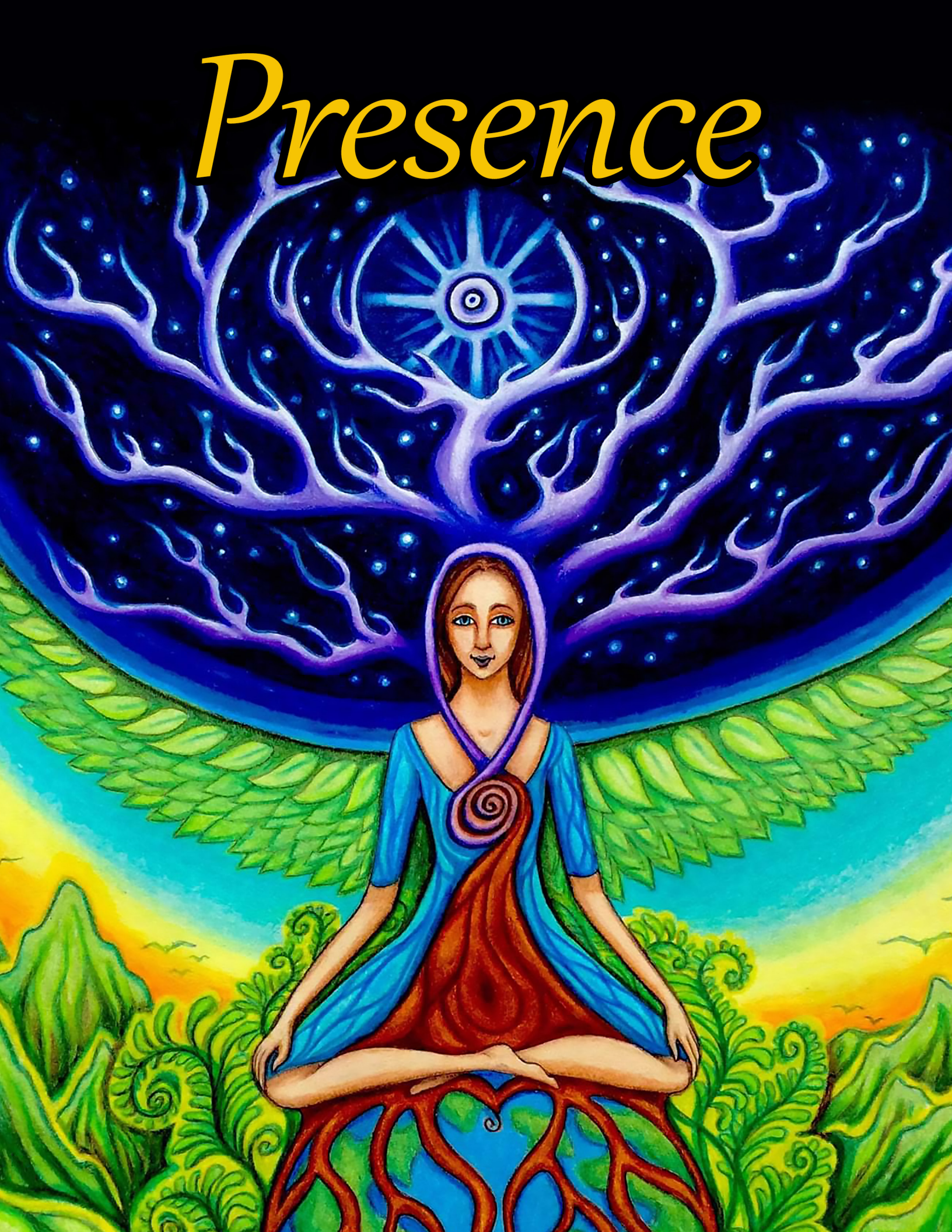


# *Presence*





# Presence

Curated by Krin Van Tatenhove and Angelica Gudino  
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# Introduction

Ever since we gained self-consciousness, human beings have pondered this Presence in which we have our being. We call it many names; we give it the faces of various gods. We sing, meditate, and dance to embrace it. It is both a source of endless speculation and breathtaking awe. For some, this Presence is personal. For others it's an ineffable mystery permeating their lives; they do not attempt to label it, simply experience it.

In whatever way we apprehend this Presence, there is no denying that even while we sleep, it grows our nails and hair, regulates our breathing, and beats our hearts. There is no escape. Like primordial fish, we swim in this Presence with varying degrees of consciousness.

Angelica Gudino and I invited the artists in this book to contribute based on a central question: "How do you respond creatively to the beauty and mystery of the Presence that surrounds us?"

Presence shines through the reflections of light on water, luster in the eyes of children, the diverse splendors of nature—all attracting my eye, my camera lens, my poetic voice. For others, as you will see, the prompting muses are entirely different.

We hope you enjoy the diversity of these creations!

-Krin Van Tatenhove

"Life energy is manifesting through everything;  
I am nothing and I am everything."  
— Steve Leasock



Denise Gomez Markowski





**“Your true home is in the here and the now.”  
- Thich Nhat Hanh**

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# Kim Anguiano



San Antonio native, Kim Anguiano (alias Artist 77), is a self-taught multimedia artist working in mediums that include videos (film / editing), photos, and paintings. Her pieces encompass pop, modern, contemporary, and abstract styles. “When I am creating the most intimate and sensitive expression, it channels mostly into modern art / abstract paintings. I often refer to these pieces

as my Ambient art. There is a calmness or answer that art gives me. There’s so much to share, feel, and understand because putting them into words and speaking—merely hearing the sound of words—could never suffice.

“I painted *The Pathway* while searching for special communication between human beings that could find us equally relatable. I questioned the simplicity of human nature and asked how we can understand each other in harmony. Too often, we are all lost and confused with mass communication, politics, and the noise of our technically advanced world. I hope for a new pathway.

“I find myself creatively designing a world of my own, influenced by my theatrical work and interaction with performing artists. My reflective side has developed communication on a spiritual level with questions, answers, and confirmation from the higher being. I call this series *The Peak* since it is my visual art at its highest, speaking to the highest almighty God.”

