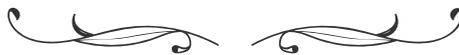




DOORWAYS *to Divinity*



Curated by
McArthur Krishna

Participating Friends/Artists:

Anne Gregerson
Char Weiler
Claire Tollstrup
Elizabeth Sanchez
Esther Candari
Kathy Peterson
Katrina Berg
Laura Erikson
Laurie Lisonbee
McArthur Krishna
Nicole Woodbury
Rose Datoc Dall



Diwali is the celebration of light over dark. In India, women of the house hang a toran across the doorway-- a festive moniker indicating the house is blessed and protected by deity. You are literally entering sacred ground.



As I think about our earth life as a journey, I want to see it as protected by deity. The experiences may be glorious or demanding— but I want to have the vision to see these moments as part of our Parent’s plan. What I go through, learn from, and grow into is necessary. Experiences are not pointless but a worthwhile culmination. My life is blessed.

I asked some artist friends to create a piece that showed an aspect of a woman’s life. They have outdone themselves. Interpretations of joy, sisterhood, regression, celebration, mourning, learning, resting, work. We all have experienced each of these. Somewhere, someone, right now is in the middle of one of these.

And so, we present you Doorways to Divinity— enter sacred ground. May our lives be seen as blessed.



Doorway to Divinity: 1 - 36" wide



McArthur Krishna - *Beginning Prelude* - 72"

We are born into an earth life of experience. The passage is one of intensity, a prelude for what is to come. But life also offers brightness and hope, Heavenly Parents who are never far, and a Brother who makes it possible.



“On a particularly difficult day—or sometimes a series of difficult days—what would this world’s inhabitants not pay to know that Heavenly Parents are reaching across those same streams and mountains and deserts, anxious to hold them close?”

- Jeffrey R. Holland -

Doorway to Divinity: 2 - 36" wide



Laura Erekson - Arrival - 48"x36"

Welcome to Earth Life

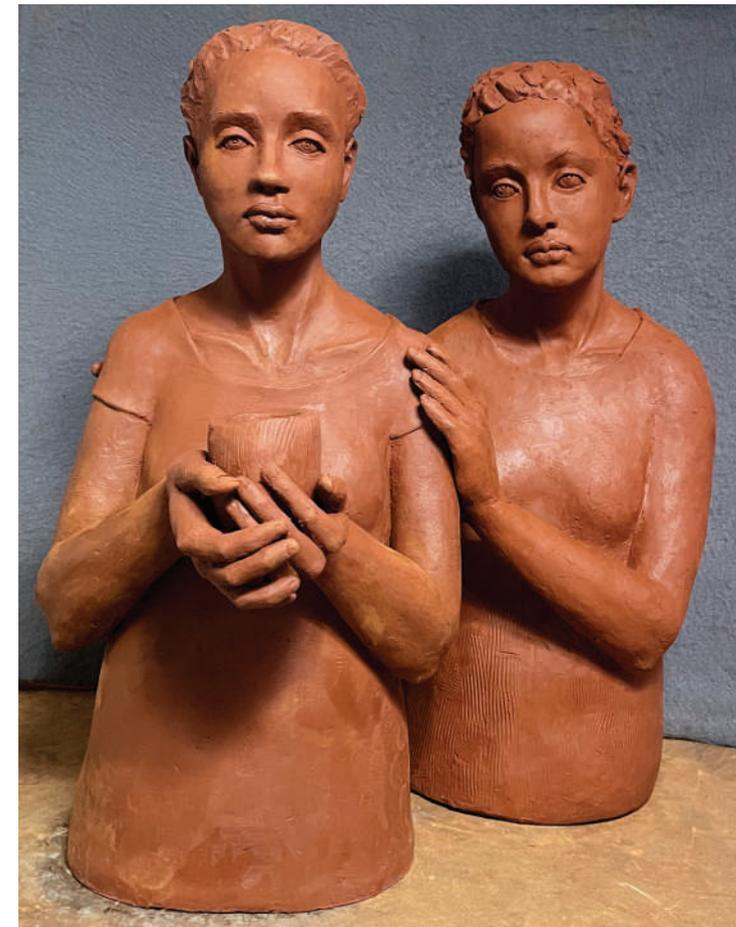
We arrive onto earth so exposed. We are so vulnerable and so needing. (And, frankly, I think we stay this way but with some manufactured trappings to try and smokescreen our state.) But, I also think we are given what we need to be cared for. Our Heavenly Parents provide... an earth and all things in it. Let yourself be swaddled in the abundance. This is your arrival!



