



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

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THE GARDEN OF EATIN’-*Creating a Mosaic*

A mosaic begins with one piece. This piece is held in relationship with others in the mind of the creator. When that piece is shaped, it is placed in relationship with the grand scheme. Each tessera is shaped to be harmonious with its neighbor. Viewed together they comprise a coherent pattern or image. A mosaic unifies individuals into a community. All lettering needs to be backward, because it is then flipped upside down onto the setting bed. The setting bed was prepared in a custom-made



stainless-steel frame with a handle for carrying. The area within is reinforced with metal mesh. I used Counter-top Tech Mix concrete formulated for thicknesses as shallow as one inch. I was worried about the weight, so I made it as thin as strength allowed.

Our sign is comprised of glass tesserae. When making the paper pattern each row is drawn onto the paper to be sure the geometry works out within the area. At this time, you need to have a general idea of the dimension of each piece.

Before the pattern is cut into sections it is necessary to draw center lines and a big scribble on the

backside to serve as a guide when you are turning them upside down. Then formation of each individual tessera begins. This sometimes seems to take a lifetime. It is tedious but gratifying.

The setting bed for our sign was poured. Thin-set made for glass applications is spread over the concrete and is also marked with center lines so you can keep your mounted sections oriented properly when setting the first section and checking alignment in subsequent sections. Before setting each section, it is dusted with the same grout that will be used to finish the piece. The dust keeps the paper from disintegrating. A skim of thin-set is spread over the tesserae, then the section is flipped onto the setting bed. It is tamped down with a board to flatten it into an even plane. After it is set, the paper is soaked off with water and the paste cleaned off. When the mosaic is firmly set it can be grouted. After the grout has firmly set, the mosaic can be thoroughly cleaned and sealed.



Lea Koesterer, Racine Dominican Associate from St. Louis



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In his Gospel, Matthew shares with us that Christ said: "I have come not to be served but to serve." According to Webster's Dictionary, one of the

definitions of "to serve" is to answer the needs of others.

Many of us in DIA are in active ministries in which we are constantly meeting and serving the needs of others. We are teachers, spiritual directors, art therapists. We work full or part time for our communities, have commitments as full-time care givers and hospital chaplains.

Many of us volunteer much of our time at our Motherhouses. The bond that holds us together is not that we are artists but that we are **Dominican** artists committed to preaching God's Word through our art.

So how do we actually serve with our art? We work with the down-trodden as art therapists, lift gifted vocal chords in song and praise and write music and plays for children. We push, pull and mold clay until it becomes a tactile prayer. We weave fabric and words, photograph the wonders of nature and, with and through paint, reflect every color of the rainbow.

Where do we find the genesis of this art? We find it in the very depths of our souls – in that "deep down smart place" that Fran Belmonte, our 2014 Gathering keynote Speaker, spoke about; that place we share with no other human being, that place we share only with our God; that intimate place in which our art is conceived and we, as midwives, help birth it and bring it into to the world.

I love classical music and one of my favorite pieces is Beethoven's Ode to Joy. The fact that he was stone deaf when he composed this

incredibly beautiful piece of music has always amazed me. Finally, light dawned on Marblehead. Beethoven heard the notes not only in his head, not only in his heart. He heard the notes in the very depths of his soul. It was Beethoven's "deep down smart place" that was the genesis and prelude to his *Ode to Joy*.

As Dominicans, it is inherent in us to share the fruits of our contemplation. For us, as Dominican artists, one of the fruits we share is our art. In so doing, we feed those starving for beauty.

Take care and be well. I am so looking forward to being with many of you in Racine.