*The Pathway*



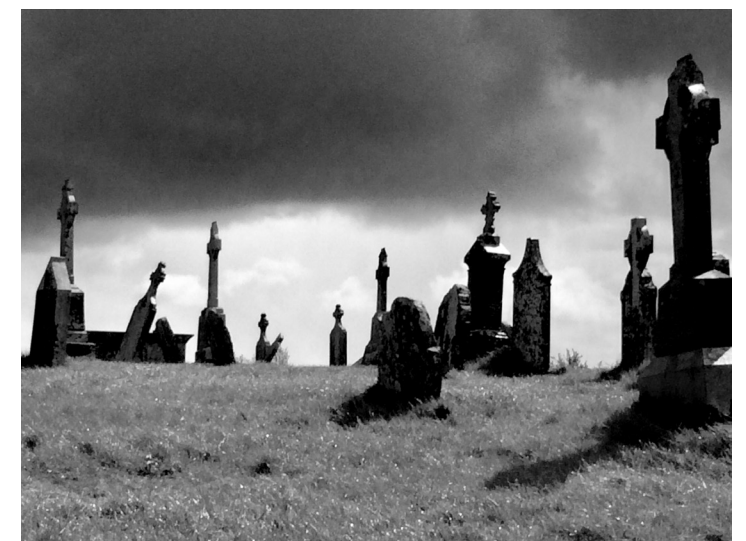
*The Peak*





Todd Freeman, an avid amateur photographer, is an ordained pastor in the Presbyterian Church (USA). His first career was as a petroleum geologist. In speaking about his eye for photography, he has often commented how he looks at life around him as if through the lens of a camera.

*"See that I am God. See that I am in everything.* That was written back in the Middle Ages by English mystic, Julian of Norwich. This is the essence of my own spirituality. I seek to recognize the Sacred Presence of God in all things, and photography continues to lead me into this realization.



Photography is a very spiritual experience for me. In fact, I tend to look at life around me as if through the lens of a camera, focusing on that which often goes unnoticed. Seeing God's Presence in the details—whether in nature, architecture, or other people—is enhanced through the art of photography. I particularly experience this in black and white photos."





# Zac Vanlandingham



Zac Vanlandingham is a native Texan who grew up in San Antonio. He writes poetry, fiction, and songs. His poems that appear in this book were inspired by ordinary daily moments in which he felt acutely connected to the world around him and was able to see it as the living breathing presence that it is. He has a B.A in Literature from University of Texas at San Antonio.

## Universal Love

Everything flows into everything else  
And I flow in and out of you  
As we are fed and consumed  
By everything that exists  
We are God and we are the Buddha  
We are birth and we are death  
We are every significant and mundane event  
We are Om and we are the Tao  
We are the Holy Trinity and we are the Devil  
We are saints and we are pagans  
We are Jehovah, Allah, and Krishna

We are Kali, Shiva, Gaia, and Lilith  
We are the Way and we are the Source  
We are Karana  
We are the consciousness at the center of the Universe  
And if I'm asked why I should treat you with respect  
I'll say because I am you and you are me  
And we are quite literally in all this together

## Borrowed Always Returned

As we stand in the sacred place  
And we hear the ancient song  
I tell you this one truth that I know  
And I've known it for so long  
What we have is borrowed  
And it must be returned  
Borrowed always returned  
Borrowed always returned  
All we have is borrowed  
And it must be returned  
Back, back, everything  
Must be given back

## Church of Leaves

I don't need to be sitting on a pew  
To feel the presence of a Creator  
My senses can gather the evidence  
On a ritual walk with my canine companion  
As he pauses to appreciate every gift of scent  
offered up by the Earth  
Hearing choirs of birds offering hymns of praise  
And seeing artistry apparent  
In arches of branches and boughs of leaves  
creating a canopy

