



# CHRISTMAS

*Art by Sandra Bowden*



ALL SAINTS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

GALLERY • CHRISTMASTIDE 2018-19



**"Oh, morning, at the brown brink eastward, springs..."**

- Gerard Manley Hopkins, *God's Grandeur*

**"All out of darkness we have light..."**

- *The Sussex Carol*

**"When you consider the radiance, that it does not withhold itself..."**

- A.R. Ammons, *The City Limits*

Night gives way to morning, and mourning turns to dancing. Jesus is born, and joy dawns. Advent waiting gives way to **Christmas** celebrating, and, as we come to adore our Newborn King, the final wonder of His first coming is that it holds the promise of His second.

Our **Christmas** gallery show, building on our Advent show, features more of Sandra Bowden's gilded, figurative work based on famous altar pieces depicting the life of Jesus. Through it, she helps us to more clearly see and wonder at the light of Christ that has dawned on the world and in our hearts. The show, combining works from two of her shows, *Word as Image* and *Cradle to Cross*, uses vivid colors, precious gold leaf, and the living quality of encaustics to lend visual and material depth to our understanding and worship of the Word who became flesh, dwelt among us, and will come again in a "cloud with power and great glory" (Luke 21) to reign forever.

May this show help us to celebrate **Christmas** well even as we look ahead to the coming glory of Christ's return. Come, let us adore, love, and serve Christ, with wonder, together.

- *David Lutes*, Director of Music + Arts Ministry and Gallery Director

### ***And There Was Light***

The Genesis text is mysteriously hidden in the curved lines of the foreground, giving birth to celestial forms.

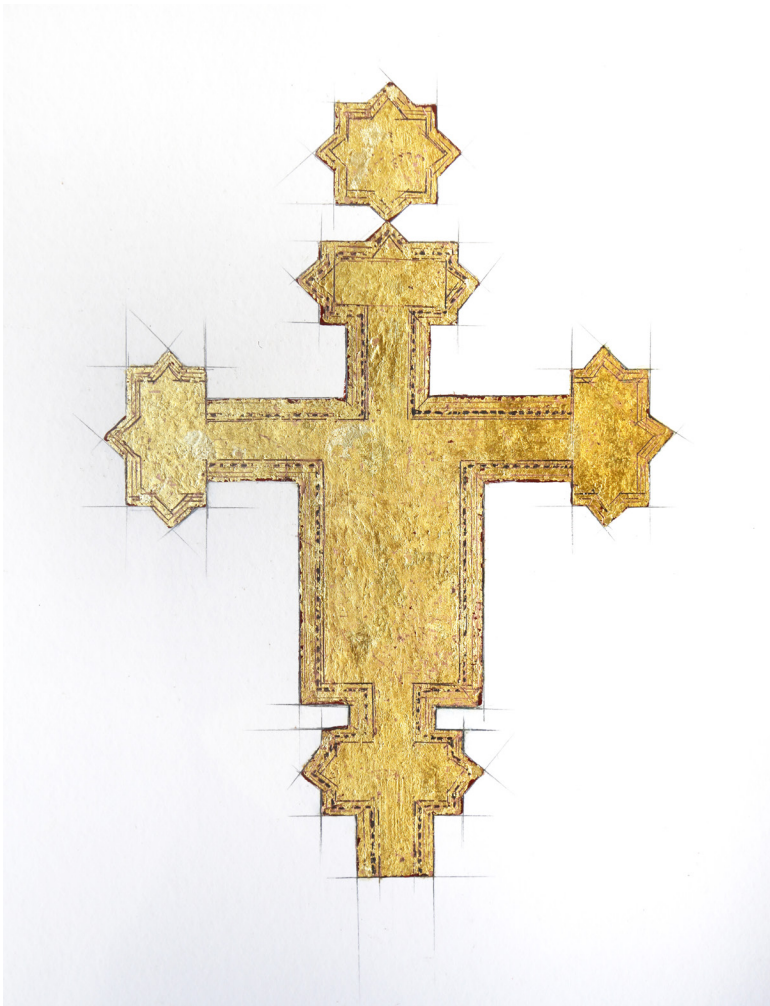


Collagraph  
1980  
14 x 10 in.  
\$275/\$350 framed



### ***Star Cross after Simone Martini***

This crucifix was painted around 1321 by Simone Martini for San Casciano (Florence), Church of the Misericordia. Mary is positioned in the left panel and St. John on the left. The corpus evidences the struggle to depict the body in a physically realistic manner as compared to the earlier Crucifixes that hung above the altars of Italian churches that were very elongated and related to earlier icons.

