



BEHOLD

*Featuring art by Missy and Asher Wood and Kady Dunlap
and poetry by Mary Kat Cone*



ALL SAINTS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

GALLERY • EPIPHANY 2018

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; **behold**, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. For he says,

*'In a favorable time I listened to you,
and in a day of salvation I have helped you.'*

Behold, now is the favorable time; **behold**, now is the day of salvation."

- 2 Corinthians 5:17-6:2

BEHOLD: EPIPHANY GALLERY STATEMENT

by Asher Wood

*"Truth, by which the world is held together,
has sprung from the earth, in order to be carried in a woman's arms."*

— St Augustine

After moving from the anticipation of Advent through the celebration of Christmas, we now find ourselves in Epiphany. This path of engagement with the arrival of Christ is one of reconciliation. We have been waiting earnestly, and then as we are celebrating his birth and earthly ministry, we marvel at the impact that it has on us. The idea of truth is now a *person* that we can **behold** and know, and with whom we can still speak. His arrival signifies access to God. And, we not only have access, but the love we get from Him is such that we are fulfilled. The togetherness with God that mankind had known only in the Garden of Eden is restored in the person of Jesus.

The season of Epiphany is one of arrival, as we **behold** our reconciliation with God in the life and work of Christ. Dietrich Bonhoeffer compared Advent to life in a prison cell, where "...the door is shut, and can be opened only from the outside." Jesus breaking into the world by becoming a man shows us who God is more than all his other previous acts of love. He is showing us what freedom looks like before the prison door is opened for us.

The exhibition we've put together for Advent-Epiphany attempts to renew this journey of longing and reconciliation for us, and to highlight the arrival of joy in this process. For my wife Missy, and for me, it took going to Africa and meeting women and children in Ethiopia, to access stories of great need, and simultaneously to **behold** a powerful joy. While we were there, we quickly became students of joy, observing it in the faces of most every Ethiopian we got to know, in spite of their circumstances. We continue to be overwhelmed with the winsome and resilient qualities of these noble people, and our portraits of some of these faces attempt to share this sense of nobility, joy and sincere love.

Kady Dunlap has been so generous to contribute some of her photography from her recent trip to Ethiopia. She has a great knack for capturing a face in such a way that a story is evident. Kindness, joy, earnestness is all evident. I'm reminded of Madeleine L'Engle's words that "God created man because He likes stories." As Kady helps us to realize that our friends in Ethiopia have full lives and stories, and that they are worth walking alongside, we **behold** how community can be healing, how it can bring about reconciliation with those Christ calls us to love and serve.

In all of these portraits, whether Kady and Missy's photography, or Missy's and my paintings, we wanted to not merely convey the financial plight or the physical need there. We wanted our work to be a conduit to feature their royalty of spirit, confidence, and their mirth. The poverty is still there, in torn shirts, dirty fingernails, scars on their faces, and unwashed hair. But, getting to see their stateliness and joyful spirits surpasses any practical assessment of their circumstances.

God is so much bigger than our circumstances, and the ultimate example of this is the Incarnation. God becoming man wasn't just to deliver a prescription of dogma and theology, but to introduce us to a real person. To **behold** and know him was a game changer: "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation." And it all started with his arrival. As we've just anticipated Christmas and pondered his arrival on earth as a baby, we consider also how he shows up for us daily and how we long to be reunited with him in Heaven as well. This process of becoming a new creation, of being born again, is not something that we can will for ourselves - can a baby make itself be born? But this is a door that has been opened to us from the outside, through which we can walk. As we **behold** this, we can die to our old selves and become born again, and we can walk out of our prisons of old ways of thinking. We gain identity through this reconciliation with the Lord. Jesus has made it possible to become our true selves.

"And now, with God's help, I shall become myself."

— Søren Kierkegaard

MARY KAT CONE

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Mary Kat Cone holds a BA in English from Davidson College and an MA in English Literature from SMU. She lives and writes in Austin, Texas. She is married and has four young children.

