withdraw, rejuvenate and even worship. Many holy sites are still visited today throughout the world, but not everyone has the ability to live close to these places or visit them. Acephale is a continuation for that search for peace. The commanding presence of the sculptures is inspired by the features of such places as mountains, forests and caves. The process of making them reminds me of the peace I felt in those places and viewing them invites contemplation and meditation.

Joseph Ahn graduated from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC) with a BFA in fine art. His primary focus was in ceramics and metal casting. Currently he makes much of his work through art centers throughout Chicago such as Lillstreet Art Center.

Travelling and relocating has been a significant part of Joseph's childhood. Stunning scenes of mountains, forests and sea sides in areas such as the American southwest, Hawaii and Eastern Asia instilled a deep awe for nature throughout his life. Seeing how closely rooted culture, spirituality and even aesthetics are to the nature that surrounds a people has been something he has always found interesting. Much of his work is inspired by the how individuals and societies have used nature to seek divinity within themselves.

Wendy Allen

awakenedheartart.com

Into the Heart of the Divine (2015)

38 x 38 framed

Hand sewn fabric collage

\$1332

From the core of the Divine Heart radiates all Light, Life, and Love. Of the seven major energy centers of the body, the Heart Chakra, located in the center of your chest, is the center for unconditional love. A place of great beauty and luminosity, the heart center is a portal to the marvels of the love of the One. If you meditate on this mandala, you will begin to experience its impact on your heart center. "Into the Heart of the Divine" is created to support your journey into profound forgiveness, self-love, and love of The One.

Gazing into the One (2015)

16.5 x 30 framed

Hand sewn fabric collage

\$540

One way of experiencing Divine Presence is through gazing. The eyes are considered to be the gateway to the soul and many spiritual traditions through the ages have engaged in the spiritual practice of gazing as a means to connect to Presence and the primordial realization that all things are inseparably interconnected' therefore, we are never alone. This sense of connection can lead us to the home ground of our being. The piece, "Gazing into the One", was created with the intention of visually drawing you to your true home, Divine Presence. Gaze with it and you will begin to experience being drawn into the One.

Wendy Allen: “Art has always drawn me. The urge to create has been a siren call since childhood. After receiving a B.F.A. and studying art abroad, I taught art in schools. I became interested in psychological healing which led to a M.A. in Counseling and decades of work as a therapist and art therapist. Throughout this time I was involved in an intense spiritual quest. “The One” was calling me home. In the last few years these siren calls of art, spirit, and self-awareness have merged and I am experiencing a tremendous down pouring of creative inspiration that is fueled by my own awakening process. I see that as the mind quiets, the artist can become a filter through which the Divine can flow through

As I work, I hold the intention that this work will transmit a spiritual blessing which will impact the viewer’s consciousness. I believe that through conscious creation one can bring the Divine more fully into the world. It is my desire that the beauty and luminosity of these pieces will serve as a reflection of the viewer’s deepest truth. It is my hope that this art will in some small way assist the viewer in finding our ultimate desire, union with the Beloved.”

Anna Applegate

amoretmortem.wordpress.com

Velika Majka (2005)

8.25 x 6 x 3

Terra Cotta Clay

NFS

”Great Mother”: replica of a Vinca Culture artifact from southern Serbia, 5th millennium B.C.E.

My one and only terra cotta statue, “Velika Majka”/”The Great Mother,” is a tribute to the religious sensibilities of our Neolithic forebears, who spent considerable energy creating scores of Goddess figurines in the Old Europe region and time period archaeologists identify as the Vinca Culture, roughly dating from the 5th millennium B.C.E. to the 4th millennium B.C.E. in what is now the former Yugoslavia. I was inspired to make this piece while reading the late feminist archaeologist Marija Gimbutas’ seminal work *The Goddesses and Gods of Old Europe* and feeling humbled and amazed by the volume of figurines unearthed in the very region where my parents were born prior to coming to this country. This mysterious Goddess links me back to my ancient origins while challenging all of us, regardless of the land of our ancestors, to define Ultimate Reality and to see the connectedness of Land and Spirit, the Mystery of Manifestation. Her gaze is penetrating, Otherworldly. Her form is at once stark and somewhat alien while also hauntingly familiar, for She sings to us of Origins and the interrelatedness of All Things—Life and Death, Past and Present, Old and New Worlds, and the capacity to birth ourselves into new realms of consciousness. She is Velika Majka, “Great Mother.”

Anna Applegate, M.A., LFAC Artist in Residence, is a Chicago native and daughter of Serbian immigrant parents. She enjoys exploring the rich spiritual currents embodied in ancient, Goddess-centric artifacts excavated from the birthplaces of her parents. These explorations take the form of sculpting and writing poetry. A devout polytheist, she has been active in Chicago’s Pagan community for 16 years, particularly the Chicago Fellowship of Isis community. Anna is legally ordained as a Priestess to the Goddesses Nebet-Het (Nephthys), Bast, and Hekate Khthonia. She

serves as the Executive Editor of *Isis-Seshat*, the official journal of the Fellowship of Isis, and her poetry appears in the Scarlet Imprint anthologies *Datura* (2010) and *Mandragora* (2012). Anna resides in the northwest side of the city and shares her home with numerous spirits and Powers and four very regal felines.

Sharon Bechtold

sharonbechtold.com

Faerie with Flowers (2015)

8 x 5

Pyrography

\$68

The flower faerie holds the secrets of the blossoms

Butterfly (2015)

7 x 4.5

Pyrography

\$68

Long a symbol of transformation, Butterfly flutters in a garden of dreams

Wood Nymph (2015)

7 x 5

Pyrography

\$68

Deep in the forest, the wood nymph muses by the water

Sharon Bechtold, LFAC Artist in Residence, is a Shamanic Practitioner, Artist, Bard, and Teacher. She studied shamanism with Joan Forest Mage in the Life Force Arts Shamanic Training Program, holds the Bardic Grade from the Order of Bards, Ovates and Druids, and is well versed in elemental energy work and reiki. She is a professional award winning pyrographer who has published 5 books on wood burning techniques. A columnist and writer for numerous international print magazines, she also teaches art as energy work throughout North America, has been certified as an Illinois State Artisan and is represented by numerous galleries and collections throughout the world.