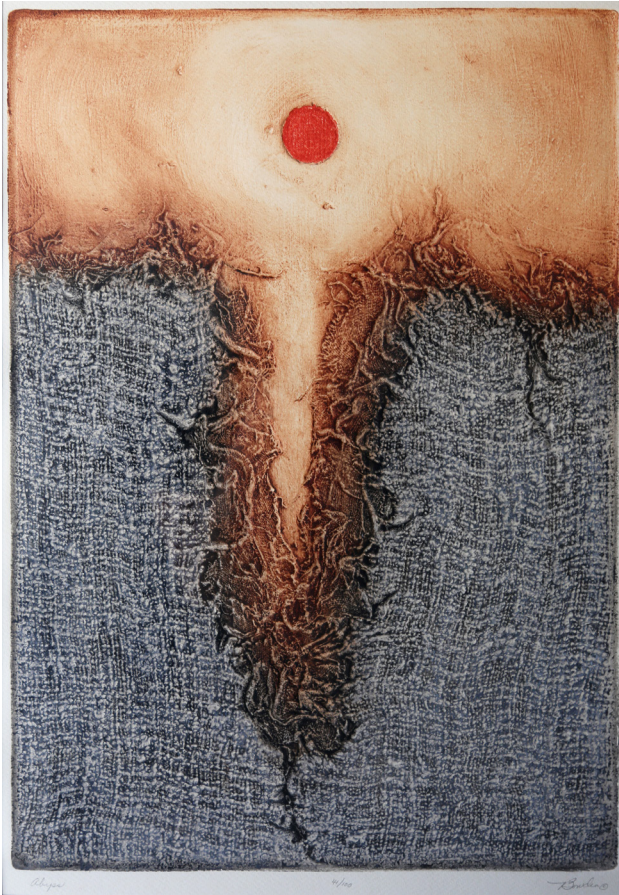


Mixed media with gold leaf  
1998  
21 x 16 in.  
\$350/\$475 framed

## **Abyss**

"And the spirit of God moved upon the abyss." Genesis 1:1  
Celestial bodies emerge from the abyss.

A collagraph is an intaglio printing process, which uses a built-up collaged plate made from a great variety of materials (strips of fabric, thread, aluminum foils, plants, marble dust, acrylic modeling paste) that are glued onto the surface of masonite or cardboard. The surface is then painted or inked and run through an etching press at several thousand pounds of pressure, thereby transferring the paint and the texture to the surface of the paper. The process is completely repeated to create another print in the edition.



Collagraph  
1997  
8 x 6 in.  
\$275/\$325 framed

### ***The Good Shepherd (3rd Century AD)***

This marble statue is part of the Early Christian collection in the Vatican Museum. The shepherd figure was used in pre-Christian times but came to be a beloved symbol of both David and of Christ the Good Shepherd. Many have survived, but this one is unique in that it is nearly life size. Its size and the absence of any of David's attributes such as a lyre, identify it as Christ.



Mixed media with gold leaf  
1997  
21 x 16 in.  
\$400/\$525 framed



## ***Was the Word***

Pages from a Greek New Testament are visible beneath the many layers of Japanese rice papers. The final gold leafed Hebrew text gives interest and contrast to the other text elements as it creates the central cross form. Handwritten portions from the first chapter of the Gospel of Saint John are inscribed to the surface of the collage.



Collage mixed-media  
2009  
18 x 14 in.  
\$600/\$725 framed

## ***Cast Forth***

Hurled into space

Cast forth from the hand of God

Matter, planets and all that is.



Collagraph

1980

22.25x12

\$400/\$525



### ***Holy Family After Michelangelo***

Sometimes known as the Doni Madonna, the circular painting defies exact interpretation. But certain elements suggest the Mary and Joseph appear to be presenting or giving the Christ Child. A prayer for Epiphany exhorts God to look down in mercy on the gifts of his Church, by which we offer "that which is signified, immolated and received by these gifts, Jesus Christ"; doni is the Italian for "gifts."



Mixed media with gold leaf  
2014  
8 x 6 in.  
\$300/\$375 framed

### ***From Mt. Sinai***

A page the Hebrew Bible is layered beneath the Hebrew gilded text which has been collaged to a handmade paper embedded with bits of 19th Century Bible commentaries.



Collage mixed-media

1995

11 x 8.5 in.

Price available by request

### ***Annunciation after Fra Angelico (1387 - 1455)***

Opposite each bed in the cells of the Cloister of San Marco in Florence, Fra Angelico painted a fresco with a scene from the life of Christ that was to be a focus for each monk's contemplation. This tender portrayal of the annunciation is one of Fra Angelico's most loved works.



