



# EPIPHANY

*Art by Sandra Bowden*



ALL SAINTS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

GALLERY • EPIPHANY 2019



**"Star sent forth from highest heaven,  
dancing light of God's design,  
shine upon the gift that's given:  
Word made flesh, now born in time."  
- The Epiphany Carol**

**"When you consider the radiance, that it does not withhold itself..."  
- A.R. Ammons, *The City Limits***

**"Christ minds: Christ's interest, what to avow or amend  
There, eyes them, heart wants, care haunts,  
foot follows kind,  
Their ransom, their rescue, and first, fast, last friend."  
- Gerard Manley Hopkins, *The Lantern Out of Doors***

Night has given way to **morning**. Our eyes have seen salvation's dawn, and Emmanuel, God's glory who now dwells in our very hearts, has come with work to do. Even as Christ is revealed as the Son of God, He calls us to both adore Him and follow Him.

Our **Epiphany** show, building on our recent exhibits, features more of Sandra Bowden's gilded, figurative work based on famous altar pieces depicting the life and ministry of Jesus. Through it, she helps us to more clearly see and "proclaim the excellencies of Him who called [us] out of darkness into His marvelous light." (1 Peter 2:9). The show, combining works from two of her shows, *Word as Image* and *Cradle to Cross*, uses vivid imagery, reflective gold leaf, and the living quality of encaustics to give visual form to our understanding and worship of Jesus, the Light of the World, who's earthly ministry ultimately led Him to the cross.

May this show fill us with wonder as we worship Christ, the **Morning Star** who has risen in our hearts. May it also inspire us to love, serve, and follow Him, with joy, together.

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

### ***Barga Cross after the master of Barga***

This beautifully shaped crucifix hangs in the side altar of the Duomo or Cathedral of Barga, Italy. Known as the work of the Master of Barga, it resembles those by Giotto who painted numerous crosses in the area around Florence in the early 14th century. Many of these crosses were hung above the altar of the church and when the faithful went forward for the Eucharist they were literally "under the cross."



Mixed media with gold leaf  
2014  
12 x 9 in.  
\$250/\$325 framed

### ***Baptism of Jesus after Piero Della Francesca***

The tall and slender column of manhood that is Jesus, Son of the Most High is paired with the tall and slender column of the tree. The tree in turn is aligned with the majestic figures of the waiting angels. John the Baptist is solemnly performing his sacramental baptism with water pouring from a shell above Christ's head. The Holy spirit in material form as a dove is hovering horizontally with outspread wings, sanctifying the baptism.



A half naked figure standing at the river's edge in the middle distance is stripping off his clothes in readiness for his won baptism. *The Baptism of Jesus*, c 1430, is in the National Gallery, London and is considered one of the all important Renaissance paintings.

Mixed media with gold leaf  
2009  
8 x 6 in.  
\$250/\$325 framed

### ***Flight to Egypt after Tiepolo***

One of Tiepolo's most famous works is a suite of 20 etchings that imagine the various scenes on the Flight to Egypt. One of the pieces depicts the Holy Family crossing a lake in a boat. Tiepolo was born in Venice and studied under his father.



Mixed media with gold leaf  
1997  
6 x 8 in.  
\$300/\$375 framed



### ***The Good Shepherd***

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

### ***Vannucci Cross after Francesco di Vannuccio***

Virtually every duomo in Italy had a crucifix, sometimes sculptured, but the most popular form was the painted cross. Little is known about the Sinese artist Vannuccio, but this large painted cross demonstrates his ability and artistic insight. The angular, contorted body communicates suffering to the viewer creating an emphatic emotional effect. This Italian cross is in the Bob Jones University Museum in Greenville, SC.



Mixed media with gold leaf  
2009  
21 x 16 in.  
\$400/\$525 framed



## ***Return of the Prodigal Son after Rembrandt***

Henri Nouwen's book, *Return of the Prodigal*, brought fresh insights and renewed interest in this work of Rembrandt hanging in the Hermitage in St. Petersburg, Russia. The painting created not long before his death is endowed with a sense of tragedy and compassion. The figure of the old father bent from age and suffering, reaches to embrace his kneeling son. Repentance and unconditional love meet in this painting which represents the summit of Rembrandt's psychological mastery.



Mixed media with gold leaf  
2009  
21 x 16 in.  
\$400/\$525 framed

### ***Pieta after Michelangelo***

The world famous Pieta by Michelangelo is in St. Peter's Basilica, Vatican City. The marble sculpture depicts the boy of Jesus on the lap of his mother Mary after the Crucifixion. Michelangelo chose to portray Mary much larger than Jesus even though he was a grown man of around thirty three years, perhaps as a way to recall her holding the child Jesus in her lap when he was a baby.



