

LAKE MERRITT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH ART EXHIBIT

WHAT MATTERS IS A NEW CREATION

art pieces from members and participants of the church

Edwards Room, March 1 - May 31, 2020

Displayed numerically, clock-wise direction around walls of room.

Look for very small numbers located next to lower right corner of art pieces, as follows:

1. Artist: Nora Abesemis Bell
Title: Nora's Egyptian Piece

2. Artist: Vivian Romero
Title: Creation:New Creation
Medium: Acrylic
Price: \$35
Story: In a triad, this piece expresses the transformation of light into color and symbolizes new possibilities, cleansing, and natural beauty. God's creation being transformed into a new creation.

3. Artist: Paul Bell-Tull
Title: African Wildlife
Medium: photography
Story: In 2014, Sylvia and I were able to join the Oakland Zoo sponsored safari to Tanzania and Kenya. Each of these four photographs captures a piece of an awe-inspiring moment. It is an experience beyond compare to see these magnificent animals [however large or small] in their natural habitat. Time almost stops. And when our safari van driver turns off the engine, all noise stops and a great stillness settles over the Serengeti. It is palpable and feels holy. Preparing these pictures for this exhibit has brought our experience back to Sylvia and me.

4. Artist: Virginia Turner
Title: "Silent Night Holy Night" When Jesus Son of God was Born
Medium: Collage from art using Christmas cards
Story: Inspiration from Christmas cards increases our faith as we celebrate the birth of our creator's true son. The angels and animals near the baby in his manger, and wise men following the star, help to feel present at the miracle.

5. Artist: Doss Jones

Title: French Braid Prayer Quilt

Medium: Cotton fabric

Story: This prayer quilt is made for someone who is sick, injured, or dying. Someone who has cancer. Thread ties are sewn into the quilt so that members of the congregation and friends may tie their prayers into the quilt. The quilt is then given to the recipient as a tangible reminder of all the people praying for them. This is a sacred process. The quilts are made with the creative skill of the quilter who has the gift of flow so that there is movement in their work of art. Fabric moves from light to dark, solidish to flowers, and abstract designs to batiks. You train your eye to match the colors for the first cut and then you wait for the final cut. Fabrics are lined up next to each other to see if they will get along with their neighbors. Each fabric wanting to be chosen, dependent on their neighbors for the right place.

6. Artist: Kathleen Bell

Title: #1 baby quilt

Medium: fabric

Story: Our daughter and son in law were expecting twins and asked me to create quilts for each of the babies, not knowing their gender nor names. They gave me a palette of colors they liked and I selected fabrics in those hues. This is one of the quilts that came from the inspiration; a new creation celebrating new lives with a grandmother's love.

7. Artist: Margaret LeWright

Title: The Most Valuable

Medium: Music

Story: Inspired by the worship series "Christmas, It's Not Your Birthday."

8. Artist: Fran Cooper

Title: "First Light"... December 20th, 2019

Medium: photography

Story: About 15 years ago I began to notice the many gifts in nature that I'd often ignored for some reason or another, single flowers that now seemed too beautiful to pass without a silent thank you; the first hint of morning light in a cloudy sky; groups of grasses, leaves, or flowers that it seemed could have only been arranged by the divine "hand." This discovery led me to study photography to try to express some of the beauty I now saw. My images cannot capture the actual vision, but they serve as a reminder and hopefully encourage others to also welcome visions of nature in their travels. Life is full of light and shadows, sunrises and sunsets and many other natural treasures. May

we appreciate and use these gifts and wonders on our journey to become “A New Creation.”

9. Artist: Linda Weingarten

Title: She

Medium: poetry based on Lectio divina practice

This is based on Luke 22:24-27.

Women in San Leandro (WISL) was using this passage for practicing a form of Lectio divina (Divine Reading) and these images formed as a new creation in my mind. I captured it in a poem.

10. Artist: Joan McCloskey

Title: Creation is Forever Blossoming

Medium: Tempera paint

Story: New creations bud around you.

11. Artist: Sylvia Bell-Tull

Title: VISION QUEST: Dream Image

Medium: Fiber, weaving

Story: I was on a vision quest, sleeping under the stars. One night I had a dream that showed wheels rolling out of the heavens toward me. I opened my eyes and still I could see them rolling toward me. I thought they were beautiful and intriguing. The circles/wheels in my weaving represent these dream images. After some time I concluded that a message was being sent to me: Fundamentally all of life is whole even though it is constantly changing.