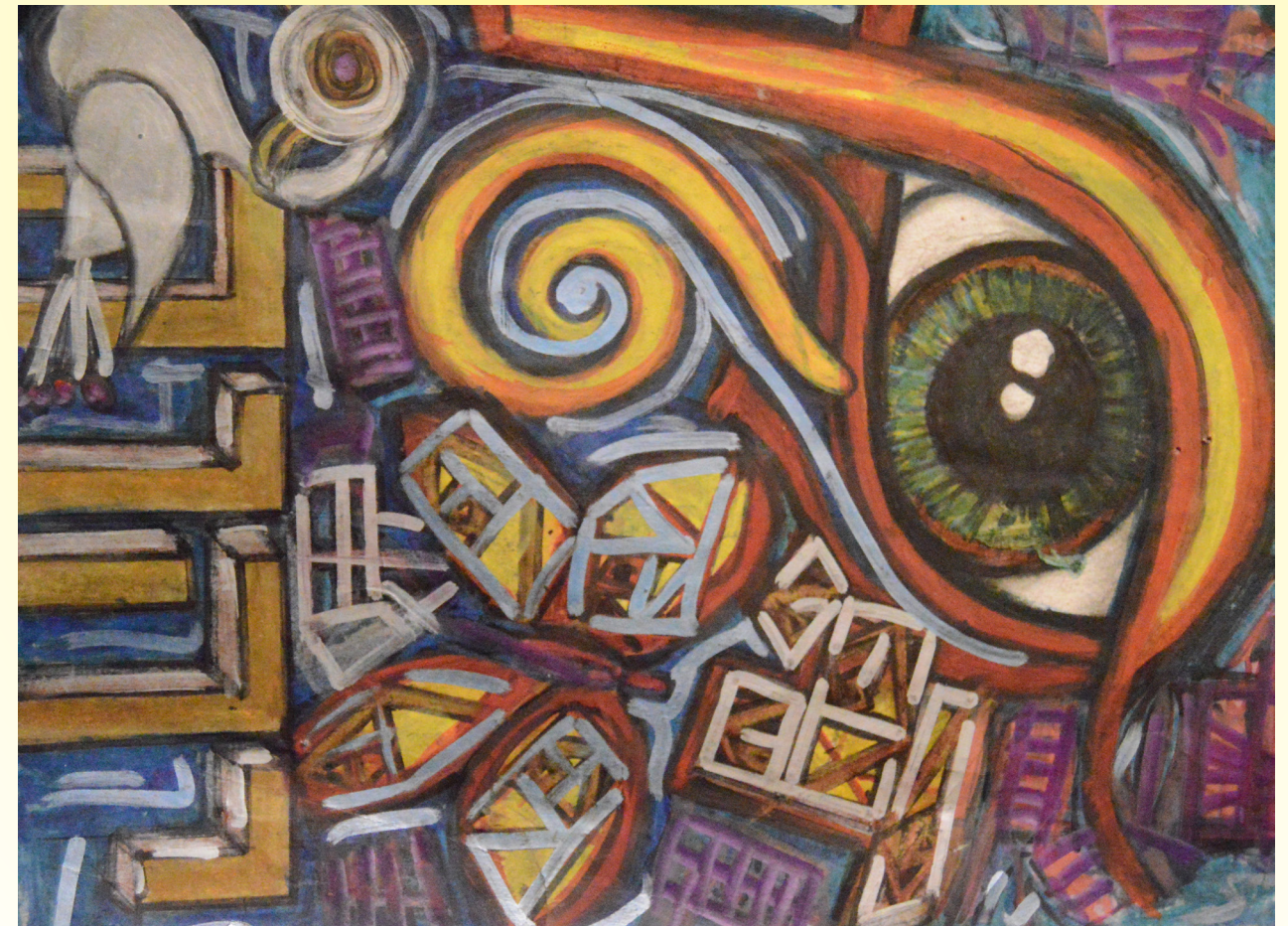
# Americo Salazar



Americo Salazar, known as the People's Artist, is a San Antonio, Texas based painter active since his teens. His style is influenced by the surreal, abstract and expressionistic. His art touches on subjects that cover historical, personal, political, and spiritual matters.



"My work opens up into other worlds that are at times unseen by the naked eye. I plug the viewer into what is transmitted to me through meditation and ritual. These works are full of motifs, symbols, and archetypes that have been used and understood since the beginning of time. In my attempt to translate the world around me, I understand that everything goes back to the source of creation and the collective unconscious. We are divine spirits in human flux, and this divine-to-human connection is what I express in my art."







Americo Salazar

## Jamie Anderson



Jamie Anderson is an award-winning landscape and nature photographer. He has lived his entire life near the surrounding rivers and protected barrier islands which make up Coastal Georgia. He has dedicated himself to capturing the beauty and charm of that region.



God's Glory

### *God's Glory*

"The heavens declare the glory of God;  
the firmament proclaims the works of his  
hands.

Day unto day pours forth speech;  
night unto night whispers knowledge.

There is no speech, no words;  
their voice is not heard;

A report goes forth through all the earth,  
their messages, to the ends of the world.

He has pitched in them a tent for the sun;  
it comes forth like a bridegroom from his cano-  
py,  
and like a hero joyfully runs its course.

From one end of the heavens it comes forth;  
its course runs through to the other;  
nothing escapes its heat." - Psalm 19

"I often experience God's Presence when cre-  
ating this type of photography. In the quiet of  
the night, down on the beach, the only sounds  
you hear are the gentle crashing of the waves  
and occasionally other people. God's Presence  
shines forth in the night and I think of Psalm  
19: 'The heavens declare the glory of God; the  
sky proclaims the works of His hands.' It is an  
awesome wonder to behold the brilliance of the  
cosmos.

"God's Presence shines in *all* of creation, from  
the sun with its beauty at dawn, to the smallest  
flowers and tallest trees, to all the creatures that  
live among them. The sun runs its course to  
the opposite horizon and ends with a beautiful  
sunset. Then, once again, the stars emerge; the  
circle of life, marking its time, day by day.

"God's Presence is everywhere. We only need  
to open our eyes and observe."



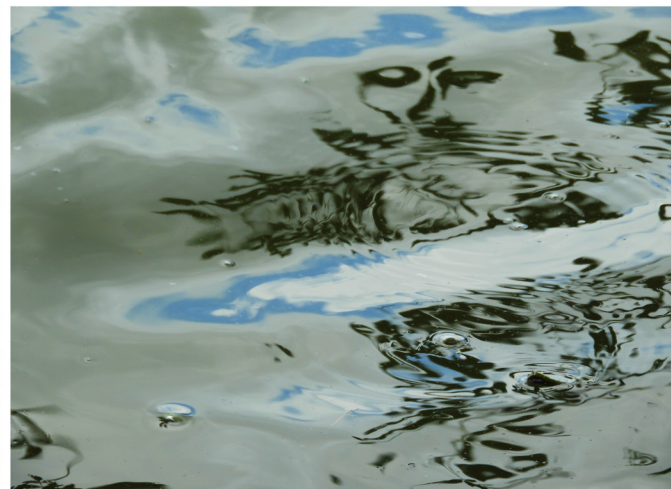
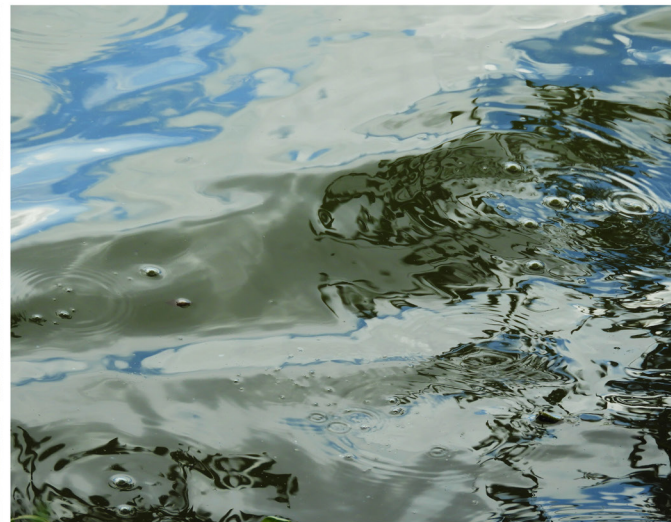
# Krin Van Tatenhove



