

## *Pentecost 2023, Newsletter*



Featured Artist: Dorothy Thayne. Above image shows her studio with icon in progress.

## **In This Pentecost Edition, 2023, you will find:**

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Welcome to the ECVA Newsletter which appears in your email five times a year during, or around each of these seasons: Advent, Epiphany, Easter, and Pentecost. A fifth newsletter. Extraordinary Artists during Ordinary Time will be sent out sometime after Pentecost and before the coming Advent as we will still be busy doing extraordinary thing during Ordinary days. Please feel free to contact me at any time with your comments or questions. The newsletter is also available in a printable version on the ECVA website.

--Jeanne Harris Weaver, Editor

[ecva.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:ecva.newsletter@gmail.com)

## Your Board of Directors Are:

Joy Jennings - President and Exhibitions Director  
The Rev. Robert Tate - Treasurer  
Mel Ahlborn - Vice President and Secretary  
Members of the Board  
Jeanne Harris Weaver - Newsletter Editor  
Jorin Hood

For their contact information and to find out more about them, please go to the "Contact" page of the website:

<https://ecva.org/about/contact.html>

The Mission Statement of the Episcopal Church and Visual Arts (ECVA) is to encourage artists and organizations to engage the visual arts in the spiritual life of the church. ECVA values the significance of faith, and encourages those who are engaged in using the visual arts in spiritual life.



## *Letter From the President*

### *Summer 2023*

Dear Artists,

I find it hard to believe that summer is already here. But here we are, and ECVA has exciting things going on. We have our beautiful online exhibition, *Creating A Series*, curated by board member, Jeanne Harris Weaver. It is truly a beautiful exhibition and shows the amazing talent and the diversity of our artists. If you haven't spent time yet with the many series in the exhibition, please take the time on one of these long summer days to simply relax and enjoy each series and all the beautiful art in each one.

Another exciting thing we have going on this summer is our video exhibition, *Faith in Motion*, curated by Sally Brower and Jorin Hood, who is one of board members. Submissions are being accepted now, and the call to artists and submissions guidelines are on our website.

Our community of artists is growing with many of our artists taking a more active role in the work on ECVA. We recently had a wonderful presentation by Posey Krawkowsky on *Spirit Filled Stitching* in our ECVA Conversations forum, giving the participants an inside view of her beautiful quilts and her inspiration for her artwork. The conversations on video photography also continued throughout the spring with more planned in the summer.

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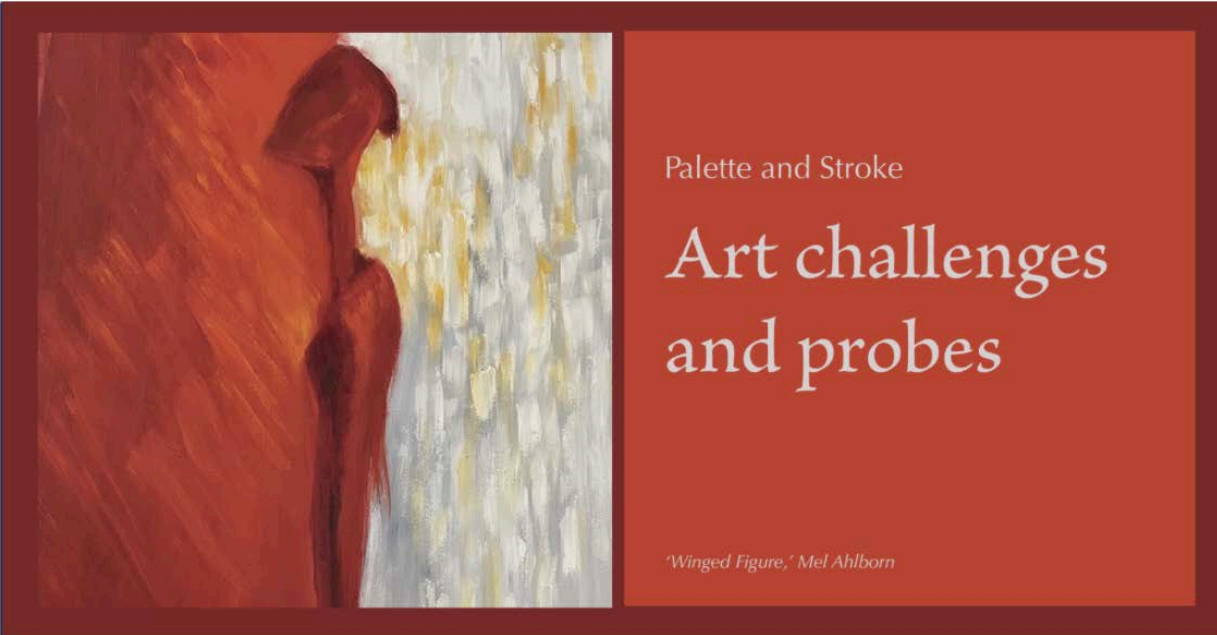
So, this summer, I hope you have a wonderful summer with family and friends, good health, and maybe some travel. But, I also hope you have time for creativity and for rest, some time to savor the slowness that the summer heat can encourage. I am reminded of the poem by Mary Oliver, *The Summer Day*.