Mixed media drawing with 22-carat gold leaf  
1997  
21 x 16 in.  
\$400/\$525 framed

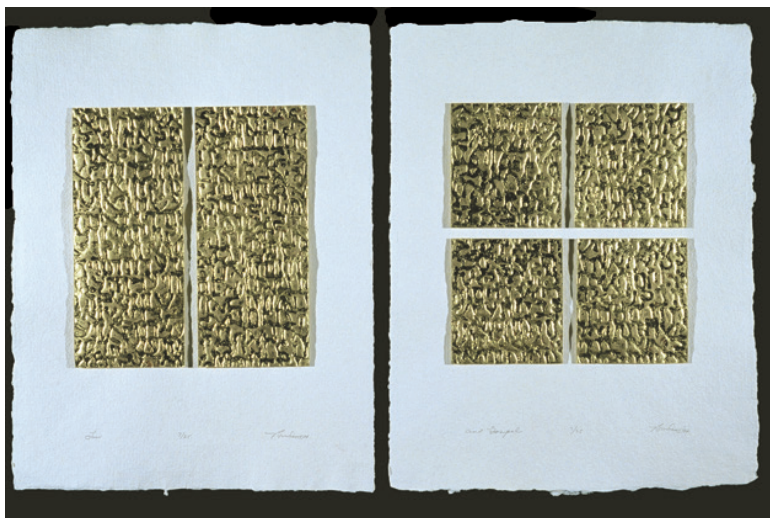


## ***Law and Gospel***

The rich surface is a Hebrew text from the Ten Commandments, created by layering gold leafing on the collagraph print, then adding colored iridescent craypas repeatedly to the raised areas.

The Word of God consists of both Law—which reveals our mortal failures—and Gospel, which proclaims the forgiveness of sin through the unfathomable grace of God. Christians believe God assumed human flesh in Jesus Christ, who died as a sacrifice and the atonement for the sins of the world. The broken tablets of the broken Law give way to the Cross.

With one additional horizontal cut, the tablets of the Law become four quadrants, suggesting a cross. Jesus said he came to fulfill the Law. When we have finished an item on our list of items to be done, we put a line through it, marking it done. This is what I was thinking as I took the Law, marked it done, with a horizontal line, only to see a cross appear.



Collagraph mixed media  
1994  
Two 18 x 14 in. panels  
\$700/\$850 framed

### ***Adoration of the Magi after Fabriano***

In this scene the magi, the three kings from the East, have come to adore the Christ Child with their exotic retinue of camels, horses, dogs and courtiers. But all attention is focused on the Christ child who is leaning forward from his mother to touch the head of the old kneeling king.



Mixed media with gold leaf  
1997  
16 x 21 in.  
\$400/\$525 framed



## **Ten Commandments**

The Ten Commandments radiate from the 10 gilded sheaves of paper floating above the surface of the black background. The entire Exodus text was created on a masonite plate, printed on an etching press in a brown color on a heavy paper, then gilded and surfaced with iridescent craypas to give a luminous quality to the image.



Collagraph mixed media  
2003  
30 X 22 in.  
\$500/\$650 framed

***He Established the Earth Upon Its Foundations***

Strata upon strata, hidden beneath is a layer of Hebrew,  
"He established the earth upon its foundations." Psalm 104:5



Collagraph  
1980  
18 x 14  
\$300/\$400 framed

### ***Madonna and Child after Giotto***

This beautiful delicate Madonna and Child by Giotto (1320-30) is in the collection of the National Gallery in Washington DC. A new sense of convincing solidity of form and human individuality is present in Giotto's work. Mary looks out on us with tender dignity and the Child sits in her arm as on a throne.