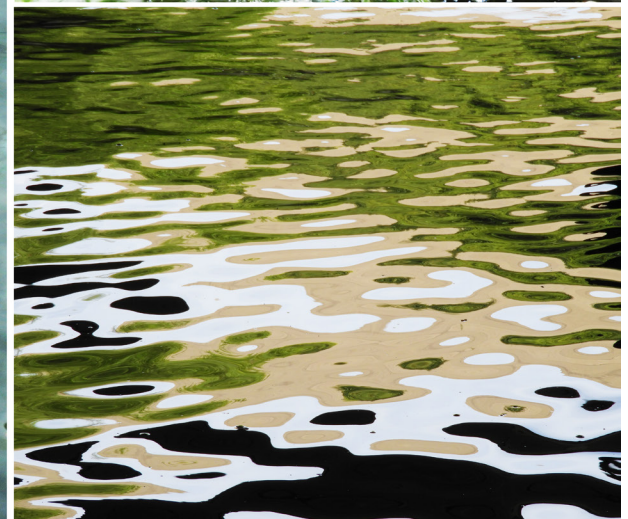
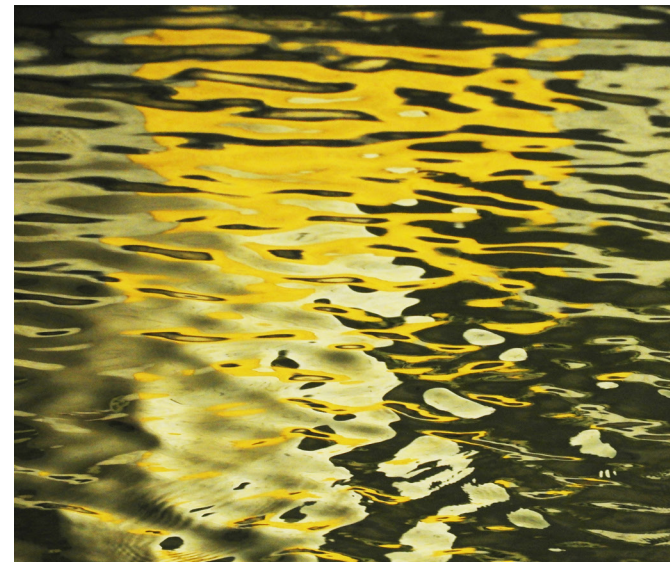
Krin Van Tatenhove is a writer, photographer, and spiritual adventurer whose images and words have appeared in many publications. He has written numerous books, both individually and in collaboration with other gifted souls.

"In photography, painting, and film it's all about the light. Artists in these mediums realize a beautiful truth: the world around us changes every second, depending on the lighting. Nowhere do I experience this more profoundly than on the surface of water. I have developed a habit—a technique, really—when I am near a river, lake, or pond. I focus on a small square where colors are especially vibrant. Then I click multiple photos separated by mere seconds. The patterns that emerge are amazing, heightening my appreciation of how Presence streams around us through the electromagnetic spectrum, bathing us in patterns of light. *Surface Wonders* is an art collage based on impressions taken at different times and places.

*Ten Seconds of Light* is exactly that—four images taken within ten seconds on the surface of San Antonio's Woodlawn Lake."



*Ten Seconds of Light*



*Surface Wonders*

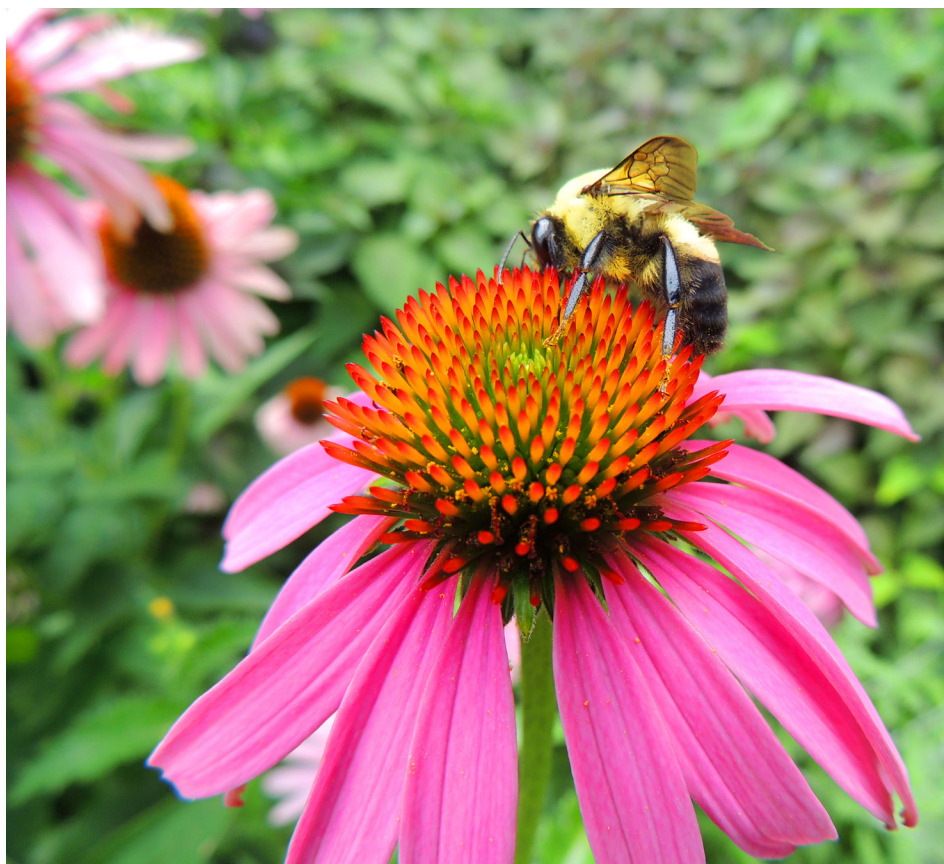




*Heart of the Sunrise*

“Ralph Waldo Emerson famously said, ‘The earth laughs in flowers.’ If you want to experience more joy in the Presence, spend time absorbing the colors and scents of this world’s florid beauties. Just like the fleeting trajectory of butterflies, or the momentary fire of a sunset, a flower’s beauty is ephemeral, calling us to stop and enjoy it here and now. The timeless platitude remains true, no matter how often repeated: stop and smell the roses.

