



## Icons of Our Spirit

East Gallery

April 11, 2020 – October 3, 2020

***"What is art but an effort to make a sheath, a mound with which to imprison for a moment the shiny, elusive element which is life itself."***

Willa Cather

### Artist Statement:

As a visual artist and a woman, there are many issues of the feminine persona that are relevant within my compositions. Along with this fact is the opportunity I have had to work in the field of Oncology nursing for 35 years. Together these experiences have greatly affected the content of my work; content that centers upon man's courage and his ability to transcend obstacles towards a higher spiritual consciousness.

My personal artistic process is a *"hands on"* manipulation of the media. This type of physical action offers me a method to make visible the true content of my work. My usual icon or vehicle of choice, that I have found relevant for these purposes, is the bird form. For myself as an artist, I have found that the bird image symbolizes a spirituality. One, which has been utilized for centuries as a religious icon of hope and enlightenment.

Along with my bird images I also have begun a journey into the world of the Pierrot mimes, theatrical actors which were common in the 18th, 19th, and early 20th centuries. Although these mimes are classified as clowns they appear to possess an unusual entity, one of mystery and spirit, exactly what I seek to demonstrate in my art.

In so many words, I attempt to give to the inanimate object of the canvas a spiritual vitality. Many issues celebrate and identify our humanness. We are all assimilations of our relationships and situations. As with all of us, our lives are journeys of enlightenment. I only hope to present through my art a realism, which is honest and can be shared by both the viewer and myself.