Peace,

Pat

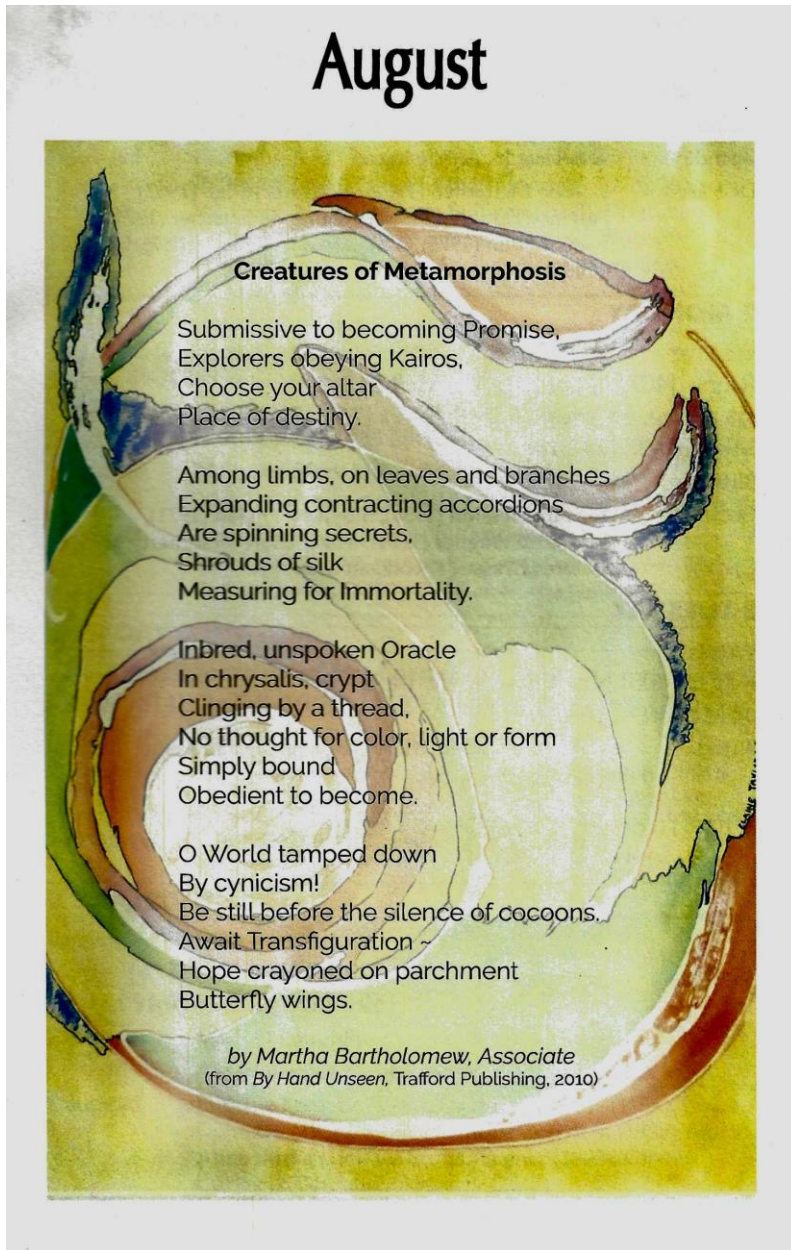
FROM THE EDITOR

In spite of the Covid-19 Pandemic, which has led to isolation and the inability to meet in person, members of DIA have been very productive. In this edition you will experience the creativity of our members and find hidden treasures in these amazing outputs. Some worked alone, some worked in shared groups, and some collaborated to join forces in creating wonderful presentations. The artists have shared meaningful past experiences which the quarantine conjured up from memories past. The diversity of the work spans many artistic disciplines. Hopefully these works will inspire you to tap into your creative self. If you have any gems you'd like to let others know about please send your information to slenkeree@yahoo.com



Sr. Elaine Taylor, a long-time member of the DIA, had her work chosen to do the backgrounds for the Sinsinawa Dominicans calendar for the year that lists all the pertinent information one needs to know. Each month has a different work of Elaine's. This particular segment from the book happens to be very special because, not only do we enjoy one of Elaine's watercolors, but also a poem from our Fra Angelico recipient, Martha Bartholomew, Sinsinawa Associate.

In order to make it easier for reading Martha pens:



Creatures of Metamorphosis

Submissive to becoming Promise,
Explorers obeying Kairos.
Choose your altar
Place of destiny.

Among climbs, on leaves and
branches,
Expanding contracting accordions
Are spinning secrets.
Shrouds of silk
Measuring for Immortality.

