



Writer Donna Kublin



< Artwork on left Betsy Halford
^ Artwork above Nancy Christy-Moore

Contemporary Visions

An exciting new exhibit called “Contemporary Visions” opens at the Holland Gallery of Fine Art on February 2 and runs through February 27.

The exhibit features the artwork of four accomplished and successful female artists: Bela Fidel, abstract oils and encaustics; Nancy Christy-Moore, mixed media; Micky Jansen, oil, acrylic and mixed media; and Betsy Halford, mixed media, assemblage art. Each artist passionately expresses her personal style and artistic visions in bold, daring and intuitive aesthetics. Executed in oil, acrylic, water media, encaustic or mixed media, the art displays the richness, strength and dynamism felt by each artist as she experiences the world.

Gifted artist and teacher, Bela Fidel, will be showing work from her “Zen” series as well as her latest “Transitions” series.

In her “Zen” series, Fidel uses shapes and richly layered colors that communicate peacefulness and orderliness while imparting richness and depth. The work reflects a stage in her life when she aimed to simplify without giving up the richness and depth of experience.

Her “Transitions” series expresses these experiences in a style that is reminiscent of abstract expressionism. It shifts her from a formal Zen of shapes and colors to an inner Zen approach that is more spontaneous. By connecting the formal with the intuitive, she connects the inner and the outer of her spirituality as reflected in her art.

“I hope that this exhibit enables viewers to get to know me and my artistic expression and, most of all, that my work enriches them and their lives, however slightly,” she said.

Well-known on the local arts scene, Fidel was born in São Paulo, Brazil, lived in Israel and came to the United States in 1983. She works in oils and encaustics and also teaches them at her studio in Scottsdale.

Nancy Christy-Moore, an internationally-recognized, award-winning painter, brings the joy of color, energy and movement to her abstract mixed water media. She creates her paintings using an intuitive process she developed, which she calls "inner painting," so that she feels the painting coming through her rather than from her.

"Making my paintings happen by creating chaos and bringing order to them is my trademark style, which has developed over the past 30-plus years," she said. "Using intuitive painting techniques and drawing on my subconscious for imagery, I compose paintings as I go."

Using her layering process, she keeps her paintings freshly spontaneous, and the use of strong color with energetic movement expresses her emotional attachments to the subject matter as she tells the story.

Christy-Moore will be exhibiting work from her "Horse" series as well as her floral abstracts. She hopes to meet more art enthusiasts and collectors interested in her work and expose her paintings to new people, introducing them to her process of painting. She will have her new instructional DVD available for sale at the reception.

Micky Jansen, whose work is in private collections and offices throughout Europe and the United States, was raised in Holland, lived in the south of France and came to the United States in 1979. She has been a painter her whole life and as she developed, her work became a lot more abstract.

"My painting is my form of writing a poem or book, making people think about nature and the balance needed to sustain it, as well the male/female balance in each of us," she said.

Her inspiration comes from nature and all its splendor.

"There is a message in everything you see," she explained. "When I ride my horse in the Arizona wilderness, I see a lot of wildlife, including bear, elk, deer, hawks and reptiles. They inspire me, as does my horse. There is a unity of man and horse, they teach us so much."

With her art, she hopes to touch the viewer, opening their inspirational, spiritual and sensual parts, making them more aware of themselves and the universe. Jansen is thrilled to be with three other great artists and