Mary Burton

Bastet (2015)

16 x 20 framed

Prismacolor marker and whiteout on paper

\$90

This piece is inspired by images of the Goddess Bastet that were given to me by a couple of women friends over the years. It was based on a photograph of the cat named “Symphony” owned by one friend. The “goddess of cats, protection, joy, dance, music, and love” according to Wikipedia, to me she represents inspiration of feminine artistic expression.

Spirit, Saint, Angel (2015)

16 x 20 framed

Prismacolor marker, pencil, whiteout, nail polish on paper

\$90

The visual symbol for Spirit is the lion, the Saint is the young woman who reminds me of my mother and of course the transgender Angel. I believe the 1939 film *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* was lurking in my subconscious which is full of symbolic images

Mary Burton (B.A., SUNY Albany; M.F.A., School of the Art Institute of Chicago) the child of diverse parents (Northern European and Russian Jewish) grew up on a farm in upstate New York where she was blessed to be immersed in the beauty of nature and life forms. Observations of light and dark, trees, the seasons and natural phenomena as well as an ongoing quest for meaning inspired explorations of form and line in drawing, printmaking, painting, videography and video image processing. She has exhibited with the Chicago Artists Month, School of the Art Institute BareWalls, School of the Art Institute Fellowship Exhibition and others. A lifelong searcher and student of mysticism and spiritual sciences, her studies include comparative religion, mysticism, symbolism, yoga philosophy, spiritual astrology at the Temple of Kriya Yoga, A Course in Miracles at Unity Church in Chicago, music studies at Old Town School of Folk Music and New Tuners music theater workshop under John Sparks, as well as working for the Urantia Foundation (publisher of The Urantia Book.) Most recently, she has completed Levels 1 - 4 of the Life Force Arts Shamanic Training program. Mary's family has been in what is now the U. S. since the 1600's. Her ancestor, Mary Bliss Parsons, was accused and acquitted twice for witchcraft in Cambridge and Boston, Massachusetts.

Cortez Curtis

www.cortezcurtis.com

Isis (2015)

43.5 x 20 Framed

Limited Edition Print

\$500

Isis: The Egyptian goddess of moon, love, magic, fertility and healing. She had the ability to counteract evil by casting spells. She played a central role in Egyptian magic spells and ritual, especially those of protection and healing. Isis is also known as protector of goddess of children. In my depiction she is holding the DNA of life.

The Color of Christ (2015)

16.5 x 22 Framed

Limited Edition Print

\$200

The Color of Christ: While many people have a fixed mental image of Jesus, drawn from his artistic depictions, these images often conform to ethnic-European stereotypes which are not grounded in any serious research on the historical Jesus, but are based on second-or third-hand interpretations of spurious sources. A number of theories about the race of Jesus, ranging from Jesus had curly hair and a reddish complexion others say rather he was "a man of brown complexion and lank hair" a white Aryan Jesus to a black African Jesus, illustrating that there is no general agreement among scholars on the color of Jesus.

The Blood of Christ (2015)

35 x 27.5 Framed

Limited Edition Print

\$500

The Blood of Christ: In my depiction of Jesus painful sacrifice, ;made it possible for our salvation; He had taken our place, completed what he came to do. He had demonstrated both humanity's brokenness and God's love. He had offered himself fully to God as a sacrifice on behalf of humanity. As he died on the cross, it was finished. The noblest person who ever walked the face of this planet.

Cortez Curtis was born on the south side of Chicago. He devoted 27 years of his life to project engineering for a local electric utility company, where he designed substations for ten years as a draftsman, and seventeen years as a engineer. If you look closely at his work, you can see his facility as a draftsman in his lines and in the way he engineers the design in his painting techniques. Since retirement as an engineer, Cortez has emerged as a full time artist, owner, digital designer, and the publisher of Artez Artworks. Cortez graduated from Benedictine University and excelled at painting and digital art work at Illinois, College of Du Page. He is a member artist of the Illinois Artisans.

In addition to his many successful solo art exhibitions, his work has been exhibited at the Health4Life Wellness Center, Life Force Arts Center, The

HotHouse, Robert Morris State Street Gallery, and Neleh Art gallery. Cortez's art work has been shown at two of the Museum of Science and Industries "Black Creativity" juried art showings. He has received numerous awards and honorable mentions, and articles about him have been featured in the Art Business News, The Red Eye, NowPublic.com, The Chicago Reader.

"Looking forward, I believe it is my destiny to become a great artist. I have the temperament of a revolutionary, and I am blazing with a spirit, embodied in an idea that there are things still to be conquered. My ambition is to paint the world's rebirth, its hopes and dreams. When I paint, I demonstrate my enthusiastic conception of life through my palette and original painting style, in part conceived of and influenced by the great renaissance masters and my childhood vision of a world beyond, the supernatural."

Kurt Fondriest

www.healingseedministries.com

The Angel of Death Whispers to the Old & Prayful

(2011)

24 x 30 framed

Pastel & Paint

\$500

This artwork expresses our faith's reflection and perception of the transition, from the awakening to the whisper from the Angel of Death. This whisper is unique for each individual, but shared by all of us through the relationship with one's own Angel of Death.

Kurt Fondriest is an expressive arts therapist at Misericordia home in Chicago, where he has worked for more than 22 years. He is an ordained non-denominational minister and certified pastoral counselor, holding a PhD in Holistic Ministries. His work is based on his life with a chronic pain condition called fibromyalgia. Dr. Kurt sees life as a ministry, a way of expressing one's spiritual connection to others. One of the greatest gifts our creator gives us is the power to love unconditionally; it is through this gift we find ourselves and our work. Let us always remember to not keep the gift of unconditional love but to share this divine blessing with all.