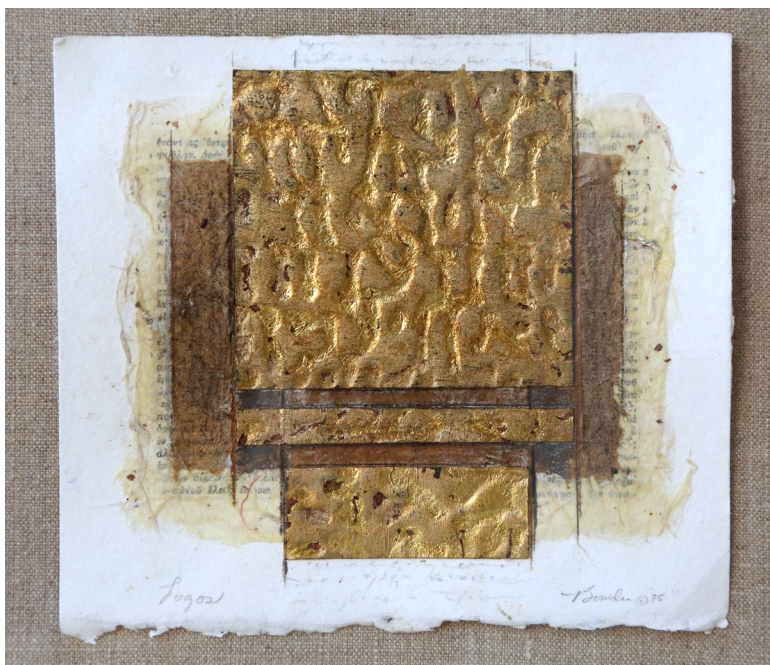


Mixed media with gold leaf  
2014  
8 x 6  
\$300/\$425 framed



## Logos

A page from an old Greek Bible with the first chapter of the Book of John is layered into this collage, and a gilded Hebrew panel from the 1st chapter of the Book of Genesis is centered on the piece. This sets what a midrash would consider a conversation between John and Moses.



Collage mixed media  
1995  
6 x 8.5 in.  
\$250/\$325 framed

## ***Prayers of the People***

For centuries the prayers of the people have been raised as they recite prayers together. The surface of this large artist's book is covered with gilded Hebrew text from the Book of Psalms.

A new wave of interest is spreading through the Church to find ancient ways to express our worship, and it is my hope that *Prayers of the People* offers a visual glimpse of the preciousness of the rich heritage found in the Hebrew Scriptures.



Mixed-media with gold leaf  
2009  
14.25 x 24.25 x 1 in.  
\$600



### ***Neither Silver nor Gold***

The Bible links silver and gold literally dozens of times, usually alluding to the futility of their value in relations to eternal values. This artist book was a thick small book, permanently fixed in an open position to create a kind of painted sculpture. An intense red underlayerment of color was applied to the book, and then half was gilded with 24 carat gold leaf, with pure silver on the other portion.



Mixed media  
2004  
5.25 x 11.5 x 1.5 in.  
\$400

## ***Resurrection Book***

The Greek text from Luke's account of the Resurrection has been applied the surface of this open book. The face of the book was underpainted in a deep blue red, covered with gold leaf and then a final application of iridescent oil crayon was applied to the surface.

The Resurrection is the critical doctrine of Christianity and offers hope to humankind. The Hope of the Resurrection brings healing and peace when loved ones are lost and offers the promise of being in the Presence of Our Lord eternally. The Resurrection is the destination of our journey.



Mixed media with gold leaf  
2009  
14.25 x 24.25 x 1 in.  
\$600



This exhibit includes work from two shows of Sandra Bowden:

### **Word as Image:**

Sandra Bowden's work is a complex meditation on time, incorporating Biblical archaeological references and ancient text in her art. The mystery of the word as a vehicle of communication across generations has been an important component of her personal iconography, using segments of language and text as design within the image. Her visual imagery is a provocative example of art centered both figuratively and literally in word.

The work in this show traces her interest and intrigue with the Word As Image, using elements from Biblical texts and ancient Hebrew. She finds a source of mystery in the evolution of the word, visibly recorded and presented historically in a variety of ways.

The natural progression of her work has led her to a new form with the introduction of artist's books. The text has now been presented in a three dimensional format using an actual book as the painting surface.

### **Cradle to Cross:**

Each drawing in *Cradle to Cross* is a delicate translation in line and gold, recreating specific historical works as 'icons' from the canon of Western Art, beginning with an interpretation of Fra Angelico's Annunciation and concluding with several delicately drawn gilded crosses.

Each historical piece is carefully reproduced in silhouette form, painted on Twinrocker May Linen, a feather deckled handmade paper. A layer of iridescent craypas is added to the painted area and thin sheets of 22-carat German gold leaf are then applied to the surface. Finally, the original image is suggestively drawn using pencil, stylus, etching points or anything that will incise the somewhat soft layers of gold. Lines extend through and beyond the frame of the piece giving an almost architectural setting for the work.

### **Bio:**

Sandra Bowden has been a professional artist for 45 years with over 100 solo exhibitions in North American, Europe and Israel. She was president of Christians in the Visual Arts for 14 years (1993–2007), and not serves as a trustee of the Museum of Biblical Art in New York City.

**[www.sandrabowden.com](http://www.sandrabowden.com)**

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