“And behold, I am the light and the life of the world; and I have drunk out of that bitter cup...”

- 3 Nephi 11:11 -

Doorway to Divinity: 3 - 36" wide



Anne Gregerson - Bitter Cup - 17"x16"x12"

Artist Statement

“In this life, we will each have bitter cups to drink at times. How fortunate to have a friend to stand with you as witness and support! This piece is dedicated to the many women friends who have stood by me in my deepest sorrows. You know who you are.”

Sisterhood

I have gotten through life with the sisterhood of sisters by birth and sisters-by-choice. Around-the-world trips, skinny-dipping, concerts, road trips, waffles as we skip physical science class, borrowing shoes, a well-placed swear word, late-night chats, discovering the hard way that caller ID was invented, jumping in pools fully clothed, birthday hot pink hair dye, being a George, dancing, couch crashing, riding an elephant, plotting, leading me home after wisdom-teeth pulling, cinnamon rolls, notes upon notes in the mail, watching me cry, and the times when you knew I wanted to cry and could not.

Find your sisterhood... and then kneel down in abject gratitude.



“[S]He is a God in embryo, and possesses within [her] a spark of that eternal flame which was struck from the blaze of God’s eternal fire in the eternal world, and is placed here upon the earth that [s]he may possess true intelligence, true light, true knowledge, - that [s]he may know [herself] - that [s]he may know God.”

- President John Taylor -

Doorway to Divinity: 4 - 36” wide



Char Weiler - Work-in-Progress - 16”x20”

Work-in-Progress

How many times have I had no idea how to do something? Often, really. Mostly always. And when I think, “what in the world have I got myself into this time?” I remember— everything is a work-in-progress. EVERYTHING. This life is a work-in-progress! And so am I. (Thankfully.) And so are you.



“... My presence shall go with thee, and I will give thee rest.”

- Exodus 33:14 -

Doorway to Divinity: 5 - 36" wide



Fallow

A wise friend once told me I needed to have a fallow period... a period of respite... a period to breathe. (She, rightly so, wanted breathing to fend off the potential of bitter breakage that can come from busily tilting at windmills.)

A what? Are you kidding me? Fallow period? I got things to do, books to write, cards to mail, patriarchy to vanquish, school snacks to pack. I'll think about fallow... on another day. Or, maybe... today? Come rest with me...

*Claire Tollstrup
Fallow (Resting from Searching,
Resting from Truth)
24"x12" (26"x14")*



“... peace be unto thy soul..”

- D&C 121:7 -

Doorway to Divinity: 6 - 36” wide



Elizabeth Sanchez - Regression - 16”x20”

Regression

I am a determined person. I like to make progress. I like to get things DONE. I like to feel the pounding satisfied surge of progress. But, truly, not all steps move in one direction. Mine haven't. Yours probably hasn't either. And that's ok.



“When through the deep waters I call thee to go,
The rivers of sorrow shall not thee o’erflow,
For I will be with thee, thy troubles to bless,
And sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.
The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose
I will not, I cannot, desert to his foes;
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I’ll never, no never, no never forsake!”

- Hymns, #85, “How Firm a Foundation” -

Doorway to Divinity: 7 - 36” wide



Esther Candari - Mourning - 6”x12” each

Mourning

Life will hurt.

Sometimes, mine has needed to be a solo grief. I get that. But sometimes, I would say often, we can honor the reality that life will require pain when we mourn together. I have sat with others in grief, and have had others sit with me, sharing grace.