So, this summer, I wish you many idle days and days to savor the creativity in our world and in yourself, and to truly know what prayer is.

*Joy Jennings,*  
President and Exhibitions Director of ECVA

*The Summer Day*  
by Mary Oliver

Who made the world?  
Who made the swan, and the black bear?  
Who made the grasshopper?  
This grasshopper, I mean—  
the one who has flung herself out of the grass,  
the one who is eating sugar out of my hand,  
who is moving her jaws back and forth instead of up and down—  
Who is gazing around with her enormous and complicated eyes.  
Now, she lifts her pale forearms and thoroughly washes her face.  
Now, she snaps her wings open, and floats away.  
I don't exactly know what a prayer is.  
I do know how to pay attention, how to fall down  
into the grass, how to kneel down in the grass,  
how to be idle and blessed, how to stroll through the fields,  
which is what I have been doing all day.  
Tell me what else should I have done?  
Tell me, what is it you plan to do  
with your one wild and precious life?



## FIND A MEMBER ARTIST

The Artists Registry is a directory of artists working at the intersections of art and faith. Artists have a variety of experience levels, from working **professionals** to the highly accomplished and emerging students. [Search All ECVA Artists](#) below, or select from one of the professional specialties

- [Banners](#)
- [Calligraphy/Manuscript Illumination](#)
- [Chalice and Paten Sets](#)
- [Digital Design](#)
- [Iconography](#)
- [Liturgical Furnishings](#)
- [Mosaics](#)
- [Paintings](#)
- [Renovation Consultation](#)
- [Sculpture](#)
- [Stained Glass](#)
- [Vestments/Paraments](#)

### CURRENT EXHIBITION



[Go To Exhibit](#)

## Current Exhibition

The Power in Creating a Series of Artworks is our second 2023 Exhibition. This exhibit brings together the works of twenty-eight ECVA artists and one hundred seventy-six works of art. Curator, Jeanne Harris Weaver writes, "Inspiration and passion are essential in creating a powerful series. Time and energy are spent to successfully communicate that passion to the viewer...In this exhibit, you will find twenty-eight cohesive bodies of work which contain common threads to connect them through palette, size, shape, composition, theme or subject matter."

# *Call To Artist*



ECVA is proud to announce its next exhibition to appear in August of 2023. Submissions will be accepted between May 1, 2023 and June 30, 2023.

Episcopal Church and Visual Arts is moving in a new direction with our next exhibition planned for late summer and early fall of 2023. Faith in Motion is our next curated exhibition. Artists are asked to submit short videos that have subject and content related to Christian faith. This exhibition is an extension of two ECVA Conversations: The Art of Photography and, the four-part discussion, Storytelling for Artists, Photography and Smartphone Short Film. Submitted videos may tell the story of a journey, share a location or moment you found to be of beauty, serve as a metaphor for inner questions or feelings. Maybe you contemplate nature, take journeys that are a kind of pilgrimage, are awed by the pageantry of worship, or think of everyday experiences as metaphors for the life of faith.