12. Artist: Vivian Romero

Title: In Memoriam: Nance Conover

Medium: Photograph; acrylic

Price: \$35

Story: This depicts a section of LMUMC's panoramic portrait and a small painting.

Nance and I chatted while getting ready for the photo to be taken.

She told me about planning Jonathan's birthday party and we talked about being prayer partners for our Bible Study group which she'd recently been coming to.

Nance passed away a little more than 24 hours after the photo was taken.

The photo expresses the Biblical theme and passage *Love thy Neighbor...*

I made the painting while anticipating Nance's memorial service. Through horizontal and vertical lines and beach-like color palette, it expresses infinity and freedom.

13. Artist: Sofia Bell

Title: Winter Tree

Medium: Salt, watercolors

Story: This is a piece of art from my 4th grade portfolio mimicking a forest on a cold winter day.

14. Artist: Fran Cooper

Title: Early Morning Traveler

Medium: photography

Story: For many years we lived on a street where we often saw beautiful sunsets. The view to the east was blocked, and though I loved every sunset I saw, I rarely saw a sunrise. Imagine my delight to discover this morning traveler and a beautiful sunrise at a little past seven on an early morning in late October of 2019. Life is full of light and shadows, sunrises and sunsets and many other natural treasures. May we appreciate and use these gifts and wonders on our journey to become "A New Creation."

15. Artist: Joan McCloskey

Title: Jaco Pastorius, jazz magician

Medium: tempura paint

Story: New creation through the joy, spirit, and healing powers of music.

16. Artist: Tanas Sliheet

Title: Tree with a Heart

Medium: watercolor on canvas

Story: I like to paint and I did this piece with my helper.

17. Artists: Jane & Raja Sliheet

[two pieces: one painting, one photo]

Titles: Raja's Plant

Medium: watercolor and gouache, and photography

Story: Raja has a green thumb when it comes to plants. Last year he planted the poinsettia plant we were given from church and put it in a pot on our patio. Raja talked to the plant, petted its leaves, gave it food and water. By the following Christmas, some of the top leaves started turning red. It was a beautiful surprise and new creation!

18. Artist: Jane Sliheet.

Title: A New Creation (Pears on a Branch)

Medium: water color and water color pencil

Story: Fresh pears growing on a tree in morning light is a beautiful sight. I enjoyed studying a pear, making note of all the different colors, and trying to capture those colors in my painting.

19. Artist: Nora Abesamis Bell.

Title: The Hungry Caterpillar - Nora's Version

Medium: Ink, paint

Story: Ms Ames, my art teacher, helped us use lots of tools to make the designs in the paint and ink. I put a mustache on the caterpillar. We made a collage like Eric Carle.

20. Artist: Michele Chun

Title: Green

Medium: photography

Story: I love the first shoots of green following the rains of winter. The brightness of the color speaks directly to my spirit and gives me hope.

21. Artist: Shirley Taylor

Title: Peaceable Kingdom

Medium: embroidery/crewel work

Story: I worked on this while reading "The Peaceable Kingdom," a novel by Jan de Hartog about George Fox and the founding of the Quakers, also known as the Society of Friends. Also Bible scripture Isaiah 11:6-9 says:

The wolf will live with the lamb,

And the leopard will lie down with the young goat;

The calf and the young lion will feed together,

And a little child will lead them.

The cow and the bear will graze.

Their young will lie down together,

And a lion will eat straw like an ox.

A nursing child will play over the snake's hole;

Toddlers will reach right over the serpents's den.

They won't harm or destroy anywhere on my holy mountain.

22. Artist: Tom Huetteman

Title: The River of Life-Giving Water

Medium: Photography

Story: The frame of the photo collage features verses from the last chapter of Revelation, which offers a vision of a new creation. Each photo has a story. These stories tell of friendship, family, adventure and love from our experiences connecting

with people around the world, especially in rural developing nations. As the world creates more capacity to be in community with each other, we are part of forming God's new kingdom, a new creation, centered on love. It's in relationship with each other and God that we find a river of life-giving water, trees of life for our healing, and God's light shining through.

23. Artists: Joseph Koroma and Satu Sheriff (and David Betts)

Title: J is for Julietta

Medium: photography (and fabric blanket)

Story: The photo was taken on Christmas Eve 2019. Julietta shares the same birthday as David Betts who specially designed and handmade an Afghan blanket with letter J and presented it to Julietta as a Christmas gift.

24. Artist: Rev. Sherron Hughes-Tremper

Submitted by Rev. Stephanie Gameros, Deacon

Title: Cityscape

Medium: acrylic

Story: Sherron was happy when she created this series of Cityscapes inspired by the lovely city of San Antonio, TX.

