



Searching for truth and beauty, preaching through the transforming power of the arts

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Sr. Gabriella Williams Exhibition on Cosmic Art

From November 14 to 16, 2025, a three-day art exhibition was held at my art studio for the open tours set up by the Arts Foundation for Tucson. The exhibition contained all my cosmic art, acrylic on canvas. I use Hubble and James Webb photos from these telescopes to create my own renditions. I studied these photos and their science and applied that to my art. It is important for me to have the background and knowledge of the various stars and dark matter to bring life to each piece that I paint. This exhibition was viewed by many people around the globe who came to parties to paint and enjoy the educational impact of each painting. Bishop Gerald Kicanas spent a long while with each piece and was very much engaged in the educational aspects. He also viewed a video in my online gallery



on Sahuaro Spirits and was very much amazed. It was a real surprise to have three cosmic scientists attend; Father Chris Corbally, S.J. from the Vatican Observatory who is an astronomer, as well as astrophysicist Guido Brusa Zappellinii from Mount Graham Observatory and Dan Baiuk who worked on correcting the Hubble Telescope blurry lens. It was quite something to see these three conversing about space. Many wonderful friends over the years stopped by to enjoy this event.

President's Message

Greetings, my companion artists!

I recently had the opportunity to attend a lecture on the life and times of Julian of Norwich. Her most famous quote is: "All shall be well, and all shall be well and all manner of things shall be well."

I learned that this is not intended as a flippant or superficial statement of assurances. But the quote demonstrates something deeper. That in our confusion and our mixed-up world of turmoil, God in the end *will* make all things well. I found this comforting, especially now as we are experiencing tumultuous times in our own societal and political time.



I also have been thinking that the cosmic Christ will indeed make all things well. And from our personal and collective human misery, Christ will overcome and establish a new realm of peace and calm. For this Christ we profess and follow, is not merely a personal and community savior and healer, but a universal one. How profound a concept.

Please join me in celebrating such a cosmic vision as we prepare to gather in Adrian in July 2026. It surely will be an opportunity to contemplate, celebrate and collaborate on the work and promise of a future where "all will be well and all manner of things will be well."

Blessings and peace to each of you, my dear sisters and brothers,

John Mascazine, OPA

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A Story about Reconciliation and Healing in South Africa

Sr. Sheila Flynn --With 30 women from Sudan (15 from the north, 15 from the south)

The Sudan (North and South) have experienced 200 years of devastating civil wars where crimes against humanity have been endless, widespread ethnic cleansing, burning villages, looting, starvation, gang rape. The world remains virtually silent on this. Food was often used as a weapon; fighting over water sources, oil and other natural resources. The divisions between an Islamic State control in the North and predominantly Christians in the South, has been fierce and ongoing. Every family on both sides have experienced endless and shocking losses, murder, betrayal.

Into this reality I was asked to run a workshop with 30 beautiful women from the two sides (North and South Sudan) who came to South Africa to experience through the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, how this nation - which had known generations of inhumane ethnic cleansing, brutality at the hands of the security forces towards the disenfranchised black majority – had emerged without a massive blood bath, into democracy, and if their own story could lead to healing and reconciliation.

The main material used was ordinary brown paper, the stuff of every day that you pack with, and a pencil. We would reflect deeply on what we were carrying within.

I encouraged each woman to write down three memories/stories in their own language, of the worst experiences of their suffering and trauma; every woman present had suffered extreme brutality and loss in their families. This journaling was for themselves only, not for sharing.

Then I asked them to turn the paper over and write (again in pencil, that simple tool) three ways they could imagine that would help them take a step towards healing and forgiveness, towards hope for the future. There was not a dry eye among us as we recognised that each of their experiences was echoed in the lives and hearts of the ‘others’ – that they were standing on common ground; there were not two sides here, but one, in their suffering.

We then tore up the brown paper – a symbol of the tearing of our hearts - and proceeded to burn the edges of these smaller pieces, symbolic of the relentless suffering through

generations. These burnt pieces were then reconstituted by pasting them together around a stone, emerging then as an ‘empty’ container, a vessel, to hold hope into the future (see sample above). This became a fragile shell containing the fragments of their lives, and their hopes. This was a cathartic experience for these women,

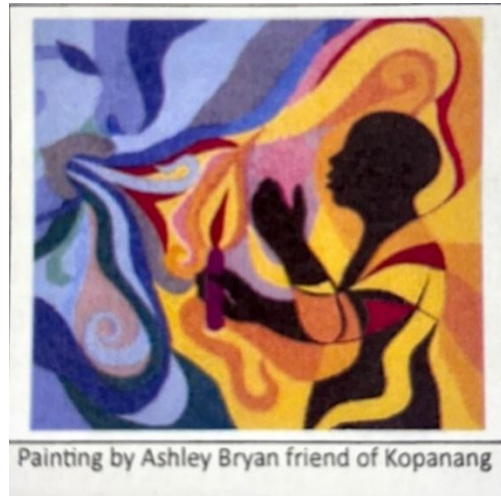
processing the collective human sorrow of their lives as they struggled towards forgiveness. But it was not the end.