“*Heart of the Sunrise* shows a sunflower in the gardens outside Mission Espada in San Antonio. It reminded me of words from an old Yes song, ‘Dream on, on to the heart of the sunrise.’



*Busy, Busy Bee*



*Avian Glory*

“*Busy, Busy Bee* is a pollen-gathering friend on a flower in the Sunken Gardens of Lincoln, Nebraska. When I see creatures busily going about their work, oblivious to me, I am struck by the intricacy and interdependence of the Presence that surrounds us, a hum of activity that preceded us and will hopefully succeed us for millennia to come.

“Legend has it that St. Francis, known for his love of nature, was especially fond of birds. He once spoke to them, saying, ‘My sweet little sisters, birds of the sky, our Creator has given you the greatest of gifts, the freedom of the air. You neither sow nor reap, yet God provides for you the most delicious food, rivers and lakes to quench your thirst, mountains and valleys for your homes, tall trees to build your nests, and the most beautiful clothing: a change of feathers with every season.’

“Yes! Those feathers reflecting color and light! I have spent countless hours fascinated by Presence seen in the plumage—and heard in the songs—of birds. I never grow weary of their variety and striking beauty, even as my admiration is tinged with melancholy at the knowledge of their increased extinction from



*Dipping into Glory*

our world’s ecosystems.

“*Avian Glory* is a composite from many visits to the San Antonio Zoo. *Sitting Pretty* is a Lilac Breasted Roller encountered on a photo safari through the South Luangwa National Park in Zambia.



*Sitting Pretty*





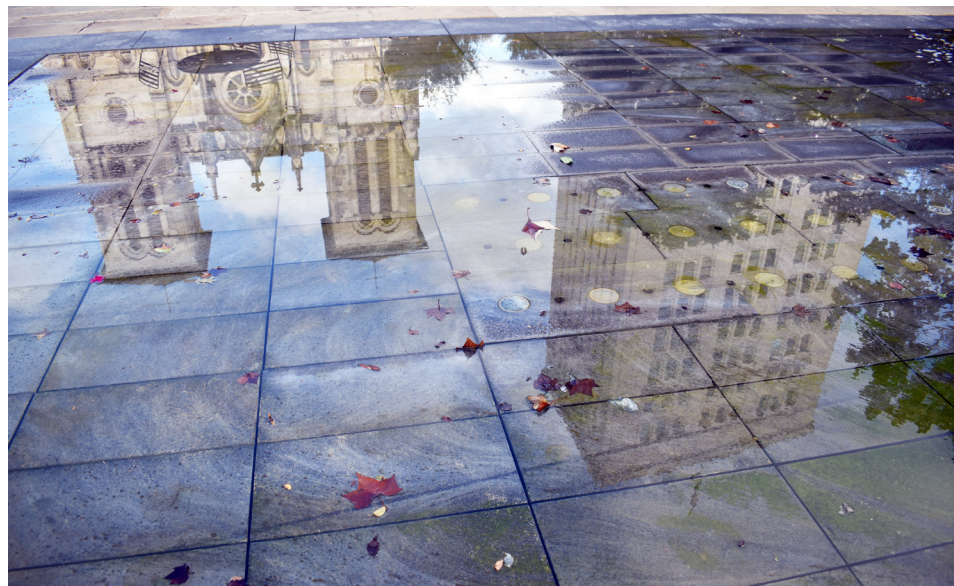
*Spires of Water and Spirit*

"We call them thin places, locations where the veil between the natural and supernatural seems more permeable. Some people experience this phenomenon in temples and cathedrals. Whenever I visit a new city, I tour its holy places, those sites of reverence and worship that draw streams of pilgrims seeking light. *Spires of Water and Spirit* and *Cathedrals of Life and Industry* show the San Fernando Cathedral in San Antonio. *La Virgen de Guadalupe* is a painting near the cathedral's interior altar. I am not Roman Catholic; I do not venerate



*La Virgen de Guadalupe*

the Sacred Mother. Yet, in this reverent space I feel the Presence of all those who call upon her name. The glow of the votive candles warms my soul, and when I leave the Cathedral's shaded interior and return to the streets, I take a trace of that devotion with me."



