

Advent Gallery Exhibit Statement ; “Icons”

For this Advent Season, which celebrates the birth, life, and purpose of Christ coming in human form, it would seem strange at first to find an exhibit centering around Icons.

The exhibit, however, serves to link the observer to the Historic Church, evoking a sense of continuity and connection to communities and traditions going back as far as the 400 A.D. , while also drawing the observer into a current context with the personal renditions of some of these ancient Icons.

As Kent Russell, Curator/CEO of the Museum of Russian Icons states in a recent blog post, entitled, “ Reflections on the Meaning of the Image of the Annunciations in Icons”

<http://www.museumofrussianicons.org/iconostasis/>

(Posted Sept 13, 2013) :

“The magnificence of icons is that they trace a line directly back to the very earliest traditions of Christian art. Being primarily sacred art, art made for veneration and used for teaching and prayer, they remain constant in an ever-changing world, rooted in Biblical texts and authorized church teaching. We connect to icons through their storytelling ability, their simple directness to us. We are not distracted by the artistic skills and powers of the individual artists who may create extraordinary works of art that are as much about themselves—their technical skills as artists and the genius of the individual—as they are about adhering faithfully to a story that speaks simply and directly to our souls. Icons connect directly to recognizable archetypes. While sophisticated and complex in their symbolic language and their composition and structure, icons nonetheless evoke very direct and visceral emotions connected to basic instincts in most of us that seek spiritual meaning, balance, and order in the universe to make sense of our purpose in this world.”

With the Jim Janknegt wall the exhibit is brought to a personal and local level for the observer, connecting the exhibits theme to the previous exhibit, “Service, & Loving Those Far From Christ,” while underscoring a continuous emphasis on story and context.