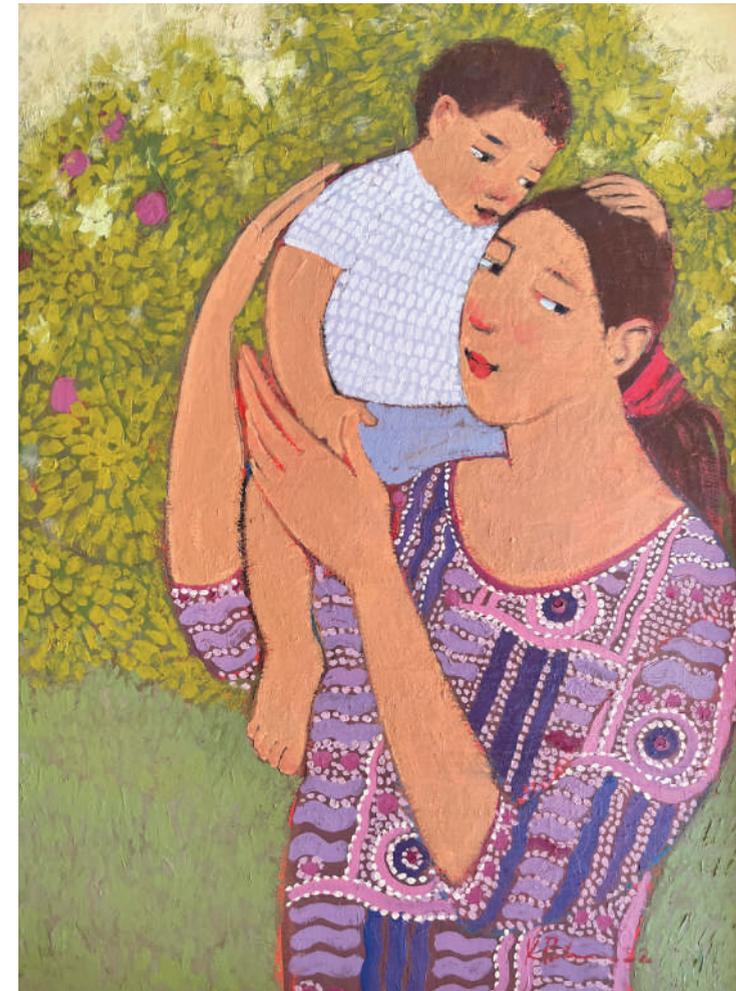
Sit. Share. Be.



“... how oft have I gathered you as a hen gathereth her chickens
under her wings, and have nourished you.”

- 3 Nephi 10:4 -

Doorway to Divinity: 8 - 36" wide



Kathy Peterson - Nurture - 26"x20"

Nurture

I did not marry until I was 37. I did not have a biological child until I was 41. But, I have nurtured many things. I have nurtured a business, a project, a wish, a house, a relationship, a calling, a book, a friend... and (after many many failures) a houseplant. What do you nurture?



“For ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace: the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.”

- Isaiah 55:12 -

Doorway to Divinity: 9 - 36" wide



Dancing to Create Heaven

Someone once asked me my definition of Heaven. And, I have to say, me and my people will be zydeco dancing... I see the twinkly lights through the woods and I know my family is up there waiting for a scrum hug and a night of boogying. There is hope in togetherness and moving in joy.

Katrina Berg - "so danço samba" - 40"x60", (52"x72")

Artist Statement: One of the most difficult parts of our divine path as women is the darkness that comes and goes throughout our lives. One thing that can help tremendously is the unique sisterhood relationship.... A bond that can be found in unexpected places. When that friendship sparks and grows, we can see more clearly as a group, we can bear the burdens together with our combined strength, and we can collectively accomplish the seemingly impossible. The dance team depicted did just that. That movement took them places physically, but also spiritually and mentally. Dance can unite us as a group, but also with Divinity. These girls showed we can find joy and fulfillment in the darkest times of our mortal journey.

Symbolic notes: The lotus flowers and pond are a representation of life, fertility & creation. The pond reminds us to rely on the Infinite Atonement of Jesus Christ and partake of His Living Waters. Their ability to dance on the waters also reminds us that the group can do the unimaginable through Christ. The antelope represent those watching over this sweet group: the Father & His Son. The largest tree on the left is Asherah, our Divine Feminine & Heavenly Mother. The other trees represent Her daughters, the mothers of these dancers, also looking over, surrounding them -- giving them life, love, and support.