Our Curators for this exhibition are Jorin Hood and Sally Brower.

Jorin Hood is a video producer. From shooting news to making nationally televised educational programming, he has been a visual storyteller in many different capacities. As he states, "Whether it has been on a large or small crew, or best yet just myself, a camera, and a tripod, telling a story with images and sound is my soul-serving occupation." (cont'd next page)

Sally Brower is a retired Episcopal priest, poet, and passionate pilgrim whose work explores the intersection of art and faith, creativity and spirituality. A married mother of two, grandmother of eight, she lives in Mooresville, NC. Her work with photography draws on pilgrimages to holy places and nature, each one a divine encounter where the holy shines through the incarnate world.

Submission Criteria: Please submit your entries to [entry@ecva.org](mailto:entry@ecva.org) . All videos must be under three minutes and h.264 codec video. You may submit up to three videos. Contact Jorin Hood at [entry@ecva.org](mailto:entry@ecva.org) for technical submission questions.

We look forward to your entries and hope you find this exhibit a rewarding experience and pleasing to our Almighty God.

## Featured Artist: Dorothy Thayne

Thayne received her BFA in painting from the Rhode Island School of Design. Following RISD, she taught for several year, then earned a master's degree in studio art from Rutgers University. She has steadily created and exhibited her work in the regions in which she has lived or traveled with her husband and three children.



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Dorothy Thayne with her installed icon, Mother of God. Queen of Peace

Thayne continues to explore a variety of media —oil, egg tempera, ink, pastel -- often carrying subject matter across media. Her icons are installed in church and monastic settings in Georgia, New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

In her secular work, Thayne works with current imagery. The sense of place and the painting's sense of presence are grounded in a particular space, a moment. The paintings are more than a record of a scene—a landscape, an interior, the people inhabiting or moving through the space. They have what one observer called, "a subtle vibration that is rare." Change in geography and location in the painting inspires change in treatment, scale, surface, palette, and mark-making technique.

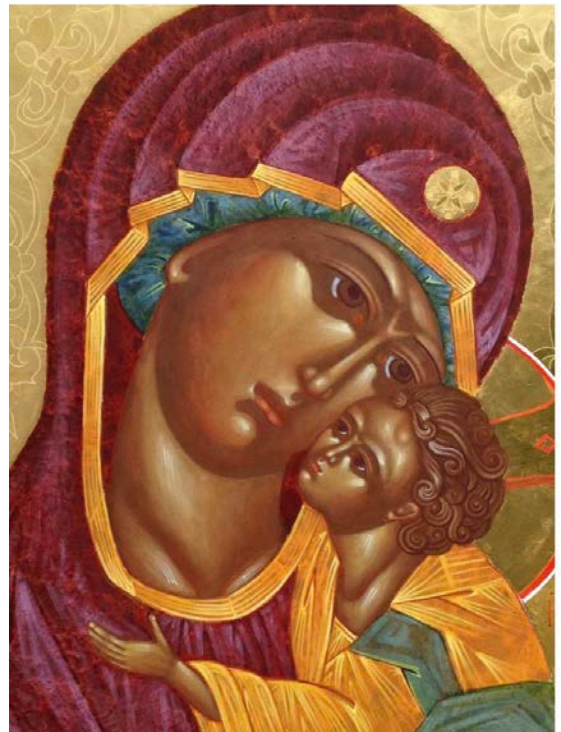
Style is fluid throughout all her work, shifting from observation to gestural spontaneity, from sensuous full color to subtly gradated black and white, from deep space to inverse perspective—these shifts track her search for ways to embody in her art the outward and visible signs of the divine presence in the material world.

### *Artist Statement*

As a student at RISD I was thrust into a world of different artists—historical, contemporary, and my fellow students. Among so many examples of subject, technique and personalities I had to find my way into myself. Was there something in me that was unique? Could I find my authentic self?