Indeed, unspoken Oracle
In chrysalis crypt
Clinging by a thread.
No thought for color, light or form
Simply bound
Obedient to become.

O World tamped down
By cynicism!
Be still before the silence of cocoons.
Await Transfiguration –
Hope crayoned on parchment
Butterfly wings.

From ***By Hand Unseen***, Trafford
Publishing 2010

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My Dear DIA Members, One ALL,

What a special Zoom gathering we had! My heart overflowed with gratitude as tears ran down on my cheeks. Yes, I tasted its sweetness. I smiled, and oh, tears of joy and spark of truth and understanding the meaning of that very moment of accepting "Fra Angelico." His spirit hovered around us and fluttered to those beyond the zoom boxes – members unable to join us and further beyond our earthly presence. We were embraced in ONE-ness rejoicing and praising God our Divine Master Artist!



Your affirmation and applause were music to my ears. The sound and images on the screen might have not been captured by neither a camera nor a video cam, yet this moment will remain alive in our hearts.

Again, I say, Thank You! You have lifted me up. Your own gifts and artistry have inspired and broadened mine. This honor is ours!

Thank you equally to my own MSJ Sisters for their presence and support. It is in the name of my Congregation that I receive Fra Angelico!

Blessings, and together, our preaching continues through the Arts

Irene Mary



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Monoprint: Green plant, grey world

Joeann Daley, OP

In 1993 Sr. Joeann Daley, OP had the occasion to be in Poland and Ukraine, after the Berlin Wall fell. She writes, "My overwhelming feeling was that this was a grey world of war-wearied people in a world covered with coal dust. Grey sky, grey earth, grey spirits. Then one day I looked out of my window into a window of the building across the street. My spirit woke up when I saw a small green plant, sitting on the windowsill, behind grey curtains in a grey building, in a grey world.

Someone dared to hope that the SUN would find its way through the choking grey, to bless this small plant with its rays. The plant guardian, behind the window, would water the plant and the sun outside, would shine on it. Together, this little plant would grow into a great green plant in in this grey world. Little by

little, more little plants, appeared on windowsills throughout the city. Water cans pored and the sun smiled on each plant. Soon flowers and vegetables smiled at each other and thanked the human-plant -water -pourer and the mighty sun. Soon spots of blue began to break through the grey clouds. Sounds of birds and animals could be heard.

As artists we have the eyes to see through the grey to the beauty that is already there. We have the mind to imagine a world of possibilities and have the hands to help create a world of beauty that exists in the grey. We are the co-creators in illuminating the beauty of the Divine Mystery of the Creator God."



Sr. Brigid Bray, DIA member from Mission San Jose, shares two of her works entered into a group exhibition at Olive Hyde Art Gallery, April 21 – June 25, 2022. Sr. Brigid has been in many

shows in her city of San Jose, as well as in other venues. Kudos Sr. Brigid, on your winning works and your determination to continue to grow as an artist.



Sr. Thoma Swanson shared her gift of art in an exhibition of work she entitled, *Swan Song II*. She draws her inspiration from her missionary work in Peru, Iraq and from Scripture. In this exhibition Sr. Thoma reveals her proficiency in a wide range of styles and mediums: watercolor, acrylic on canvas, tapestries, prints, ink drawings, paper sculptures. She loves to paint mountains, rivers and the people she has met in her

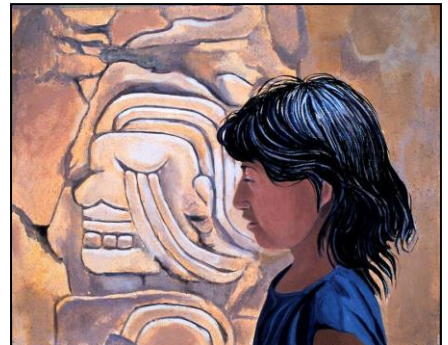


Swan Song: A Retrospective of the Art of Sr. Thoma Swanson, O.P.

Gallery Opening March 22, 1–3:30 p.m.



she could share it with others. She said, “I make art that causes people to raise their hearts to God, and give them an insight into things they’ve thought about.”