Mixed media with gold leaf  
2014  
21 x 16 in.  
\$400/\$525 framed

### ***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

### ***The Storm on the Sea of Galilee after Rembrandt***

*The Storm on the Sea of Galilee* is a painting from 1633 by the Dutch Golden Age painter Rembrandt van Rijn that was in the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum of Boston, Massachusetts, United States, prior to being stolen on March 18, 1990. The painting depicts the miracle of Jesus calming the storm on the Sea of Galilee, as depicted in the fourth chapter of the Gospel of Mark in the New Testament. It is Rembrandt's only seascape.

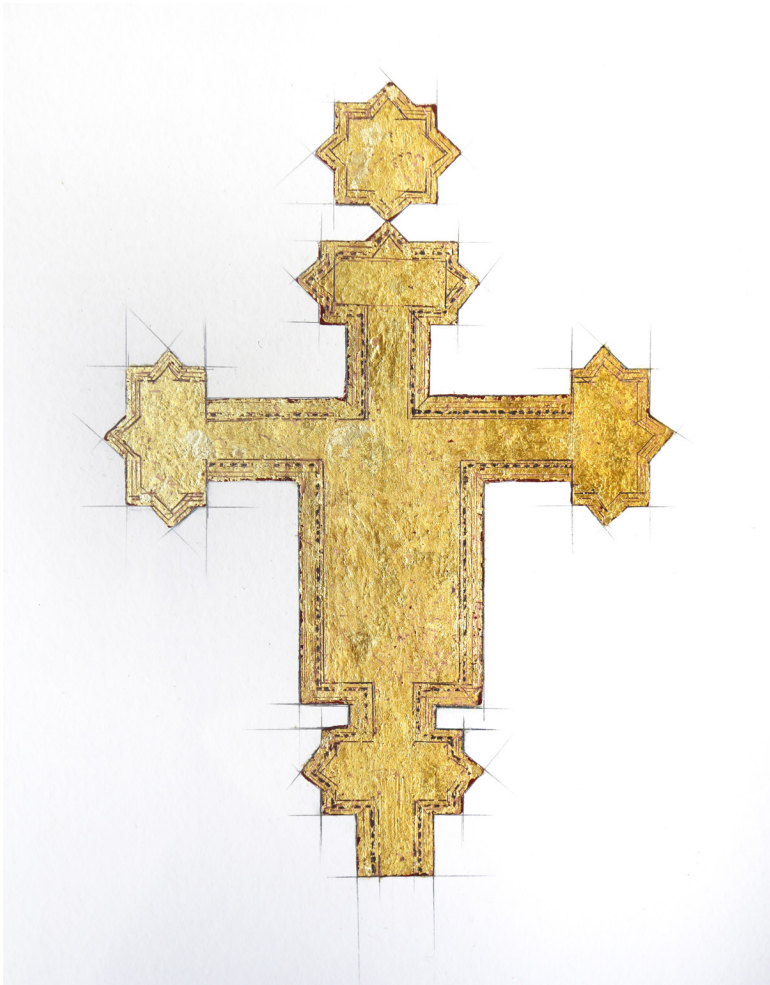


Mixed media with gold leaf  
2014  
8 x 6 in.  
\$300/\$375 framed



### ***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

## ***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

### ***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



### ***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.

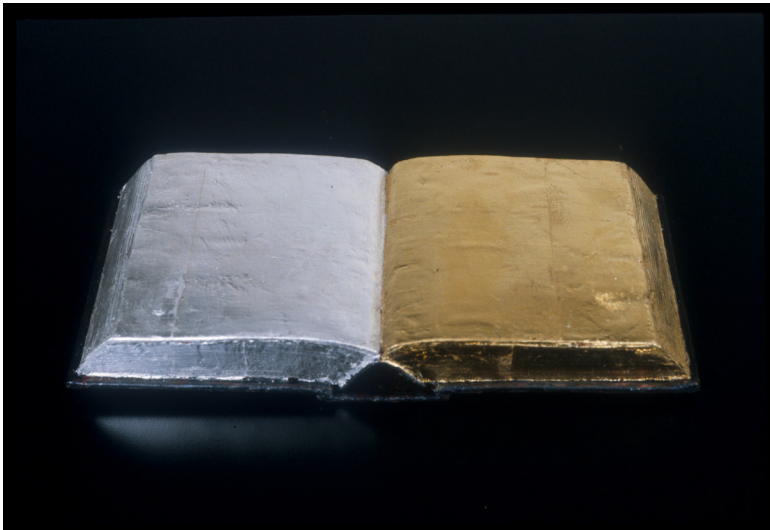


Mixed-media with gold leaf  
2009  
14.25 x 24.25 x 1 in.  
\$600



### ***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 now 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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