*Cathedrals of Life and Industry*

Krin Van Tatenhove

## Donna Van Tatenhove



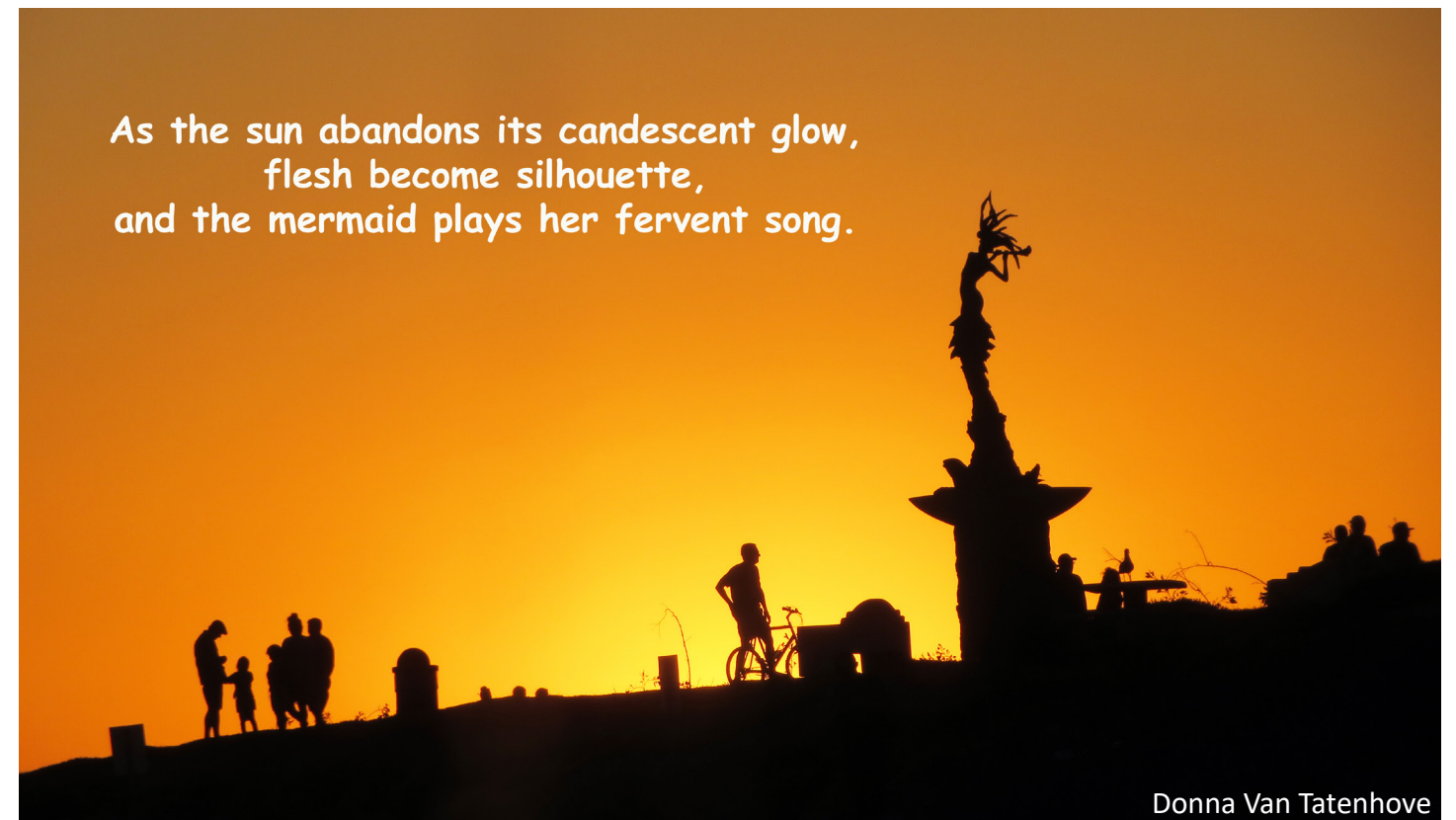
Donna Van Tatenhove is a student and avid traveler who loves the hobby of photography. She lives in San Antonio with her husband and son.

### Presence

By Jason Tremillo

In my darkest place  
You still reached my heart  
I was in awe of your light  
Cleansing my very being  
A sparrow piercing the veil  
You show me humility  
You show me love  
In all I am  
In every wake  
I will always feel you  
A dream in my mind  
A reality in my soul  
I owe my gratitude  
To the very faith  
To its amazing grace  
I'm open I'm reborn  
I'm ready for you  
My dearest and pure love  
I want to be always be  
Immaculately in the orchard  
Of your presence

As the sun abandons its candescent glow,  
flesh become silhouette,  
and the mermaid plays her fervent song.



Donna Van Tatenhove



# Angelica Gudino



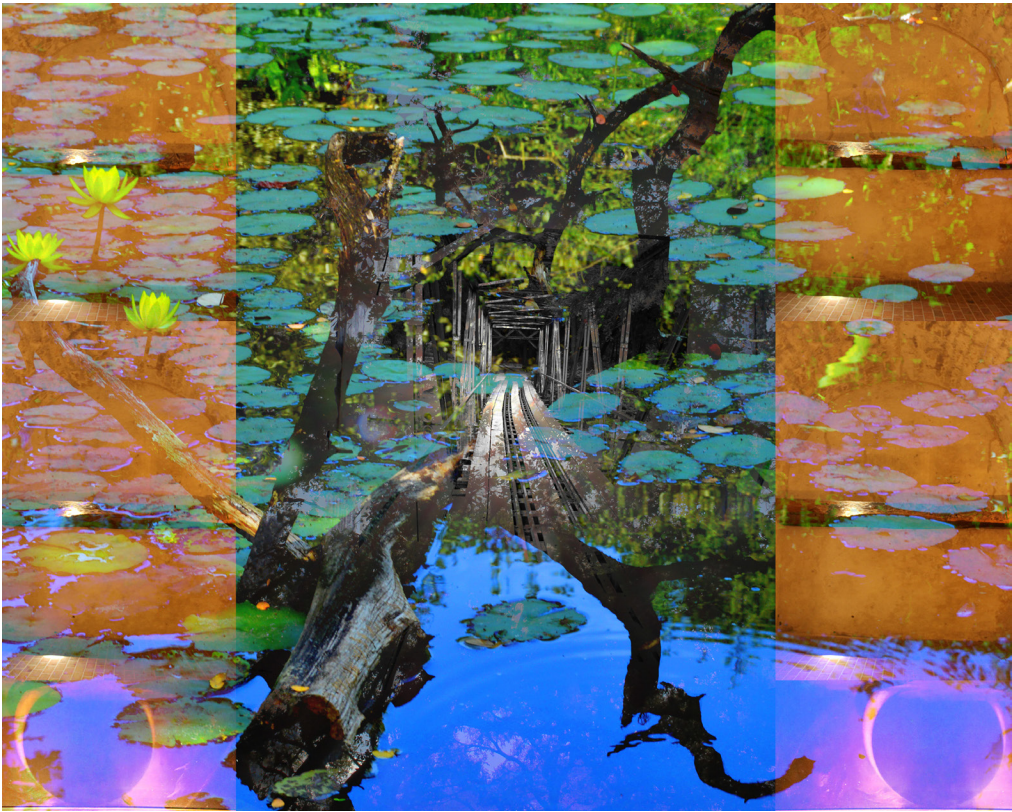
Angelica Gudino, a San Antonio based Photographer/Mixed Media Artist, finds her inspiration in the contentedness of the world. Her work pays close attention to human emotion, romance, and motherhood. She uses dark aesthetics to translate the abstractness of beauty. She has a B.A. in Art with an Emphasis in Photography from the University of Northern Iowa.