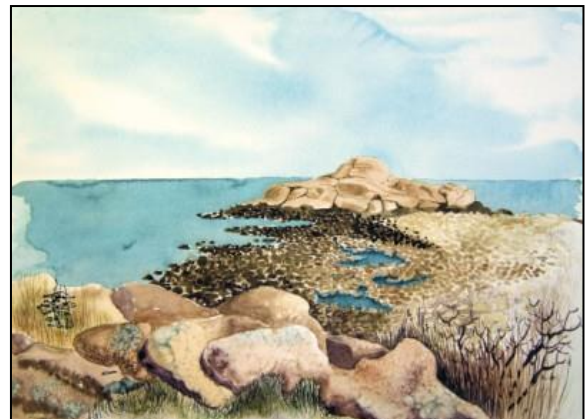


life journeys. She credits her prolific production of art to God. She states, “It’s the work of God’s hands, and God gave me the gift of art. I’m happy to have that gift. I love it. My gift of art is

Thoma’s creating art is a different way of looking at the possibilities of life.



part of God’s gift to all of us. Not everybody gets the gift of art, they get gifts of various kinds.” Sr. Thoma’s conclusion is that *Swan Song II* came as a result of concluding that God had given her the gift so



NEW BOOK: *Minnesota's "Big Woods" Musicians* [ISBN 804879353447]

Sister Anita Smisek, OP, a Sinsinawa Dominican has published a comprehensive book on the rich tradition of the music, culture and lives of immigrants from Bohemia to the communities around New Prague, Minnesota. Her work, entitled ***"Minnesota's "Big Woods" Musicians***, narrates the story of how the immigrants to the area since 1881, brought their love of music with them from their old



country. In her book Sr. Anita has researched old family documents, newspapers, and interviews with the elderly musicians to piece together the story of how families playing and singing together brought some joy and merriment to the hardships of pioneer life. Her book tells of the

gifted musicians who brought their performing talents and teaching skills with them to provide music for family, church, and community

gatherings. These gifted musicians also traveled to St. Paul to perform with the symphony orchestra, teach classical musicians, and study music themselves. At night they taught their children to love and play music, which eventually was included in the schools. These skilled musicians made their living during the day as farmers, and as musicians at night.

The book contains over 170 photos dating from the 1870's to present including current bands, Czech singing groups and dancers. This book tells a wonderful story of the many joys and contributions which the Czech people have contributed to America. ***Minnesota's "Big Woods" Musicians*** also highlights the historic rise of large dance halls, the development of big bands, and the tradition of public wedding dances. One may ask why this topic was chosen by Sr. Anita to spend years researching and writing. She comments, "I've learned about Bohemian culture and music – my heritage, really. Someone told me, 'You've got to write this down'. That was the push I needed. I want this work to live."

Congratulations, Sr. Anita, on a work lovingly brought to life from the fire in your soul for Czech music, language, and history.

Sister Barbara Moore, from Caldwell, is having an exhibit of her photographs during the month of August. Kudos, Barbara, on such beautiful work.



Creating a Sacred Space, Compassionate Listening in Serious Illness and End of Life Care

Phylliss M. Chappell, MD MS FAAHPM

Conference on Medicine and Religion 2022



Hear the Women Cry

Sr. Barbara Schwarz, O.P.
Sisters of St Dominic
Contemplative Art

HOUSTON
Methodist
LEADING MEDICINE

Phylliss Chappell MD, DIA member, presented a keynote address at a conference in Portland, Oregon March 14, 2022. In her presentation on palliative care with compassionate listening, Dr. Phylliss used fifteen artworks of Sr. Barbara Schwarz, DIA member. This conference was live and in person.

Houston Dominican Family member Dr. Phylliss Chappell possesses many gifts that she freely shares with her palliative care patients, medical students, peers, the Houston Dominican Sisters and Family, and the wider community. Phylliss expresses the Dominican charism through her compassionate listening, spiritual reflections, liturgical dance, and daily life.

