

Original and repurposed materials, beautifully intertwined



The artwork in this issue of *Unity* incorporates natural and recycled materials that are reshaped into elements artistically different from their original state.

Harold D. Davis

During childhood, Harold Davis lived with his extended family on a farm in rural South Carolina, where he learned to make old things into new. "I helped my grandmother sew quilts from old scraps of material and I learned that the elders made replacement parts for farming machinery from old vehicles," Davis recalls. "It was by watching them that I learned the art of repurposing objects."



"Face" by Harold Davis

At an early age, Davis used fireplace charcoal to create some of his first sketches. Later, a high school mentor influenced him to continue his artwork and study designing, painting and sculpting at the Traphagen School of Fashion and Design in New York. He also studied in Paris, France.

Davis has used driftwood from the Long Island Sound that surfaced following the arrival of Hurricane Sandy. "The artwork I create exemplifies using those existing materials, reshaped and reconfigured by nature to create something completely different," says Davis.

His piece, "Face," is a facial distortion using a driftwood piece of roofing shingle. The face is looking out of an old barn and represents the study of various wood grains.



"Unwavering Glory" by Harold Davis

"Unwavering Glory" was also created from driftwood instead of canvas. The wood is painted with acrylic and oil and the flag was created using pieces and bends of wood. "The driftwood exemplifies the timelessness of Old Glory throughout its struggles to preserve liberty and freedom for all," says Davis.

The shapes, colors and woodgrains of "Fish" are positioned much like a puzzle. Davis says he sometimes cuts pieces of wood to fit a collage and achieve a cubist depth to his work.

His work is displayed in universities, theaters, libraries and shops. Several of his paintings are part of private collections throughout the U.S. and France.



"Fish" by Harold Davis

Sandhi Schimmel Gold

Sandhi Schimmel Gold was born in the Bronx, New York, to WWII-era Hungarian refugees who shaped her as an artist. Gold's mother, an artist, taught her to mix paints at an early age. Her father was a leather goods designer who taught her designing and pattern making. Although Gold studied art extensively in college, she received her bachelor of arts in psychology and film from Arizona State University.

Gold recalls stumbling upon her paper mosaic technique while working as a portrait and mosaic artist. "I had a eureka moment when I realized I could utilize paper instead of glass or tile to create a mosaic effect." The results is a textured look and feel that is created from thousands of pieces of upcycled junk mail.

What began as a simple drawing ended up being a woman's face in "Heaven Can Wait." Her face of beige tones shows prominently against a colorful, active background of upcycled junk mail.



"Heaven Can Wait" by Sandhi Schimmel Gold