The Quiet Notes of Grace

*I struggle to play
Jesus' song
through this ragged, tragic world.
I don't know anything
not how a star bursts into life
in the black sky
nor how a heart, stopped,
can beat again
how a trumpet proclaims victory
so surely—*

*But the light breathes
and God opens his hands to receive
our fingers, softened to heal
our minds echoing the quiet notes of grace*

MISSY WOOD

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#woodsquaredart

Missy Wood received her BA in Photography from Meredith College in Raleigh, NC. During her time there, she studied abroad in Paris, under the master printer of one her photography heroes, Henry Cartier-Bresson. Missy spent a decade in Nashville where she was involved in missions in Africa as well as running an Integrated Arts Program at a Montessori school. Over a year ago, Missy and her family moved to Austin where she continues to do her art, as well as being an arts consultant.

Art is an exploration of vulnerability.

A number of years ago, my black and white paintings came out of a period in my life where the darkness overwhelmed my world, leaving only a hope of light. Distinguishing between two values, black and white, seemed to be an accurate expression of how I pictured not just the shapes of a face, but how I was processing everything. The contrast of good vs evil was a battle so stark that grey areas felt like trifling details, unnecessary compromises that needed to be on one side or the other. Visually, it helped me to simplify.

It wasn't until 2008, when I visited Ethiopia for the first time, that I started feeling some **color** from the Light that was coming into the darkness. **Joy is hope infused with color**. As I spent time with new friends in Ethiopia, listening to their stories and observing their demeanor, I was encouraged. They had come out of such a dark experience, and it wasn't poisoning them – for them their story was/is one of hope and joy to exist in this world. I had gone to serve the people in Ethiopia and quickly realized I needed them more than they needed me. I returned to the Horn of Africa several times and each time saw more and more beauty in the grey.

Perhaps our endurance of suffering is our best opportunity to gain strength and wisdom that is truly transformative, changing us into beacons of Light in to the world, where our own healing can be contagious, creating more healing, hope, and reconciliation. I'm interested to express this kind of transformation in my art today, focusing in on the beautiful details, the grey, the color. The battle is being won.



BEHOLD

Photo on canvas
20 x 16 in.
Framed
2008



HANNA'S ORPHAN

Pencil and charcoal on paper
20 x 16 in.
Framed
2009



TEAR

Pencil and charcoal on paper
21 x 15 in.
Framed
2011

*All dimensions are unframed sizes

ASHER WOOD
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Asher Wood grew up in Dallas, and he went to Davidson College in North Carolina, getting a BA degree in Art, with a concentration in painting. Living in Scotland, NYC and Nashville before getting back to Texas a year ago, Asher continues to paint acrylic portraits, as well as abstract expressionistic encaustic work.



HONOR

Acrylic on panel
12 x 17 in.
Framed
2011



ROYAL

Acrylic on canvas
24 x 36 in.
2011



TADESSE

Acrylic on paper
18 x 24 in.
Famed
2011

*All dimensions are unframed sizes

KADY DUNLAP
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Kady Dunlap grew up in Dallas, where she took her first photography class while in high school. After receiving a B.A. in Fine Arts from Vanderbilt University, she lived and worked in Washington, D.C., before moving to Atlanta to attend photography school at Portfolio Center. She then moved to Austin, where she began her photography business. Kady's photography work covers a wide array of subjects, and she has a passion for images of the Low Country of South Carolina. She loves when her photography can support non-profits, whether that be a local organization, or traveling across the world to Africa.



MARKED

Photo on archival paper
24 x 16 in.
2017



SEEN

Photo on archival paper
24 x 16 in.
2007



BLESSING

Photo on archival paper
20 x 30 in.
2017



MUSIC MAN

Photo on archival paper
20 x 30 in.
2017

*All dimensions are unframed sizes

PRICE LIST

MISSY WOOD

Behold	\$300
Africa Quilt Square #4	\$450
Africa Quilt Square #6	\$450
Africa Quilt Square #10	\$450

ASHER WOOD

Honor	\$400
Royal	\$600
Tadesse	\$500

*10% of sales go to the All Saints Arts Ministry
For purchase inquiries please contact woodsquaredart@gmail.com*

KADY DUNLAP

Marked	\$150
Seen	\$150
Blessing	\$200
Music Man	\$200

For purchase inquiries please contact kady@kadydunlap.com

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