

Seeing God

Art and Spirituality at the Benedictine Center of St. Paul's Monastery

For as we advance ...in faith, our hearts expand and we run the way of God's commandments with unspeakable sweetness of love. (RB, Prologue)

Over the centuries, Benedictines have encouraged women and men who use color, form, sound, and word to express the beauty one experiences in the encounter with God's own creativity. Their work contributes to keeping us mindful of God's abiding presence. *Seeing God* seeks ways to cultivate the sacramental sense that infuses religiously-themed art and to deepen the role of art as a formative part of Christian life and discipleship.

Goals

- To encourage artists in their gifts to interpret and give form to God's revelation in human life, nature, and the cosmos.
- To sponsor exhibits that demonstrate how the arts can expand one's capacity to encounter God.
- To teach the arts as a spiritual discipline so that learning about religious art and engaging in art-making itself one might experience the formative power of God's creativity.

Criteria Guiding Selection of Exhibits:

1. Because exhibits reflect the Benedictine conviction about the role of art as an interpretative lens into the mystery of God, we look for exhibits whose images are rooted in themes drawn from Scripture, nature, the human journey, and/or an interpretation of the mystery of life.
2. We seek exhibits that show how art uses beauty to reveal a deeper sense of wonder.
3. We prefer collections that have a signature point of view. That is, there is an organizing theme that provides unity to the collection.
4. Because the exhibit space is located within the public area of the Monastery, we choose exhibits that will add beauty and interest to the environment that greet the sisters and guests daily.