Dorothy Graden

www.dorothygraden.com/home.html

Visionary (2014)

19 x 23 framed

Giclee Print

\$130

This painting was inspired by the iconic medieval religious paintings of Europe and the prehistoric rock paintings of Australia. Human spirits that connect with the universe often see the same visions. Time and space don't exist in the eternal.

Dorothy Graden is an award winning contemporary artist whose art is inspired by Ancient Visions. For over 25 years, Dorothy has traveled through the American West to photograph and draw prehistoric

rock art. These rock art images were incised, pecked, abraded and painted on cave and canyon walls and boulders. Rock Art has been found on every continent except Antarctica. Some sites are 30,000 years old. Many of these sites hold spiritual powers, and many are shamanic.

Dorothy has presented her field work on rock art at the Russian Academy of Science in Moscow and at University College Cork, Ireland. Her photographs have been published in the Theosophical Society's journal, *Quest*. She presents, lectures and exhibits her drawings and ceramic sculptures throughout the Midwest. She draws with great admiration, respect and humility for the ancients who inspire her work.

Amy Hassan

amyjamilahhassanartcreations.com

Celestial Transcendence (2015)

24 x 36

Mixed Media, Acrylic, Colored Lacquer, Glitter Glue on Canvas

\$400

Celestial Transcendence is based upon my spiritual journey and finding my true purpose, making a connection to God, who I believe is the creator of the universe, heavens, and the earth. I believe that although you cannot physically see God directly, there are examples everywhere. The stars represent the vast endless universe created by God.

The lighted path represents my personal connection and submission to God's will. It also represents hope of something beyond our life on this earth.

On the middle right, I used the Hamsa, an image used as a sign of protection in the Middle East and North Africa. In the center of the Hamsa, is the word for God (Allah) written in the Arabic language. The Hamsa is depicted as an open right hand; it can be representative of a sign of protection. Although it is present in many different cultures and religions, the Islamic Hamsa is specific to a protection that God gives us. I view God as one's ultimate protector and guide.

On the left, I put a crescent moon and star within another 8-sided star. The crescent moon and star is a symbol that is often representative of the Islamic religion.

Amy Hassan: I am a self taught artist, who has always loved drawing and painting since I was a young girl. Growing up, I enjoyed drawing pictures from nature, such as landscapes and animals. Many of my art pieces have various textures. This may be influenced by my work as a Special Education teacher. In years past, I have created learning activities, tactile books and recreated stories to fit the needs of my young students with special needs. During the past 2 years, however, my passion for painting has evolved into creating Mandala art. I find the process of creating a mandala, to be a very centering, peaceful and meditative process. I will often incorporate my love of nature and also geometric patterns into my creations. Each art piece is unique and connects to

the emotions that I may be feeling. The choice of colors, patterns or symbols is determined by my intention or purpose.

I use a variety of media including acrylic paint, pencil, marker, non-toxic color and clear lacquer, colored stones, recycled jewelry and beads, wood, paper, or canvas. Creations vary in size from 36 inches down to 1 inch. I also use the same technique while creating my hand painted earrings, pendants, magnets and bracelets.

Jamilah Hassan

amyjamilahhassanartcreations.com

Sight (2012)

16 x 20

Acrylic Paint with Gloss on Cradled Wood Board

\$300

I had initially painted this piece after taking a picture of myself and painting it. The person in the picture is a self-portrait of sorts. One may notice that the person in this painting has her eyes closed, which indicates that she does not “see” necessarily with her eyes. Her left hand points to her heart and her right hand faces forward with an eye, this indicates that she is able to see with her heart. Her true sight therefore is based off more on what she feels, her intuition, and the inner sight she is able to have by not focusing just on what she is able to see with her eyes. One may also notice that around her neck is a “Hamsa” which symbolizes a form of protection. The

protection she views as being from God. The more that she is able to see with inner sight and the more she is able to connect with her soul/spirit, the closer connection she feels with God. I view God as the greatest protector that one can have, therefore the Hamsa represents a connection to God. The Hamsa can be viewed as a reminder that God is always watching over and protecting us, the more that we connect with our inner sight the closer we can get to God. What one may see or notice with one's eyes can be very deceptive. The more one is able to see with their "inner sight" the more they are able to clearly see things as they actually are and the more one is able to look past the illusion that would be noticed normally by the eyes. The paint that looks like it is glowing that outlines the person in the painting represents her inner light that she emits.

Jamilah Hassan: "I love nature, it is one of my main inspirations when drawing/ painting. I love to draw landscapes and animals I have seen either in person or from pictures. Some of my pictures are just from images I see imagine in my head. I also draw inspiration from ancient/ traditional Arabesque, Henna, Arabic, Asian, and Islamic designs. I love art, nature, and science. I like to use oil pastels, colored pencils, pencils, charcoal pencils/ sticks, and acrylic paint as mediums for my art."

John Henderson

<http://www.northsuburbancarvers.org/page/399535696>

Nut (2015)

7.5 x 16.5

Woodcarving on Poplar with gold paint

\$400

Nut is an ancient Egyptian goddess who was the scribe. She recorded the acts of the gods, and also those of the humans who were overseen by the gods. Priests in ancient Egypt were very powerful, at times even having power over Pharaoh. The scribe recorded what the priests reported that the gods had decided what deeds were right and wrong. This included the deeds of Pharaoh. Because of this, scribes had great power themselves!

Horus (2006)

9.5 x 11.15

Woodcarving on Poplar with gold paint finish

\$300

Horus was the Egyptian god of the sun, war and protection. Horus is represented in the form of a falcon. Traditionally, he is shown as having shen rings, which are circles that are symbols of protection, and also holding the ankh. I show Horus with both the ankh and the shen ring in his talons.

Dolphin Wheel (2014)

17 x 12

Dyed Sugarpine & Mahogany, lacquer finish

\$450

I saw an image I liked of three dolphins connected at the

tails. It was on television from the show "The Vikings" on the History Channel. I don't remember what the image was on - perhaps a shield? I don't know what its significance was in the TV program. But it inspired me to create the image I came up with. I get ideas like that, from just a brief image I see. I started doodling and came up with the design that I felt would work in wood.