“... Ye are gods; and all of you are children of the most High.”

- Psalm 82:6 -

Doorway to Divinity: 10 - 36” wide



Laurie Lisonbee - Lindsay Hansen Park With the Tools of Sovereignty - 65”x40”

Artist Statement

Lindsay Hansen Park has “taken the ax” to historical narratives about women who are subjugated in power structures, specifically within polygamy. In splitting apart mythologies simply by being a truth-teller, she has helped thousands of women - and men - to claim their own sovereignty and gain a vision of themselves as authorities over their own lives. Her microphone creates a sovereign space for crafting authentic identity regardless of existing power structures.

Sovereignty

It is a tricky thing. I have to understand I am my own person... AND... I also am a member of a heavenly family. But, let's start with the “being our own person” part... because I cannot truly join myself to anyone or anything unless I have a self to give.

I am my own person.

I am in charge of my body.

I am in charge of my decisions.

My mind and emotions are mine.

I have dreams.

My soul needs investment.

I choose what I want to become.



“I witness that Jesus Christ loves us and can give us eyes to see—even when it’s hard, even when we’re tired, even when we’re lonely, and even when the outcomes are not as we hoped. Through His grace, He will bless us and increase our capacity. Through the power of the Holy Ghost, Christ will enable us to see ourselves and see others as He does.”

- Michelle D. Craig -

Doorway to Divinity: 11 - 36” wide



Nicole Woodbury - Mother Air - 18”x6”x5”

Essential but Unseen

When I speak with my friends who have children, one theme almost always comes up— mothers feel subsumed. Women are essential to nuclear families and the broader world but often feel as though they are taken for granted. The unpaid (and often unacknowledged and disrespected) labor of women in the world is significant. In the USA alone, the work women do caring for relatives and around the house is calculated to be worth \$1.5 TRILLION a year at minimum wage. That is an immense amount. And why do we feel the need to put a number on this work? Does a number give it meaning? We respect the worth of numbers? Mother Air shows the intrinsic need for women... that is often unseen.



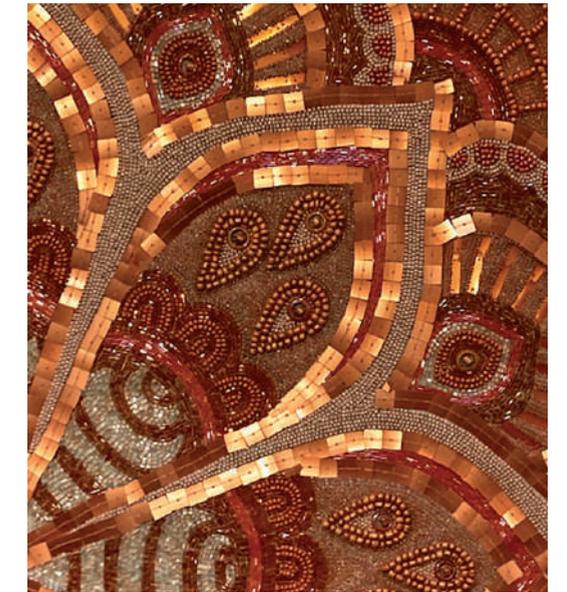
“... I am encircled about eternally...”

