

About the Exhibit

In her art exhibition “Wonders Never Cease,” Lenore Tolegian Hughes takes viewers on a journey that equates wonder with life. “Imagine living without the beauty of saffron and yellow falling leaves in autumn,” she asks, “without the bursting flesh of a ripe red pomegranate, an abundant field of sun flowers stretched out as far as the eye can see, the saturated colors of a glorious sunset over the ocean, and the love of God shining on you. The thought of living without wonder is unbearable.”

“Wonders Never Cease” features Hughes’ paper weaving collages that combine secular and divine images into icons of a thought-provoking new reality. The exhibit opens at the beginning of Holy Week, during which believers are called to be at one with the passion of Jesus culminating in his resurrection on Easter Sunday. Her work engages the viewer in a pilgrimage to discover new and deeper revelations about life.

The wonder of new life implied by Easter is also exemplified in Hughes’ inspired floral watercolor/collages depicting fields of red poppies reminiscent of scenes from Tuscany; a basket, brim full of floral enchantments including a feline guard; a glass vase of tulips gracefully twisting and turning to their inner music; dried, pressed and painted golden Galax leaves mingling with pomegranates, angels, and squirrels; and a rich egg-yolk colored hibiscus whose fully open self begs to be admired. These golden paintings spring from the heart of a consummate gardener and floral designer to evoke the wondrous living beauties of nature.

The unique vividness and insight of Hughes’ contemporary images, rewards visitors with both wonders and wonder: The wonders of nature made in heaven and the wonder at an art that reveals them to our grateful appreciation.

About the Artist, Lenore Tolegian Hughes

Hughes works in a wide spectrum of mediums, including watercolor collages, assemblages, installations, and paper weavings. Her signature paper collages weave together contemporary secular images with more traditional images of the divine, illuminating a fresh, and sometimes new, understanding of the meaning of life. Her assemblages and installations offer a fresh take on spirituality, and Hughes’ color saturated watercolor/collages are passionate expressions of the beauty of nature.

She and her husband, The Rt. Rev. Gethin B. Hughes, lived in La Jolla for 12 years, when he was Diocesan Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of San Diego until his retirement in 2005 at which time they relocated to Santa Barbara County to be near their family. In Santa Barbara, Lenore has expanded her art into creating pop-up, bespoke art installations for Nordstrom, Santa Barbara, and is the designer of the Maze and Wooded Dell at the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, where she recently had a four-month show entitled “The Reason for the Seasons,” based on stories from Greek Mythology.

For more information about Hughes and her art, visit her web site at lenorehughes.com