Dancing Under the Moon (2015)

32 x 17

Found wood with Butternut and Walnut figures

\$300

This is a vision that came to me. I see a grassy hilltop with tree tops in the distant and the bright Summer Solstice Moon. The priestess and her flock are dancing nude under the moon. I almost carved the hilltop and trees, but I liked leaving it more to the imagination of the viewer.

John Henderson is a retired firefighter. He comes from Pascagoula, Mississippi where he learned whittling by watching his grandfather and father. According to family legend, he is part Cherokee, descended from members of the tribe who escaped to the Smoky Mountains when the rest of the tribe was sent on forced march to Oklahoma on the Trail of Tears.

John Henderson says: I say that I study ancient art. What I mean is that I look at a lot of pictures in books, watch Discovery and History channels and browse on line. When I find an image I like, I design my images in the style I have chosen, not to copy

anything, but to create a piece of art that is recognizable in origin of style. Some pieces, especially Egyptian, can not vary too much from the original, in order for it to be recognizable as the intended subject. North West Native American styles allow much more artistic interpretations. I enjoy creating pieces in this style. I do not claim them to be Native American Art; instead, they demonstrate my appreciation of this art. I have also done work in ancient Celtic, Greek, and African styles as well as some Central and South American styles. Abstract shapes and designs pop into my mind often. I grab a pencil and pad and start doodling. At times, images come to me faster than I can sketch, and from one will come another. I see these images in three dimensions, and sometimes have to sketch two or three sketches to put on paper what my mind sees. It's somewhat like a being a writer: you have to put it on paper as soon as possible, so you don't forget the details.

Pat Heydlauff

spiritualartwork.net

Eternal Presence (2015)

20 x 16

Acrylic on Canvas

\$260

This is a meditation on the collective information in the universe, a spirituality that flows eternally. When received,

this universal energy or religious experience of a greater eternal presence that is in control provides hope and peace for planet earth.

Painting for me is the physical expression of my spiritual being. It is the positive flow that starts in my heart and travels to my hands...and continues onto a two dimensional canvas, projecting three dimensional energy. Each piece is the result of universal energy that flows through me so that others might find hope and a deeper spiritual connection.

I believe that in our world today with cement cities, sound pollution and isolated environments, it is difficult to find a place of peace and harmony. The lush colors, tranquil movement and design of my art allow the viewer to escape into a peaceful place of joy and harmony within.

Pat Heydlauff left a stressful position in the corporate world to search for balance and a deeper meaning in life. She found it – in front of an easel. Pat’s art is meant to take the viewer on a visual journey that ends up as a personal journey as well, holding up a world of possibilities.

Pat’s artwork has been exhibited in Saatchi Gallery of London’s online gallery, and was chosen for publication in the “Best of Florida Artists and Artisans” book, 2006. She has exhibited at a variety of galleries and shows, including Life Force Arts Center, Chicago; the Juanita K. Hammons Performing Arts Center, Springfield, MO; the Jupiter Town Hall Gallery of Art, Juno Beach, FL and the Eissey Theater Gallery at PBCC, Palm Beach Gardens.

Heydlauff is a Feng Shui and “flow of focus” expert, and her work draws a visual road map to a life of less clutter, less stress, increased prosperity and more harmony. Pat is the author of two books, *Feng Shui So Easy a Child Can Do It* and *Selling Your Home with a Competitive Edge*. She’s a noted leadership and productivity speaker at civic, philanthropic and corporate events.

Laurel Izard

The High Priestess (2011)

Embroidered Cotton Fabric

17 x 13 framed

\$1300

The World (2012)

Embroidered Cotton Fabric

17 x 13 framed

\$1300

These works are part of a set of twenty-two embroidered images is loosely based on the symbolism embodied in the tarot, and represent over two years of work. I have been intrigued by archetypes, which encompass our ideas about human existence as both physical and spiritual beings. What draws me to these symbols is their open-endedness, which allows the viewer to interpret them according to their own journey through life.

The High Priestess represents our encounter with the mystical feminine energies of the universe and within the self. I feel she represents the knowing that we must

approach mystery with openness before we can find our way as individuals or as a culture. The World card illustrates the goddess symbol of our planet as she stretches between the male sun and female moon. This piece represents the wholeness achieved through our life's journey, reconciling the paradoxes and dualities presented to us.

I created original embroidered images for each of the major arcana with imagery that combines ancient, historical and contemporary images. Each piece is quite small and is displayed in a shadow box, in order to create an intimate viewing experience

Laurel Izard has been living and making art in Michigan City, Indiana for over twenty years. She received her BA from the Northern Illinois University, majoring in art and anthropology, and her MFA in Ceramics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. After twenty-three years as a self-employed ceramic artist, she currently teaches art at Marquette Catholic High School in Michigan City. As a teacher, her goal is to share the idea that part of being human is to be creative, and to show students how to use the visual arts to enhance their abilities. She also teaches creative workshops for adults, which emphasize the role of creativity in opening pathways to spirit. Laurel's work has been exhibited through out Northern Indiana and the greater Chicago area.

Shauna Aura Knight

www.shaunaauraknight.com

Lady of the Lake (2005)

25 x 31 framed

Watercolor

\$300

In some versions of the King Arthur story, Arthur breaks Excalibur in an act of dishonor, and the Lady of the Lake heals the sword for him. In other versions of the story, Merlin asks the Lady of the Lake to grant Arthur the sword of sovereignty. In either case, Arthur is an example of a mythological hero who faced his own challenges and worked to uplift the people around him. When the Lady of the Lake grants him the sword, she acknowledges that Arthur is human: he has made, and will make, mistakes. Her compassion and her blessing help Arthur, in turn, to become a good king who loves and serves his people.

Shauna Aura Knight is an artist, designer, author, and ecstatic spiritual seeker who is passionate about creating artwork, rituals, experiences and spaces to ignite transformation, inspire creativity, and awaken mythic imagination. Her artwork explores themes and imagery of myth, mysticism, deities, ritual, sacred sites, personal transformation, and heroes, and includes watercolor, acrylic, mixed media and digital art.