“Presence whispers to keep me close and I listen...Maybe I will learn to fly.

“When the universe breathes the expanding waves flood our minds, hearts, and bodies. The core of our soul becomes endless rings of creation. Divine creation expanding, breathing, giving way to consequences and the after-effects we see as our daily life. These images are an expression of my awareness like a divine experience that sets me free and ignites flames on my way back to the Presence.”



Portal of Divinity



“Since everything is sacred, staying close to what is sacred is a matter of presence and attention more than travel to some secret place.”  
– Mark Nepo





Ethereal Fuse  
Angelica Gudino



# Hope Florenzie



Hope Florenzie is an emerging Creatress dwelling in the wild, pure paradise of remote Maui. She has enjoyed drawing since childhood, but spent too many years believing the lie that art was not significant enough for her life’s devotion. “The more I see through that lie and remember the life-changing power of Art that comes from the Heart, the more I feel my Art creating and re-creating me. I am blessed, humbled & infinitely grateful.

“Art is pure creation, pure meditation when I allow myself to Surrender to it. When the ‘small i’ can let go of illusionary control, that’s when the Great Eye, the All-Seeing I AM can move through



EYE SEE UNITY

me and onto the canvas. Art is the strongest vortex I know...once I dive into it, hours can go by of pure, simple, deep and powerful meditation. It is in this place of divine flow that I feel Presence. When I am fully Present in the Here and Now, I am One with Presence. I AM One with the Everything, One with the Nothing...One with the One.”



CRADLED EARTH



FEEL IT ALL



“Now I am aware. I am presence.”  
- Steve Leasock



## Steven Markowski



*The Memory of Place*

Steven Markowski is a musician and Fine Art/Digital Art major from San Antonio, Texas. His current work deals with perception and its relation to time and space.

*The Memory of Place* was inspired by the Hotwells Hotel ruins. "I am drawn to old abandoned structures and historic sites. Places that hold stories from the past are inspiring. They have such a unique presence and energy that I try to incorporate in my work."



## Denise Gomez Markowski



Denise Gomez Markowski is an emerging Fine Art Photographer and Mixed Media Artist from San Antonio, Texas. Markowski's work is an eclectic fusion of her vision and the landscape. She is passionate about conveying otherworldly atmospheres and emotion with her love for nature, surrealism and the paranormal. Markowski is currently a contributor for Arcangel Images and U.S. Coordinator for the Leoni Art Project, a worldwide collective of surreal visionary artists. She is also co-owner and designer of Violet Serpentine, producing dark eclectic handcrafted jewelry alongside her husband.

"As an artist, presence and atmosphere is key. When I quiet my mind, the world and its magnetic energy seem to intertwine and creativity flows vibrantly. My work explores the beauty of both light and darkness with the goal of taking the viewer to another place and time."



*Sea, Swallow Me Whole*





### **The Great Unknown**

Making my way into the great unknown  
Its curved horizons inviting me

Drifting into the void of truth  
The colorless sands of time

Frozen without a place to run  
The cycle complete, the spiral has grown  
Jupiter spins manically...

Peering into the great unknown, dark matter  
fleeting endlessly  
Within its beauty amidst reflecting waves  
Arms stretched  
Let me open my eyes

### **Where the Light Seeps in**

Magnetic, rooted in the moment  
Our arms intertwine like vines slithering past the  
threshold

A luminous transcendence  
They embrace what their eyes can't find



# David Zamora Casas



David Zamora Casas is an award-winning multidisciplinary artist and a San Antonio Native working in the public forum since 1985 under the pseudonym Nuclear Meltdown. His life practice is a conscious decision to move forward critical dialog within topics of Humanity, nature and spirituality. His canvases mix text and image to visualize autobiographical and universal themes. Zamora Casas's Performance art functions as social commentary which explores and critiques identity, gender assumptions and environmental plunder. For the past 35 years, Zamora Casas has installed yearly "Dia de Muertos" inspired performative environments which address the AIDS pandemic, highlight and spoof contemporary society, and contextualize ancient cultural traditions. The artist states, "My work has always been rooted in LOVE. My ART practice is a radical act which strives for an inclusive and eco-friendly, empathetic world."



*El Burro siempre regresa al trigo*



*Transcendental Tricentennial*

## Nasir Santiago Arellano, Angelito Moreno

Your life, less, infant 8-month-old body in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit lay still in my arms. Your dark skinned face seems peaceful with eyes eternally closed shut in death. YOU awaken my humanity in the way I now see love and loss. Your dead cuerpo moreno weighs heavy on my spirit and creates a vortex in my mind. Presence and absence at once take hold of my reality. My arms embracing your cold and slightly clammy, tiny cherubescue body. In this portal of the afterlife I am overcome by gender neutral agony and I feel utterly powerless

to change what is destined to happen.  
Your spirit presence came to me in the form of energy through blinding light bouncing off my head, ricocheting off the walls in the room where your oxygen respirator was shut off 20 minutes earlier.  
Surrendered your last breath to the universe.  
White roses and Baby's breath.  
Baby's breath.  
I can't breathe.  
I remember how I once cupped your newly born baby's head in the palm of my hand.  
I am beside una mujer hermosa. In a shared moment she wails in grief like a wounded animal spirit. Tu madre Adela now sits in excruciating silence. All she wishes is to take you to the home you will never know. I ask the creator to give her strength and clarity  
I feel clumsy, constrained and indignant.  
I kissed you, hugged you closer to my chest, closest to my heart, while your eternal light danced

with me in my head. It felt like I was holding a living being but you had already transitioned.  
Estabas muerto but YOUR ESPÍRITU, TU ALMA was strong and present in the room and in my heart's memory.  
I know your soul was present. Your celestial light continued to flow IN and THRU me like a beam of electromagnetic lightning.  
All the while I was hoping your heart was still pounding that your little lungs were strong enough to give you Baby's breath.  
White roses  
Baby's breath.  
I can't breath.  
Nasir, sentí tu alma inocente entrar a la gloria de Dios. Y me dio gusto recordando la sonrisa de tu carita gordita.  
Sentí que ¡volastes hasta las nubes blancas en el cielo eterno!  
Un angelito moreno. NASIR SANTIAGO ARELLANO. ¡PRESENTE!