At a closing liturgy I asked them to offer their fragile container that now held their unreadable, agonising stories and their hope of healing and reconciliation, to one of the women from the ‘other side’. This was such an incredibly difficult thing for them to do, and there was a terrible long silence that shook us to the core as slowly, they held out their fragile vessel to exchange with one another, becoming a symbol of shared hope for the difficult landscape they would need to traverse into their future. The war continues. And so do our prayers.



The following material comes from a Newsletter written by Sr. Sheila Flynn, for her Kopanang project.

*I would light candles this Christmas.
Candles of joy, despite all the
sadness,
of hope where despair keeps watch,
of courage where fear is ever
present,
of peace for tempest-tossed days,
of grace to ease heavy burdens,
of love to inspire all my living.
candles that will burn all year long
-Howard Thurman*



Dear Sisters, families, friends, students, and college staff - all those who have supported the families of Kopanang:

On behalf of the mothers, grandmothers and children I thank you for your goodness, care, gifts, and purchasing Kopanang products. You're great thoughtfulness for them, for whom you have brought quality of life and a sense that, even if you have never met them, they feel they count and are remembered.

Five of us had the wonderful experience of going to Kopanang at the end of September in the school break. Two of our group are experts in textiles and ran a textile and color theory workshop. It was a privilege to see the mothers and grandmothers' faces light up with their learning and experience possibility.

I am reminded of Rudyard Kipling's words ".... sixty seconds worth of distance run..." We sure packed so

much in the days we were with them, also running a card making workshop when they needed a break. So, you can imagine it did my heart good to see my friends again. Unfortunately, it was not the time of school holidays so we did not have the opportunity to tutor or work with the children and feeding scheme - though I am not at all sure we would have had the time. We fell into bed each night.



A highlight the first weekend we were there was to go to Saint Paul's Mass at Tsakane. Two of our teacher group had not been to South Africa before so you can imagine the huge impression it made to see a community of faith at prayer. The angels in heaven would have had trouble producing the full vocals of their integrated choir and parish, where

everybody participated. It went way beyond a performance - it was a prayer in music and joy.

The counter to this was a visit to the Apartheid Museum, and the wonder of how 3/4 of the nation rose above the oppression, struggle, loss, dislocation. The same wonder translates into the lives of the Kopanong families. The women still have it very tough and would be at a loss without Kopanong to help them put bread on the table. They're beautiful, creative output is also healing for them and brings them a sense of deep pride. Their work goes from strength to strength - at the workshop they had also created some new products as a result of it, but these will have to wait until next year to bring over to us

Richard, Vicky, and Brigitta have been extraordinarily committed to help in very meaningful ways. Students in years 9 and 10 have had the opportunity to take a live project to learn about sustainability, business tools, and experience of all that is involved in putting up new markets.

While initially these school markets are supposed to allow the students to earn 50% of the profit, they donated everything to Kopanong. This has enabled the rest of the considerable bill to be paid off for 2026 uniform grants for the children of Kopanong. Without a uniform a child is denied education. I should have taken a photograph of how they used to go to school with shared shoes (backs broken off), threadbare collars, black skirts and trousers so worn they had a grey sheen to them. Sometimes they took turns going to school wearing one uniform.



Thank you students and teachers for all you have done to help the children go to school with such pride and dignity - the mothers have often spoken of the fact that they no longer feel humiliated because they could not afford a uniform. The government sadly has for years continued to let the poor down and massive corruption has shriveled up resources, especially in the historically black townships where they are too poor to move anywhere else. They have no means of employment (45% of the country), education is poor, health access is extremely limited, yet the Kopanong women come into the project each morning with hope, joy, and strength which they find in one another and in the beautiful work they create, in spite of the relentless struggle.

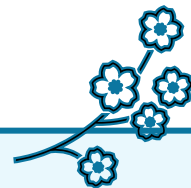
So thank you, thank you for being part of this ongoing miracle of love and faith, of courage, you have made the families of Kopanong so proud and thankful. Isn't it something of what the gift of Christmas is about all of us lending our hands to the flourishing and healing of people Christmas blessings and deep thanks upon you to all whom you love.