Shauna's art and design work have been used for illustrations and covers for several books and magazines. With leadership experience in

Earth-centered and grass-roots organizations, Shauna has organized conferences, intensives, shrines and art installations that help people connect with the divine, our deepest selves, and sustainable community. She travels the country showing her artwork and facilitating rituals, installations, and performance pieces, as well as teaching workshops on personal transformation, exploring myths and stories, and teaching others how to facilitate transformative events. She is the author of several nonfiction books on facilitation and personal transformation, as well as several urban fantasy and paranormal romance novels.

Shauna studied fine art and theatrical design at the University of Minnesota before beginning a career as a web and graphic designer. She has studied creative writing, interactive media, mythology, and the design of events, experiences, and products at Columbia College Chicago, University of Chicago Graham School, DePaul University, and at many conferences and other professional training. She graduated from a 3-year program at Diana's Grove studying transformational leadership, multi-sensorial teaching, and facilitating ritual.

Colleen Koziara
www.mysticalwillow.com

Cernunnos Rising (2009)

16 x 20

Acrylic on Canvas

\$400

He is hooved and in touch with the world of Nature, but his horns are a sign of Divinity, for they reach to the stars. — Vivianne Crowley

Cerridwen Dances (2009)

16 x 20

Acrylic on Canvas

On loan from the private collection of Patricia Flynn Dredze & Barry Dredze

Cerridwen Dances is the first of the entire “From The Fire Series of Paintings” I did during my 2.5 years of participating in Sacred Fire Circles. Following is her verse.

Cerridwen Dances
(the beginning of it all)

And there I was....pulled to the fire, called for reasons not still yet completely realized a whole year plus later. Yet I was called, the Fire called. And I came and this image, painted twice now, fell forth from my hands of its own, using me only as a channel and gave me to know this path and the images it would birth, were going to be something

quite different than anything I had experienced before.

Dancer
Fire Dancer
Primal Cat
Ancient Goddess
Bodies moving
Flames singing
Calling
The scent of prey
As strong as the scent of love
Lust
The Hunt
What dance is this?
None I have ever danced before

Colleen says: I grew up in nature with a love the stories in myths, legends and songs. The area was peaceful, gentle and beautiful. Woods, fields, wildflowers, and views of the lake from rosy sunrise to golden sunset. What most amazed me were the intricacies of nature, like the sight of a setting sunbeam, shining through the branches of a tree, illuminating a delicate spiderweb and transforming that web to a magical world formed of liquid silver. I lived my most formative years immersed in these images and I came to see a personality in nature. It is the years I spent seeing this “secret” face and magic of nature and the stories that it told, that filled me with a desire to make art.

I create images which portray the spirit and humanity of nature and thereby the nature of humanity and spirit. With my work I intend to capture a moment of magic. That moment where the infinite and the finite merge and it is possible to see the magic once again in all things.

I strive to make each of my works a window. I think my best works give the viewer a feeling of this deeper magic being mirrored within themselves.

Colleen Koziara attended the American Academy of Art in Chicago, and currently splits her time working with our Elders and the Arts. Colleen gives workshops and seminars on a variety of topics; Body Art; Custom Tattoo Designs; Visionary Art; and Commissioned pieces manifest from the visions and dreams of her clients.

She has illustrated more than 20 books and has been presenting, writing and providing art for Circle Sanctuary since 2002. She is an award winning designer of programming for seniors, and author of Taking Flight! A Senior Whole Life Wellness Handbook for seniors and caregivers.

Colleen has been an active member of the Pagan community for almost 30 years, is an Ovate member of OBOD, and a Reiki Master. Her work pulls its symbolism, hidden images, flow and color patterns from her experiences and studies. Colleen describes each of her works as “Doorways to the Center”, through which she hopes the viewer will travel to seek that which is hidden deeper within the image, and possibly on their visual journey, find doorways of their own to mysteries hidden deeper within themselves. Colleen’s pieces give voice to the connection between the natural world and the magical realms, helping to reaffirm the magic within, that we all knew so well as children, and tend to lose touch with in our daily lives.

Jessica Kronika

flyngypsyarts.com

Tree Cycle in the Storm (2013)

22.5 x 26 framed

Oil on Canvas

\$750

In this work, *Tree Cycle in the Storm*, the distant horizon carries the light of the luminous Moon, alighting on the eddies of Life, as they swirl around the roots of our path. The hollows of the venerable tree that drifts on the shore offer haven to those yet to sink roots, cupping the seeds of the last season for the coming Spring's Renewal.

Gwenivere Heart of Hawthorne (2008)

12 x 15 framed

Watercolor

\$225

Gwenivere: Heart of Hawthorne, looks at the lesser known aspects of the mythic wife of King Arthur. Beyond her time as Queen and Lover of Lancelot, the lady spent the beginning years of her young womanhood within the convent at Inis Witrin, the shadow of the Isle of Glass, home also to Avalon. In some of the stories, she retreated to Avalon after her failed affair with Lancelot, and the death of Arthur, to tend to him upon the Sacred Isle. Her ancient name translates to the sacred White Heart of the Hawthorne Tree, the sturdy and protected thorny tree revered by the Druids. Her stillness teaches us to recognize the heart of meditation as a place to seek inner and Akashic Knowledge. Her quiet stance at the edge of the Isle lets us see the silent Journey to Avalon, that all

seek. In the distance is the Beacon Fire that guides us home.

Jessica Kronika: My art stems from a dialogue between my spiritual connection to the world of nature and the concepts of goddess mythology. I practice a non-denominational variety of private pagan spirituality, heavily influenced by the ways of meditation, multiple cultural connections to the empowering female divinity and a sense of finding the sacred within Nature. My artistic style incorporates elements of realism and surrealism, in concept, approach and rendering. I utilize many media, striving for the best tools to depict the images I see within. I hold a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in printmaking and installation, as well as an Associate of Fine Arts degree in painting and drawing. My works draw on the tangible and spectacular aspects of nature, incorporating study *en plein aire* of my subjects as well as research into the lesser known elements of the lives of mythic women, and historical depictions for inspiration.

