

AVE MARIA UNIVERSITY

p r e s e n t s

LIVING SPLENDOR

Florida's Wildlife Illustrated by Megan Kissinger

CANIZARO LIBRARY

October 8 - November 14, 2010



Megan Kissinger portrays Florida wildlife in minute detail. From the glinting eye of the Red Tailed Hawk to the downy feathers of a young Sandhill Crane, she strives to point out the microcosms of beauty that the casual viewer of wildlife often overlooks. Through her art, she invites the viewer to see the "Living Splendor" in all of God's creatures.

"When you observe these creatures and delight in them, when you look to the Architect of all things, and when you contemplate his invisible attributes in things created through the intellect, then let us confess his name over the earth and in the heavens.... If the creatures are beautiful, how much more beautiful must the Creator be?"

—St Augustine



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MEGAN KISSINGER

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Florida native and award-winning painter and illustrator, Megan Kissinger has spent a lifetime observing and portraying the flora and fauna of our state. Her main interest lies in the forms, textures and rhythms of living things. Avian and floral images, both figurative and abstract are an almost constant theme running throughout most of her creative efforts. How living things interact, survive and thrive in their environment is of great interest to her as she visits these ideas often in her art. She speaks about it this way:

"I am captivated by the complex and connected world that God has created. From the smallest single-celled organism to the most intelligent human, every living thing has a place to live and a duty to fulfill. Every thing that creeps, flies and walks across our Earth leaves behind a legacy—for better or worse. I want everyone who views my paintings to feel a little of my fascination with the patterns, colors and forms that occur in the natural world. I have had many strange and often spiritual experiences with nature. I grew up along the beaches and forests in the panhandle of Florida when that area was more wild than tame. My summers were filled with daily explorations into the swamps, bays, and forests, searching out every living thing, marveling at all of Heaven and Earth. Every new season brought new life and new light to the landscape. When I create a painting, I try to translate these experiences with the natural world to the viewer so that they, in turn, may also see the beauty of the Creator's works."

Megan has worked with a variety of businesses, universities and newspapers in fine art, illustration and design. She acts as scribe and illustrator of Ave Maria University's Chronicles Book, a hand-made volume in the style of the early Christian manuscripts that logs special guests, events and gatherings throughout the school year. She exhibits in many one-person shows and her paintings are in various private collections in the United States and internationally.

In her paintings, Megan works with acrylic paints using a modified "broken-color" technique. Many layers of glazes are required to get the paint to work with the available light and make the colors and textures come through to the viewer's eye. Megan works and teaches from her studio in Southwest Florida. She can be contacted on the internet at www.megankissinger.com.

For more information about this exhibit, please contact Jennifer Nodes, exhibit curator: 239.348.4710
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