Phylliss graduated from Smith College as the first African American woman to graduate *summa cum laude*, graduated Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine, and is a veteran of the United States Air Force. She is board certified in family medicine, hospice and palliative medicine, and radiology, is a fellow of the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine, and recently earned a master's degree in palliative care at the University of Maryland, Baltimore. Phylliss has also completed advanced training in mind-body medicine with the Center for Mind-Body Medicine.

Phylliss began her medical career as a radiologist but desired a more personal and holistic connection with her patients. She is currently practicing supportive and palliative medicine at Houston Methodist Hospital as well as teaching as an assistant professor. Phylliss learned about the Dominican charism while her daughters attended St. Agnes Academy, a Houston Dominican high school. In 2012 she made her commitment to the Houston Dominican Family* and expressed then that she was committed to extending genuine kindness to everyone she encounters and to practicing compassion, forgiveness, and generosity to others and herself. Being part of the Dominican Family has enriched Phylliss's spirituality and the spirituality of those around her. At Dominican Family gatherings, she has led guided meditations and spiritual reflections and performed prayerful liturgical dance. Phylliss invited the residents of Angela House, a ministry for formerly incarcerated women supported by the Dominican Family, to join her in a project to hand sew hundreds of pocket-sized hearts for her medical students to remind them their



patients are whole, human beings rather than simply a diagnosis and to remind these young student doctors also to hold their own hearts gently.

Phylliss led a workshop on compassionate listening in palliative care at the 2021 International Conference on Communication in Healthcare (ICCH) where she collaborated with Amityville Dominican Sister Barbara Schwarz, who shared her artwork for the presentation. The two Dominicans met at the annual Dominican Institute for the Arts (DIA) gathering where Phylliss offered a liturgical dance prayer.

When reflecting on this Spotlight piece, Phylliss cited Quaker elder and educator Parker Palmer who recently wrote, "My life has been graced, but it certainly hasn't been graceful – I've done more than my share of falling down, getting up,

and falling down again. The falling down is due to missteps and gravity. The getting up is due to grace, mediated by people to whom I owe great debts of gratitude." Phylliss stated, "The Dominican Sisters of Houston and the Dominican Family have oft been sources of that grace which allows me to rise when I've fallen, sources of encouragement to take steps in faith even when plagued by fear." Phylliss truly embodies the four pillars of Dominican life, and through her gifts, shares the Dominican charism with all whom she encounters.

**The Dominican Sisters of Houston do not have a traditional associate program; instead, the sisters formed the Dominican Family, comprised of non-vowed women and men who commit to the Dominican charism and who walk side by side with the congregation.*

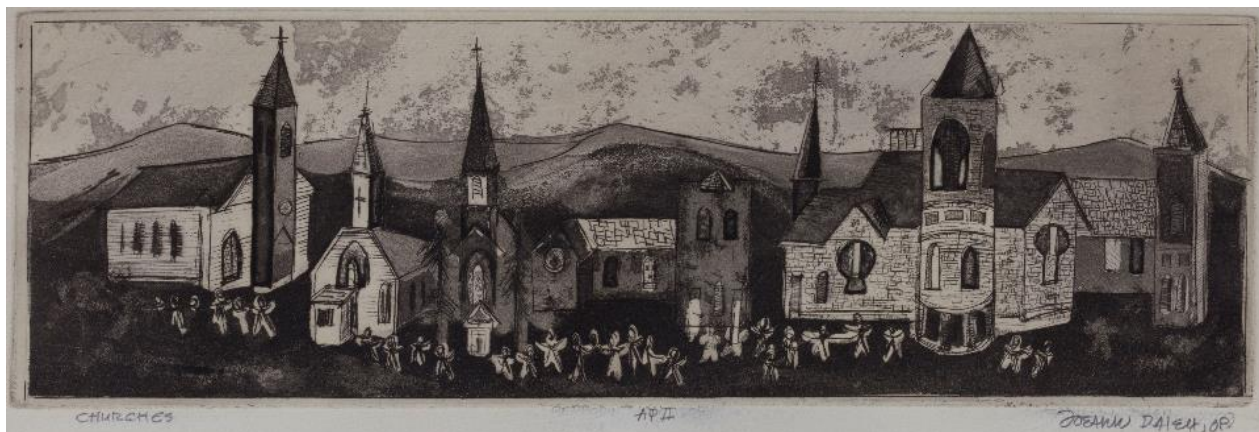
Montana Prints and Collages

- Joeann Daley

This exhibition comprises three series of prints and collages made between 1969 to 1988, while Joeann Daley was living in Montana. Like other Montana Modernists, she depicted her world without nostalgia or idealism and influenced the next generation through teaching and community building. The work reflects the artist's close connections to people and places throughout Montana and documents the changing social landscape that followed the demise of the Anaconda Company.