I found myself while painting repeating this cryptic phrase: "I want to paint something over and over until it becomes what it represents". I was describing a process where at some point the work of art would go past the descriptive, the rendering of form, into being. Later in life I realized that was the spirit of naive

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Icon of the Mother of God,  
detail

Egg tempera and gold leaf on  
poplar board 36" x 24"

This type of image is called  
Eleousa, meaning mercy,  
tenderness, lovingkindness.





↑ **Aungie with her purse**

Oil on canvas 18" x 20"

**Caption:** While repeatedly painting my great-aunt from Sicily I had the realization of the body as the costume, the container of the soul.

art, the art of the child. Still within me was the child that had played with the horses I drew and cut out like paper dolls, that drew my ideal landscape with my crayons, that delighted with the motions of painting with my fingers. Many years later, after I began icon writing I discovered that the "becoming what it represents" meant the presence of the subject.

In my painting the space is as important as the object. Space is the room to breathe, to rest, to feel and hear the wind, to separate the particles of pigment to let the

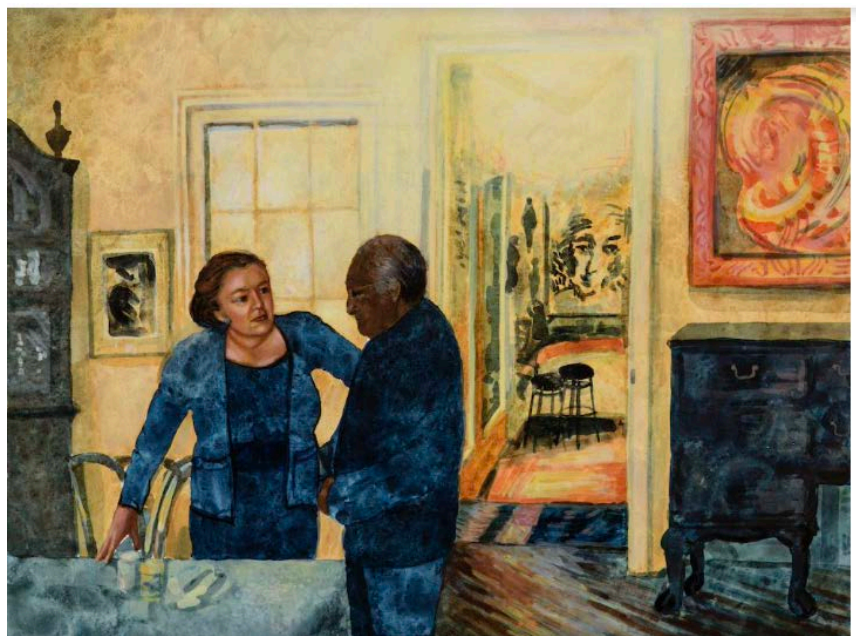
reflected light of the gesso through. Unpainted paper or canvas is a partner to the image and helps to animate it. Space refers also to the Holy Spirit who dwells among us.

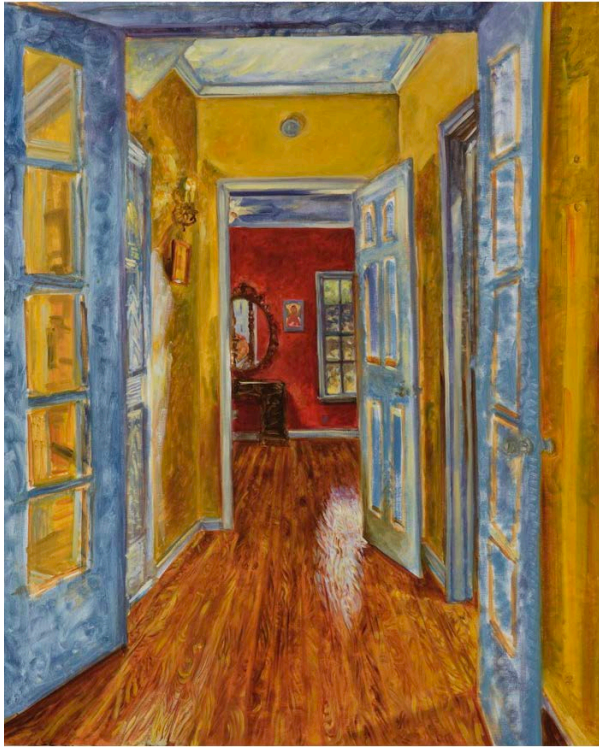
In the act of creating art there is intention in the beginning-- an idea, selection and decision making. Then, out of the process comes the form. Form can be loosely or tightly painted. The surface can be rendered or suggested. The perceiver, the audience is a participant.