Lorraine Moretti

Searching for Diana's Temple (2015)

16 x 12 framed

Acrylic on canvas on board

NFS

Visiting a sacred site can invoke a mystical experience. I once visited Lake Nemi, located in the Alban Hills outside of Rome, Italy, one of Earth's most sacred sites. The Latins, an ancient Italic tribe, consecrated the lake and dedicated a temple to Diana, the Great Goddess of the Moon. The lake, in a volcanic crater, is almost perfectly

oval, and from the vantage point where the temple once graced its banks you can see the moon reflected clearly in the smooth-as-glass dark mirror of water. I've been searching for Diana's temple for a long time and in that search have discovered that she is light and strength and that she has power in birth, life and death. She is said to lead hosts of spirits and women in shamanic flights through the night skies. The Goddess Diana blesses the oppressed and down-trodden to empower them and I am reminded to remember this and to act on this in the modern world.

Lorraine Moretti, LFAC Artist in Residence, received her M.A. in Inter-Arts Education from Columbia College and has been a teacher of young people for many years. She has read her poetry at many Chicago venues, including Club Lower Links, Club 950, Lounge Axe, Randolph St. Gallery and N.A.M.E. Lorraine recently received Shamanic Certification under Joan Forest Mage through the Life Force Arts Shamanic Training Program. Her artwork has been featured in several shows at LFAC, and it's where she holds ritual art poetry workshops that utilize Tarot, Full Moon and Willow energies. Lorraine is sometimes known as Lolo, Gypsy Beatnik Priestess of Poetry.

Susan Mullen

The Red Road (2011)

31 x 49.5

Acrylic on Canvas

\$800

I believe that existence is a living thing. I speak to life and it answers me in surprising and often humorous ways. *The Red Road* came about through my asking for a spirit animal. I found a canvas left out in the alley that was partially finished. It had a blue background and a solid black horse in the foreground. There was a gentleman painting his garage where the canvas lay. I asked him if I could take it and he said, "take it, it's yours." I completed the piece without sketches letting the work evolve step by step, the path that our feet create, The Red Road.

Time (2007)

25.5 x 31 framed

Mixed Media on Paper

\$800

The artwork titled *Time* was created after a long exploration of wealth. I spent a couple of years drawing on dollar bills examining various aspects of wealth. Through this I found that the only wealth we have and must spend is our time. We don't know how much time we have. The candle is lit and then it is snuffed, it is the dash on the headstone. That is our wealth.

Susan Mullen is a Chicago visual artist, educator, vocalist, and writer. She earned her B.F.A from The School of the Art Institute in 1981. She has taught visual arts for over thirty years at Daley College and the Chicago Public Schools. Susan has traveled to Peru where she practiced

spiritual ritual and offerings with the Qero people at the sacred mountain (apus) Ausangate. She has also traveled to sacred places in Italy, France, Mexico, Scotland, and Ireland.

Susan has worked on public artworks with Keith Haring and mosaic artist Mirtes Zwierzynski. Her artwork was on display February and March of this year at the Dank Haus Gallery in Chicago. She is currently working with Hector Duarte, Melissa Garcia, and Claudia Rangel on the Letters Home Project, which will be projected onto the outside wall of the Cook County Jail this spring. Her artwork will be on view at Macys as part of a fundraising auction for Mental Health America of Illinois in April. She has exhibited at Gallery Mestizo in Pilsen and at Villarte in the Little Village neighborhood of Chicago. Her artwork is in many private residences including the collections of Barbara Crane and John Miller artists and retired professor at The School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

Britt Posmer

Britt Posmer/Facebook

Green Tara (2015)

10 x 8

Acrylic on Canvas

\$115

Athena's Shield (2015)

12 x 12

Acrylic on Canvas

\$200

Sophia (2015)

12 x 12

Acrylic on Canvas

\$225

All of my work springs from a field of conscious and intentional Presence and utilizes alternative states of consciousness, shamanic practices, and deep meditative and contemplative inquiries as fundamental aspects of the creative process. Each of the pieces submitted is a living field of healing; canvases are treated as bodies and worked in a similar fashion as a human client receiving a session of psychosomatic balancing and energy medicine. Images emerge as the pregnant emptiness is sung over, birthing color and form. What is revealed is a potent visual and symbolic metaphor that acts as a bridge between our multiple intelligences, permeated with and inseparable from Being, in the perpetual dance of awareness as transformation.

Britt Posmer is a contemporary ecstatic and interfaith contemplative who utilizes the arts as a principle means of meditation, transformation, and communion. She is a self-taught painter, as well as a dancer, poet, writer, and performance artist. In addition to her artistic passions, Britt is a trained holistic healer who specializes in transformational companioning and issues pertaining to gender, body, and consciousness. Her book of poetry, *The Angel and The Heretic* was published in 2015.

Kao Ra Zen

kaorazen.tumblr.com

Apollo & the Delphine Experience (2015)

24 x 35

Acrylic & Metallic Leafing on Wood

\$2400

It is a revelatory moment in the instance that one

becomes fully aware of who and what they are. That moment of accepting one's self, perfectly imperfect, and completely incomplete. One attains "knowledge of self" which also gives them an awareness of their connection to all things internal and external.

With "Apollo & the Delphine Experience", I wanted to capture a being who is in a moment of meditative discovery. It was my intention to create an image, though not heavy with details and background, exhibits enough to present to the viewer a being in a state of Samadhi, or some similar experience. Is this being a yogi? Is it Black Jesus? Might he be an Indian mystic? Or perhaps he is all of them, and none of them.

I like to present somewhat spiritualesque visuals that reflect my interest in Eastern philosophy and religion, but also retain a bit of the rawness generally found in urban art. I don't wish for my work to draw too heavily with symbolism from any one source, as I use reference from religious paintings as well as comic books.