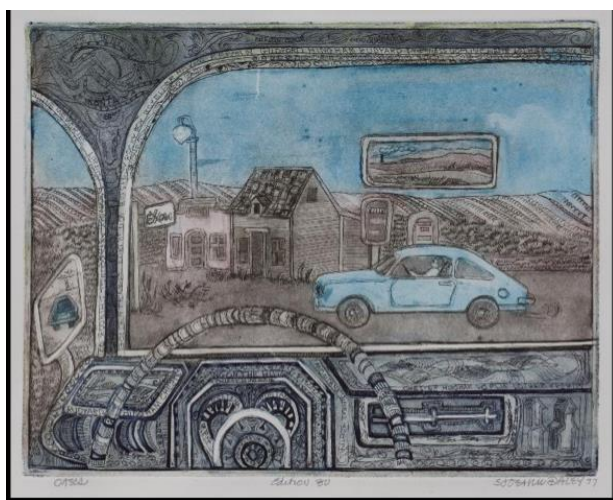


Montana Prints and Collages



A Dominican Sister who grew up on a family farm in Wisconsin, Daley moved to Anaconda in 1969 to teach in the Catholic high school. She founded and directed Anaconda's Copper Village Museum and Arts Center, and then worked for the Montana Arts Council, helping small communities identify, connect, celebrate, and grow their cultural assets. She returned to Anaconda in 1985 after seven years studying art in Italy. Throughout her career as an artist and as a Dominican sister, engaging communities has been central to her practice.

Using media including sculpture, drawing, lithography, etching, and collage, Daley chronicled the particularities, personalities, and quirky beauty of Montana's people, architecture, celebrations, and landscapes—seeing as an outsider, yet immersed in the daily life of the community. Her work reveals essential but often overlooked details of place—from workers changing shift at the Anaconda smelter to Marcus Daly's Montana Hotel, from the frescos of the Washoe Theater to Hi-line grain elevators. Daley believes that “the ordinary things of life deserve to be seen” and considers it her mission as an artist to see and re-present things that are so commonplace as to go unnoticed.



Daley gained access to the Anaconda Smelter in the early 1970s, where she recorded the horrific beauty of the Nineteenth-Century machinery and the hardship and dignified strength of the people who flowed through the gates in daily shifts. While working for the Montana Arts Council she made a series of prints documenting the long highways and rural communities she visited. In the 1980s, Daley's practice increasingly shifted from printmaking to collage. She discovered that by re-combining elements from her prints, she could connect disparate images and ideas across time, dispense with traditional perspective, and better communicate the spirit of a place.

Long Island Artist Exhibit in April 2022, Sister Mary Anna Euring, OP, DIA member, had this solo exhibit entitled “*On the Journey*,” consisting of Asian Brush paintings. It was held at Melo Beauty Bar, Garden City, New York to Support the Women & Children of the Ukraine.

Sister Mary Anna Euring, an Amityville Dominican Sister for 65 years, is allocating all proceeds from her exhibit, *On the Journey*, to help support the Women and Children of the Ukraine, through Sister Margaret Mayce, OP, Coordinator of the Dominican Sisters International in Rome, who will distribute donations to the Dominican Sisters in Europe who have opened their convent doors to the refugees.

Sister had always been drawn to Asian brush paintings and longed for the day when she would have the time to express herself through this medium. Now, after many years devoted to being an educator, administrator, hospital chaplain and counselor, she is fulfilling her heart’s desire by re-engaging as a contemplative artist.