- 2 Nephi 1:15 -

Doorway to Divinity: 12 - 36" wide

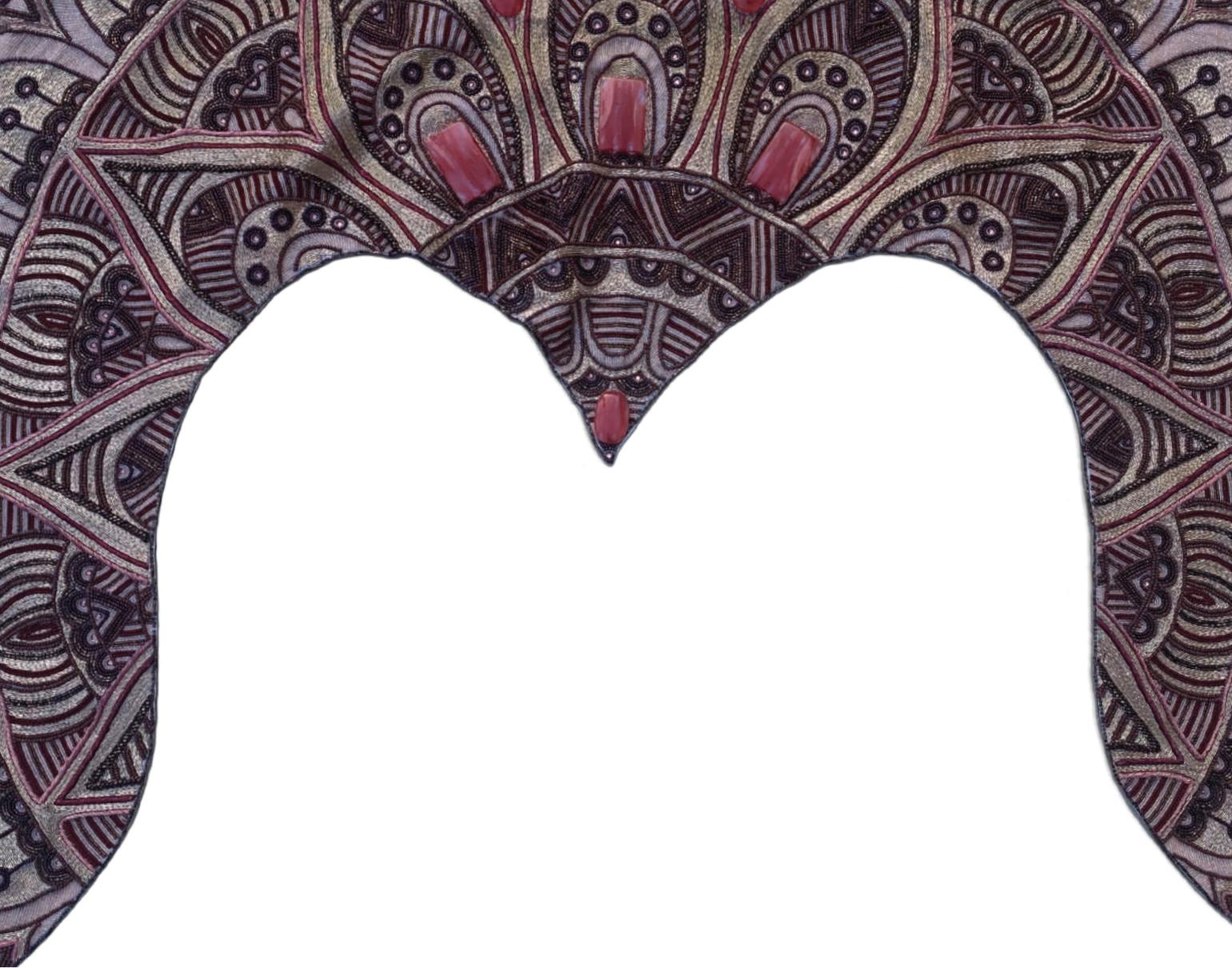


McArthur Krishna - Ascension to Whole - 36"x40"



Line Upon Line Ascension

Through these myriad of aspects in our life, we hope we experience the refiner's fire and not just burn to ash. We hope we grow. We hope we transcend. We hope we become like our Heavenly Parents. We hope we become the most divine us...whole.



Doorway to Divinity: 13 - 36" wide



Rose Datoc Dall - Returning Home - 16"x20"

And when we arrive, we will be welcomed...

“Sisters, I testify that when you stand in front of your heavenly parents in those royal courts on high and look into Her eyes and behold Her countenance, any question you ever had about the role of women in the kingdom will evaporate into the rich celestial air, because at that moment you will see standing directly in front of you, your divine nature and destiny.”

-Elder Glenn Pace