***God with us. God for us,
Into this taught tense torn world come!
Into the wounds and warts of our world and lives,
Bring healing and come!***

From the Editor

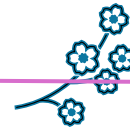
There are several things to remind you:

- 1. MEMBERSHIP DUES:** membership dues is \$35 for the year this entitles you to the OPalette for the printing of the OPalette mailings for those who do not have Internet Some board expenses
- 2. GATHERING REGISTRATION:** We would like to have a count of how many might be attending the 2026 Gathering. If you can pay your \$50.00 deposit soon that would help us with the planning. This year we are offering the Gathering for \$350.00 for everyone.
(Adrian Sisters pay \$250.00 because of arrangements with Weber Center).
- 3. ARTISTS' RETREAT:** There are some spots still open if anyone wishes to attend. Please let us know so we can plan accordingly. The Retreat is \$400.00 from Thursday 7/23 to Sunday 7/26, with travel on Monday, 7/27. This was planned to give those who travel a distance an opportunity to attend two events on one travel fare.
- 4. NOMINATIONS FOR THE FRA ANGELICO AWARD** are due. If you want to nominate someone you think is deserving, please send your statement and reasons you are nominating the person to John Mascazine. Keep in mind the criteria for nomination:
 - The artist's work is of the highest quality in his/her field.
 - Is noted for the work and highly honored in artistic circles.
 - Exemplifies the ideals of DIA.
- 5. NOMINATIONS FOR THE SPIRIT AWARD:** if you believe someone is deserving of this reward, please send in your nomination to John Mascazine by June 1.
- 6. CALLS FOR OPALETTE EDITING & LAYOUT DESIGN:** If anyone is interested in doing the editing or the layout of the OPalette, please submit your name to John Mascazine. Some experience in layout design, familiarity with Word Processing, and lots of patience are attributes necessary for this task.



Please send website submissions to: Sr. Barbara Schwarz OP at Artafire@hotmail.com

A few comments on the life of Pat Daly



Pat Daley always loved signing her name with the initials OPA. She was very proud to be in the Dominican Associate of the Sisters of Peace, and she lived that out in her life, in her work and in her relationships. She took the mission and the values of Dominican life to heart. She was a tireless advocate for community, for prayer, for study, and service. She served seven years as president of the Dominican Institute for the Arts, also commonly known as the DIA. When I sent out an e-mail announcing the fact that Pat had passed on, I received many kind words and affirmations of her life, and I want to just share a few of those with you.

Someone wrote, "Pat Daly lives her enthusiasm. She continually buoyed DIA and will surely follow via the divine artist those were her words for God as the Divine Artist, and she surely will use her artistic gifts to help save the planet and stir empathy into a flame bringing peace."

Another quoted, "Her frequent phone calls to stay in touch will be missed. Rest in the Lord, Pat. Thank you for your supportive friendship and service." Pat was well known for her frequent phone calls. I think she called every member of DIA every year at least one time. She touched base with every member.

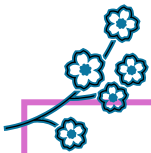
Another wrote, "I, too, was the recipient of Pat's care and encouragement to become involved with the Dominican institute for the Arts. She was an amazing woman, and she will be greatly missed. That's going to leave a massive hole in our hearts but as others have pointed out. Think how much Pat will enjoy meeting up with all of her friends in heaven. I will miss her wisdom, advice, and friendship. She was and will continue to be

an artist of the universe. her smile will always resonate among the DIA family."

Another wrote, "I'm so sorry to hear that I will no longer enjoy the indomitable Pat Daly among us. She stirred a creative spirit in those that she met. She got people involved. She was passionate. She had a good sense of humor, and she was very dedicated to the Dominican spirit.

Pat got me involved in DIA as many others have also said. She invited especially the newest members to take more active roles in either prayer services at Gatherings or talking about our artwork or attending Gatherings or getting in touch with each other. She was very famous at making connections for other people and saying, "Give each other a call; support each other." To me personally Pat was a mentor, a supporter and a friend. I had many conversations with her on the phone. She was strong, very strong. She was determined and she was an advocate for justice and peace. She had a big heart, but she also had her own way of doing things which we had to give her space and respect, but you always knew where Pat stood. There was never any ambiguity, and I liked that about Pat, because you knew what was on her mind and what her goals were. I respected her honesty and her dedication to the Dominican pursuit of truth, and I thank God that I got to know Pat as a mentor, a supporter of the arts, and a friend. May God bless and bestow on Pat eternal rest, and may we continue to carry the torch of Dominican light and life to all those we meet. After this liturgy you are invited to enjoy a little bit of refreshment in the cafeteria thank you.

Sr. Marianna Euring's Year of the Horse



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