Though I used a photo of myself taken by a friend for reference, I would like for all viewers to imagine themselves in such a state of awareness, as the mystic, as the Buddha, as the Messiah, to know themselves and their potential.

Kao Ra Zen, LFAC Artist in Residence, was born and raised in Chicago and developed an intense love of art, writing, and music at a very early age. Kao is a very creative soul and involves himself in many forms of expression, ranging from visual art to performance. Much of Kao's visual work deals with "deifying" the subjects that the artist chooses to paint, by

incorporating elements into the piece that make the figure a bit larger than life. Subjects may be models or from photo reference. Comic books, pro wrestling, and the artist's interest in different religions and mythologies all serve as an influence to his work. Sometimes these influences are used subtly, other times direct reference to a specific source of inspiration is incorporated.

Kao has exhibited in Chicago at the Polish Arts Museum as well as the DANK Haus, the German American Cultural Center. This past summer, the artist traveled to Syke, Germany with other members of the International Arts Group to participate in an arts residency at the Kreismuseum and a group show at a branch of the Sparkasse Bank.

Kao Ra Zen's work with children includes teaching a rapping/poetry class at the Southwest Youth Collaborative, as part of their University of Hip Hop program; assisting in art making workshops as part of the Glenwood Arts Festival; and perform and/or work with children at inner city schools. He currently works as a Science Mentor at Chicago Public Schools as part of the In Search of Genius non-profit organization. Kao recently completed the Associate in Fine Arts program at Harold Washington College.

Diana Rudaitis

Gaia #2 (2011)

11 x 14

Acrylic & Flowers on Paper on Canvas

\$150

The Goddess has been worshiped in various forms going back to pregnant "Venus" figurines of women dating back to 20,000 BCE. Here, the Goddess is represented as the Greek Gaia, a goddess of fertility, vegetation and a Mother Nature figure. She appears with flowers and leaves in her hair. The flowers in this artwork are real pressed flowers, and the leaves were cut from fabric and paper.

Eve (2013)

11 x 14

Acrylic & Flowers on Paper on Canvas

\$150

Here the Goddess is represented by the Biblical Eve, the Mother behind all Creation. Interestingly, scientists now say that human DNA can be traced back to one human, female prototype "Eve". In this painting, Eve peeps out shyly from flowers, leaves and birds, and smiles at her Creation.

Diana Rudaitis was born in Chicago in 1947 and has lived there all her life. She started drawing and painting when she was a small girl and when she was 11 years old, she won a scholarship for young students at the Art Institute of Chicago. She later took various art classes but is mainly a self taught artist. She has worked in pastel chalks and watercolor pencils, but now paints in acrylics, oil pastels and uses paper and sequins in her work.

Diana recently started painting seriously after retiring for 28 years of service as a Chicago Police Officer, and paints under the name "Danusha" to honor her grandmother who came from Poland. Diana likes to paint human and animal portraits in bright, bold

colors and textures, with whimsy and humor. She also paints fantasy and visionary works.

Sujata Tibrewala

pratibimba.info

The Uncertainty Principle (2012)

16 x 20

Acrylic on Canvas

\$600

There is a cosmos within us, and us within the cosmos...
The moment this dawns, it frees up the soul...It is then we
become limitless, beings who can be anywhere or
everywhere all at the same time...

The Generators of the Universe (2012)

16 x 20

Acrylic on Canvas

\$600

I am in you...You are in me...
You and Me are everywhere
In each drop, in each particle,
in each atom,
in each boson,
in each thought wave that makes it.
And hence the Universe resides in me, as much as I dwell
in it...

Sujata Tibrewala, LFAC Artist in Residence, is a self taught artist who in 2009 gave up her electrical engineering career for her first love, art. She now uses her knowledge of science to spread art and issues close to her heart.

Born in India, Sujata had successful solo exhibits and conducted many art workshops, some of which resulted in

student exhibitions. Sujata moved to the U.S. in 2010. Her works are currently on display at many reputed galleries including the Regional Commission of Arts, St Louis and Marine Foundation, California. Her noted exhibitions from the past include Life Force Arts Center, Chicago IL; Gateway gallery, St Louis MO; Lalit Kala Academy, New Delhi; and Jawahar Kala Kendra, Jaipur, India. She is an artist member of many artistic organizations including the St. Louis Artists' Guild, Women's Caucus for the Arts, and Art Concoctions. Starting from her school days, Sujata won many awards, and her art has received rave reviews in leading print and electronic media of India and USA. Presently, Sujata resides in San Jose, California. She is a member of the Naperville Art League, FIRE Arts Studio & Gallery, and Woman Made Gallery, Chicago.

Sarah Rose Warman

SarahRoseArt.us

Rapture of Mechanical Heart (2011)

20 x 24

Acrylic & Ink

\$900

Krishna's Merit (2014)

21 x 29

Mixed Media

\$1000

The pieces in this submission are focused on the personal struggles I have faced associating with any specific religion. I was raised in an Evangelical church my whole life under strict cult regulation with no tolerance for original outside concepts on any subject. Once I turned 18

I left the church and lived as if religion or god had never existed in my life at all. After a year or two I was starting to feel a larger presence in my life and I was struggling to identify this presence and how it aligned with my beliefs. I looked into many religions but I kept coming back to the feeling that most of the time it was based on emulating and glorifying the life path of another rather than following one's own unique path.

These are portraits of religious figures represent the negative and mundane side effects that can come with emulating another's life path through religion. *Rapture of Mechanical Heart* portrays a man descending into heaven only because he lived his life on auto-pilot following orders only to obtain a reward, not because he actually believed in what he was doing. *Krishna's Merit* is depicted wearing a sash with merit badges and many higher consciousness thoughts to show for all his godly deeds and qualities. He is not amused by these accomplishments and flees his life, putting an end to an era.

Sarah Rose Warman, LFAC Artist in Residence: I am a traditional fine artist trained in painting, drawing, photography and printmaking. I explore the nature of chemical reactions with ink to reflect patterns in the universe. The reactions create visions of everything from single cell organisms to an entire cluster of galaxies. I connect these visions with the individual identity and how they intertwine.