→ **Ellen and Bishop Tutu in conversation**

Egg tempera on poplar board 11" x 14"

**Caption:** There are varying levels of abstraction in this painting, using the methods of Cennino Cennini and the "puddling" technique of iconography





← **KNOCK!**

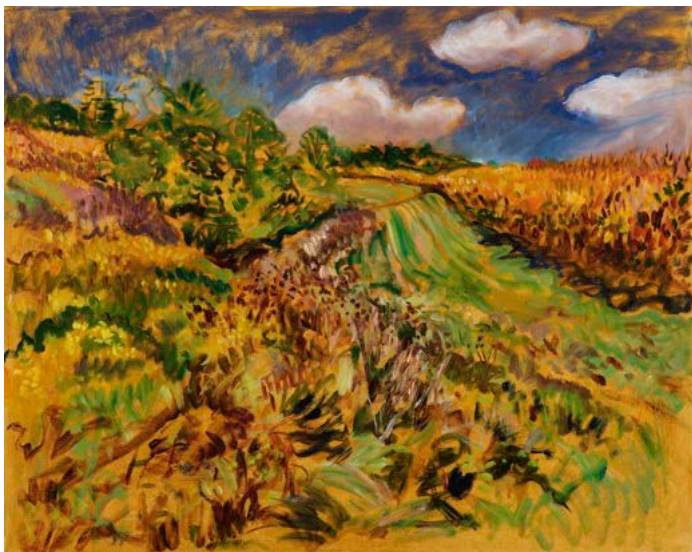
Oil on linen 38" x 34"

**Caption** In this interior the light is from many sources. The painting became a self-portrait as I inhabited the space.

↓ **Great Swamp**

Ink on paper 18" x 24"

**Caption.** The gesture of the strokes create movement, the white paper the surrounding, unifying space



← **Cornfield study**

Oil on linen 30" x 24"

**Caption**  
The yellow ochre base color of the canvas unifies the brush strokes, creates space for the air—symbolizing breath.



The Contemplative Painters Guild meets on the last Wednesday of each month via zoom. To join please contact Joy Jennings.

In May, Nancy Carow made a presentation called "Resurrection Paintings" and showed her unique method of creating her leaf paintings. You may see the presentation here:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/foHr6UOiKiixUNgR-8qSY6WdpgyGgHypv9n2hXOIvwu5qCXGR\\_I7kKUMc82NrtNV.FCIG\\_b7K8cNyTOf5?startTime=1685544765000](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/foHr6UOiKiixUNgR-8qSY6WdpgyGgHypv9n2hXOIvwu5qCXGR_I7kKUMc82NrtNV.FCIG_b7K8cNyTOf5?startTime=1685544765000)

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### Summer Series 2023

ECVA Conversations are wonderful ways to connect with fellow artists, learn a new skill, or gain insight into another artist's process.

Is there an ECVA Conversation that you would like to join? Or an ECVA Conversation that you would like to host?

I'd love to hear from you - so let's start a conversation! Email me at [ahlborn.mel@gmail.com](mailto:ahlborn.mel@gmail.com)



- Mel Ahlborn

### Visit and Join the ECVA Artists Registry.

[The Artists Registry | A Division of ECVA, Inc.](#)

### EPISCOPAL CHURCH & VISUAL ARTS COPYRIGHT POLICY

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*encouraging visual arts in the life of the Episcopal Church*

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