

Artist Statement

My artwork explores how the transcendental is present in the world around us. I am influenced by the relationships that humans have with themselves, others, the environment, and God. My art expresses these relationships in different ways and presses deeper into the philosophical idea of aesthetics.

These issues that concern aesthetics are expressed through my artwork portraying the aesthetics of beauty in human encounters with self, nature, others, and God. My artwork speaks to the truths that are revealed in these four relationships. The goal for my pieces is to cause people to move into an encounter with the artwork in which they can see themselves in relationship with more than just the piece of art but rather with the world around them.

I would align my work with ancient Byzantine and Orthodox iconography. In these traditions the iconographer was not so much creating a picture but rather an opportunity of encounter with the divine. My work creates 'modern icons' in which the viewer can enter into an encounter with self, others, nature, and God and come to contemplate their own existence in relationship to all else. I hope to accomplish this by drawing on the deep school of thought connected to various religious and secular traditions. This is accomplished through research and also drawing on the symbolic meaning of items so that pieces must be contemplated in order for the full meaning to be revealed.

In my paintings and installation work I look for objects with symbolic meaning or objects that can easily be transformed to have symbolic meaning to the viewer. By choosing objects that are both relevant and able to be contemplated in connection to the greater history of art my work begins to grow to have meaning deeper than surface level. In addition to creating contemporary icons with paint and leaf I have also began to create contemporary icon installations that focus on portals to ourselves and our memories.

Many of my pieces arise from encounters and relationships that I have had throughout my life. It is in creating art about these encounters and topics that I come to a greater understanding of philosophical and theological studies. Thus, I feel I can express these topics in a way that is approachable for a day and age in which relationships with others, nature, God, and even ourselves can be deemed irrelevant. I invite people to look at the ordinary and see it in a transfigured light in which we can walk forward the duty within us to know ourselves in relationship to the wider world.

It is in this contemplation of the world around us and our relationship to it in which art can reach its full potential. When art becomes not a passive but an active encounter, the human person can move beyond the reality that is in front of them to contemplate deeper issues within the surrounding world and themselves and thus become a transformative force in the world.