My art has recently been featured in events such as the 4th Annual Transpersonal Experience at the HQ Gallery. And Life Force Arts Center. I am currently a full time artist creating work every day in pursuit to visualize energies one cannot put into words. I frequently create custom energy

portraits for my collectors illustrating their unique energies and how they should work towards using their power.

Life Force Arts Manifesto

By Joan Forest Mage

- 1) We call for a community of artists and audiences to boldly acknowledge, explore and activate The Spiritual Power of Art.
- 2) The Spiritual Power of Art affects EVERYONE. By spiritual we mean the non-material, including the human spirit, universal energy and mystical experience. Every culture and human being ever known has been powerfully affected by the arts. It is a huge disadvantage to lack awareness of the spiritual dimension of the arts. Everyone can benefit by understanding and utilizing The Spiritual Power of Art, including what we call the Art Continuum (from perception to expression to art) to be aware of how they are affected by The Spiritual Power of Art, and to take charge of consciously activating this power for the highest good of themselves and the planet.
- 3) The Spiritual Power of Art is the elephant in the living room for modern people. All art is inherently spiritual. Yet, modern people, including many in the art world, shy away from discussing the spiritual dimension of both art and human experience.
- 4) The arts are 100,000 years of the technology of consciousness that help us process our perception, expression and communication. The arts already have

methods in place for how to perceive, express and communicate anything we need to ourselves, our fellow humans or the larger world.

5) The arts affect people so deeply because they have perfected the craft of the 3 Modes of Perception and Expression: the senses of hearing, seeing, feeling (auditory, visual and kinesthetic).

6) The Art Continuum is a continuum of experience that begins as basic perception (both of the internal self and the outer world) to expression, communication and interaction with both fellow humans and the larger community of all beings. Art, the craft of perception, expression and communication, is the highest development of this Continuum.

7) There are 4 Fields of human life that art greatly impacts: Communication, Learning, Healing and Community. There has been a tendency for these fields – education, psychology, cultural events – when they are the locus of art activity, to define the spiritual power of art for their own purposes. Vice versa, arts organizations tend to focus on the methodology of creating the art itself, though being aware (often on a subconscious level) of art's powerful influence on learning, healing and community. We propose to stand that on its head: to ask, "What spiritual effect (human spirit, universal energy and mystical experience) does art have?"

8) In the modern world, people have looked to other fields such as psychology and education to define art's power to affect consciousness. It is time for artists themselves to fully understand and claim the power inherent in their work, and to bring it fully into the 4 Fields (Communication, Learning, Healing and Community). The Art Continuum helps us understand the connection of basic experience, the 4 Fields and the arts, providing the missing link to allow the arts to truly blossom.

- 3 Levels of spiritual power of art: human spirit, universal energy and mystical experience
- The Art Continuum – the 3 Perceptual Modes (auditory, visual, kinesthetic) that are the basis of human perception, communication, healing modalities, learning styles and cultural expression, and that at their highest level of development are called “the arts”
- 4 Fields of human life that the spiritual power of the arts impacts: Communication, Learning, Healing and Community
- 4 Types of spiritual art: Informational, Instructional, Transformational and Cultural

What is the difference between play, ritual and art? All of them are about the other world, but play is about inventing other worlds, ritual is about invoking other worlds, and art is about fabricating other worlds.”

Ellen Dissanayake

Acknowledgements

Life Force Arts Center would like to thank all the Artists, Staff and Volunteers who put in so much work to create this show, especially Steven Blaine Adams, Joan Forest Mage, Anna Applegate, Sojourner Zenobia, Lorraine Moretti, Mary Burton, Kat Kidwell, Jaimie Shepardson, John Henderson, Vince Hawkins, Kao Ra Zen, Sharron Ott Bartemio and Bea Westrate

Life Force Arts Center has over twenty events a month focusing on the connection of the arts and spiritual practice. Please check our calendar & sign up for our e-mail list

Visit PANTHEON,
our online journal of Spiritual Art
Like us on Facebook
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Myth, Religion & Mystical Experience Exhibit Catalog
created by

Joan Forest Mage, Jaimie Shepardson
& Mary Burton

Catalog design by Maggie Baker

About Life Force Arts Center

The mission of **Life Force Arts Center (LFAC)** is to create transformation and community through the spiritual power of the visual, literary and performing arts. We focus on the arts as a common ground of human expression, where artists of diverse spiritual traditions present artistically excellent exhibits, events and publications to awaken human potential, create spiritual transformation and connect audiences to the mystical dimension.

Life Force Arts Center was founded in 1988 as a nonprofit, tax exempt 501 (c) 3 organization to present the modern dance and performance work of Joan Forest Mage. The organization grew to support the broader exploration of art and spirituality, opening our own Center in Chicago in 2008.

Life Force Arts Center presents an average of 20 events each month, including performances, workshops, lectures and ceremonies: a total of over 1000 life-transforming events since we opened, with 250 presenters.

The Spiritual Power of Art: Myth, Religion & Mystical Experience is our 27th juried art exhibit as we begin our 7th year of operation. Our shows are based on themes related to the connection of art and spiritual practice, and run from 2 - 4 months each. Our Art Gallery has featured the work of over 140 artists from throughout the U.S. and the world, including Egypt, France, England, Ireland, Canada and South Africa.

LFAC Artists in Residence are the core artistic staff. Representing a variety of visual, literary and performing arts disciplines, they lead the production of the Art Rituals, Art-Spirit Adventures and other programs LFAC.

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LFAC Artists in Residence 2015

Steven Blaine Adams
Anna Applegate
Barry Bennett
Sharon Bechtold
Chris Bednash
Amy Christensen
Sally Cooper
Kat Kidwell
Joan Forest Mage
Cathy McManamon
Lorraine Moretti
Kao Ra Zen
SzmeraldaShanel
Sujata Tibrewala
Sarah Rose Warman
Jason Winslade
Sojourner Zenobia