Her paintings visually express a quote from Teilhard de Chardin: “For those who know how to see, everything is sacred.” As an artist, she attempts to “see” the essence of reality and portray it by using the simple tools of ink, brush, and rice paper. The simplicity of the medium appeals to her as it expresses her belief that “less is more.”

She shares with us: “As my creative “Chi” energy is released and flows spontaneously through the brush, I am always amazed by what emerges.

Those who gaze on my art tell me that they are attracted by its “spirit,” and many are surprised to see their own life story reflected in what has flowed from my brush. This new-found gift of Asian brush painting is for me both a delight and a passion. My hope is that those who gaze upon it will be filled with deep peace, inspiration, and healing.”



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



Front, from left, Sisters Nancyann Turner, OP, and Mary J. Hickey, OP, and Debra Henning; back, from left, Mame Jackson, Associate Judith Engel, and Sisters Suzanne Schreiber, OP, Barbara Cervenka, OP, and Aneesah McNamee, OP.

During the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic a group of artists of Adrian Dominicans, Associates and friends responded to this time-out-of-time by making art. Eight women gathered monthly on Zoom to share their creative work. They found ways to put meaning to what was going on and to give expression to those thoughts, feelings, and observations. Four of these women belong to the DIA, Sisters Sue Schreiber, Aneesha McNamee, Nancy Ann Turner, and Associate Judith Engle. Artworks included drawing, painting, writing, journaling, graphic arts, collage, photography, and video production. Their work is displayed in a unique INAI exhibit.



Sue Schreiber

Nancyann Turner



Judith Engel



WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

Sr. Donna Brunell, OP – Hope Dominican

I made four wall quilts based on each of the four elements using the Mandala as a basis for the design. My hope is that it will become a part of an interactive program that promotes a contemplative way of being in nature.

Sr. Irene Mary Diones, OP – Mission San Jose Dominican

For the Art Gallery I've done a photo collage called Stages, and a second project called Easter Laudato Si. I have created a poem I call "I Walk the Words" with one more in process.

Sr. Magdalena Ezoe, OP – Adrian Dominican

I am still performing my "First Sunday Music Series," mainly my solo piano performances.

Sr. Janice Holkup, OP – Adrian Dominican

Each year I create a photo card for our Community Jubilarians. This year I created my first digital Christmas card.

Sr. Jo-Ann Iannotti, OP – Hope Dominican

I created a series of photos and called them "Photos During a Pandemic." I am developing a new series entitled "Pairings." I conducted a Retreat Day at Mariandale Retreat & Conference Center, entitled "Matthew, Mark, Luke and John: Architects of the Four Gospels."

Frandel Marsh, OP – Immaculate Heart Lay Fraternity, Buffalo, NY

Four of my prayer cards were translated into

Spanish. Prayer cards were sent to parishes in Oxford, Michigan, after the high school shootings and also to Mayfield, Kentucky, after the destructive tornado. They are also being given to the refugees in Arizona by Sr. Esther.

Sr. Francetta McCann, OP – Grand Rapids

I have had an exhibition entitled "Fine Art Photographs" in the Grand Rapids Gallery 154, and photo cards on display at the Catholic Information Center in Grand Rapids.

Sr. Barbara Schwarz, OP – Amityville Dominican

I have held Mandala workshops for the Dominican Volunteers, Molloy College students and Faculty. My art has been used in collaboration in two presentations by Dr. Phyllis Chapman, M.D. One was an International Zoom presentation, and the other a national presentation on palliative care. I have also made videos for Congregational shared leadership meetings and YouTubes on St. Dominic's Chapel.

Sr. Elizabeth Slenker, OP – Sparkill Dominican

I had my third illustrated book, *The Adventures of Boo and Belle*, published, and am editing my fourth book, *Genie in my Pocket*. I have finished writing my fifth book, *Martha's Miracles*, and it is being read by an editor. I have created a series of 60 pen and ink drawings which will be in a sixth book entitled, *Expanding the Rosary*.

DIA Gathering in Racine

August 1-4, 2022

Telling the Story

Keynote Speaker: Our Itinerant Preacher, Sr. Ann Willits, OP

This is our first time together since 2019!