25. Artist: Rev. Stephanie Gameros, Deacon

Title: Transition

Medium: acrylic

Story: Days before mom's transition to eternal life, I envisioned her surrounded by angels attending to her comfort and peace.

26. Artist: Patty Haag

Submitted by Rev. Stephanie Gameros, Deacon

Title: Sherron

Medium: photography

Story: Rev. Sherron Hughes-Tremper
b. July 9, 1945 - d. August 22, 2015

27. Artist: Rev. Sherron Hughes-Tremper

Submitted by Rev. Stephanie Gameros, Deacon

Title: Alice

Artist: Medium: water color

Story: Sherron painted this angel in honor of her deceased mother Alice.

28. Artist: Margaret LeWright
Title: Joys in the Garden in January
Artist: Margaret LeWright & God
Medium: Gardening & photography
Story: The Hymn "In the Garden" noticing, sharing, and appreciating all the joys in my garden in January, truly the creations of God.
29. Artist: Rev. Sherron Hughes-Tremper
Submitted by Rev. Stephanie Gameros, Deacon
Title: ART
Artist: Medium: print
Story: My artist mother often said "Art Saves Life!" And she used art as healing, hope and strength throughout her journey with cancer in particular.
30. Artist: Jane Sliheet
Title: Mely's Retirement (Flowers in a Vase)
Medium: water color
Story: An audiologist/friend I know recently retired. At her retirement party, were vases with flowers on the tables. I loved the variety of flowers/greenery and the randomness of their placement in the vase.
31. Artist: Vivian Romero
Title: What Matters is a New Creation
Medium: acrylic
Price: \$35
Story: This piece was inspired by a page from the contemporary illuminated St. John's Bible, located at St. John's University's Hill Museum & Manuscript Library in Collegeville, Minnesota
32. Artist: Doss Jones
Title: Stained Glass Window Prayer Quilt
Medium: Cotton batik fabric
Story: See #5 above
33. Artist: Patty Staggs
Title: Stelae at Berlin Holocaust Memorial
Medium: photography
Story: After visiting the narrative part of the memorial (below ground under the stelae) I was struck by the light and shadows made by the above ground stelae memorializing a

very dark part of humanity's history. I realized that at a certain vantage point, the light and shadows created an almost flat view with little perspective that seemed quite abstract to me.

34. Artist: Angie Esteban

Title: Frida

Medium: Acrylic paint

Story: I painted this to celebrate Frida's artistry and creativity. I am fascinated by her uniqueness and her life story in general.

35. Artist: Angie Esteban

Title: Crimson Moon

Medium: Acrylic paint

Story: I love to paint moons and the many phases of it. Staring at it on a clear night gives me calmness and a way of appreciating life itself.

36. Artist: Susannah Wood

Title: Wondering

Medium: Acrylic on canvas

Story: My first painting since middle school. I was so at peace, seeing colors and shapes everywhere, but something was missing: creation includes things that don't "fit in," are ugly, or silly, or don't make sense. So I found the pink creature.

37. Artist: Judi Fabrizio

Title: Hanging Doll Quilt

Medium: fabrics and trims

Story: My mom loved dolls and had five generations of dolls from previous generations. She loved seeing how dolls had evolved. The doll quilt was made to hang in the room that housed these treasures.

38. Artists: Laurel Williams and Randy Reed

Title: Garden Fairy Pot

Medium: pot, dirt, plants

Story: Randy cut the pot and grew the plants. Laurel arranged them so the fairies in their garden would have some place to gather.

Performing Arts

Artist: Margaret LeWright

Title: The Most Valuable

Medium: Music, singing accompanied by piano (Joan Miller)

Story: Inspired by the worship series "Christmas, It's Not Your Birthday".

Artist: Susannah Wood

Title: Trees

Medium: Poetry

Story: The poem is about loss and mourning and how trees teach me to welcome all of creation, not just the "happy" things.

Artist: Neil Wade

Title: Starburst

Medium: music (piano, lyrics, and vocals)

Story: I wrote the song over a period of 7 years. During this time, I lost many family members and friends and I was growing up and away from my childhood which I held so dear. Through all of these changes, I realized it was the birth of a new me. (When a star dies, there's a huge explosion; full of chaos, destruction, fire, and energy. But what comes from that explosion are the ingredients for making new stars, and the cycle continues).

Artist: Linda Weingarten

Title: She

Medium: poetry

Story: see #9 above