*Funeral for El Gordito*





David Zamora Casas

Photo by: Al Rendon

## Rosendo Gonzalez



Mandala Sheet



Rosendo Gonzalez was born and raised in San Antonio, Texas. "I was always into drawing and painting, kind of a troubled youth who got caught up with graffiti and jail. I changed my life around and have been tattooing since 2005."

*Mandala Sheet - 2019*

"This painting represents everyone is different; we're all unique in our own way. May your presence bring joy to those around you."

*Tattoo Flash set - 2019*

"Classic designs redrawn for modern time. People love to decorate their bodies with art for many reasons. I believe a person's presence is always the same no matter what they have on their body. If you became blind, you wouldn't know who has tattoos anymore. So don't be so quick to judge a person by their presence."



Tattoo Flash set



# Steve Nootenboom



Steve Nootenboom is an artist, carpenter, and film director. He has over 130 collectors worldwide and was selected out of 17,000 artists to represent the California desert in a show that hung in the state's Capitol. He and his wife live a semi-nomadic lifestyle.

"When I am painting," he says, "I am doing exactly what I was created to do. It's all about love: love of colors, lighting, and shapes; love of the excited look on people's faces when they receive a painting. I especially love the idea that these pieces of my soul will be enjoyed long after I am gone.

"As an artist, so much of my inspiration in life comes from light, color, and shape. My spirit is moved when I see something truly beautiful. Symmetry, sacred geometry, and rich color amplified by light bring me back to that Presence, a feeling that everything will be alright.

"I spent fall and winter of 2018 in Lancaster, California. It is where I spent most of my early years. Returning for a visit is like looking through a camera's viewfinder; it takes a little while for the desert's subtle beauty to come into focus

"Every morning I went out back to say my prayers, do tai chi, and watch the sun rise. As the desert began to light up, this Joshua Tree came to life, filled with its own personality. It had no serious competition in sight, and every morning it was the star of the light show. Its perfect symmetry and color were stunning at dawn, commanding my complete attention. I was struck by its unique beauty throughout the fall, and I continued to watch during the winter solstice, on Christmas, and on New Year's.

"In this piece, painted from a vantage point about 40 yards away, I ponder the age of this beautiful sun dancer. It has no doubt been standing here for thousands of sunrises, putting on the most spectacular drama with its partner, the sun. I wonder how many other people, if any, have seen this magnificent show that continues day after day. Unapplauded, at least until now...



Sol Joshua

"I painted this piece from a photograph my sister took in 1965. This is the shack that I lived in from age six to nine. I took artistic license to add what we called the 'treehouse' in the background. It was an old windmill derrick, and as kids we used the top portion as a fort, hiding out and taking in the view. I used a bit of chrome yellow to illuminate it, the same color I used for the front left window of the shack, signifying a happy time. That living room is where my older sister, also an artist, taught me to oil paint.

"For me, the most significant aspect of this piece is the upper left fork in the tree, highlighted in yellow. Something magical took place there.

"Our family had fallen on hard times. The wind literally blew through the walls of our shack. It was old and rickety, the surroundings bleak compared to where we had come from, a Dutch community in Orange County, California in the 1950's. At the time of the photo, my mother was hospitalized with a head injury, and my dad was a trucker, gone for long periods. My sister (eight years older) cared for my brother and me during the week, and my grandmother brought food for us from her home in Glendale on the weekends.

"On school days, I would get off the bus on the old Sierra Highway south of Palmdale, California, walk up the lonely dirt road to the shack, pull out a key from under the doormat, and let myself in. There I'd wait a couple of hours for my brother and sister to arrive.

"I remember coming home one very cold day with holes in my shoes and pants, and a ridiculously inadequate coat. I was freezing and hungry. I was not allowed to climb the tree because it was dangerous. I decided to do so anyway, feeling I had nothing left to lose. I sat in that fork of the tree, holding on in the howling wind, and clearly assessed my situation. I felt orphaned, as if there was no one I could count on anymore.

"Then, suddenly, my fear turned into anger. I resolved that I no longer needed anyone for any-

thing. I started shouting things from the tree in anger and desperation. I yelled, 'I am invincible! I will travel the world and be a man of adventure. I will help poor children. I will be a famous artist and make movies, build buildings, be rich and eat good food, and I will be amazing, and I will have nice coats and I will be strong enough to need NO ONE!' In that crisis moment at seven years old, I felt something warm and bright—a Presence around me, and I had a strong and overwhelming knowledge that my life *would* be great and that I would be well taken care of. I believe it was God comforting me.

"My life *has* been phenomenal; those things I yelled *have* happened. The Presence I felt in that tree has stayed with me. I have had the chance to bless many children through building and contributing to orphanages in Mexico. I started a tradition with my four children. Rather than staying in America for Christmas, we'd take gifts across the border. I also took a couple of my millionaire friends to Mexico on Christmas, donating six flat-bed carts loaded with washers, dryers, hot water heaters, food, and beds. My rich friends still look back to that time and tell me it was one of the greatest vacations of their life.

"By the way, I now own several warm coats, and I enjoy standing out in the wind with them, feeling invincible, feeling the Presence."



The Shack



# Shane Hall



Shane is a nurse who also works in a Christian ministry. He enjoys creating gourmet foods in the kitchen. He has lived all over the United States, and has loved the outdoors since childhood. Currently residing in Ohio, he takes advantage of the many areas to hike, photograph, and pray; seeking peace and relationship with God outside of human buildings.

Describing his experience of wildlife and landscapes, Shane says, "It reminds me of how God is everywhere and in everything. He is the air we breathe, the beauty surrounding us. I use my alone time when I am hiking to seek God and pray. When I see the beach, the flowers soaked in rain, the birds flying, or vast landscapes, it reminds me that God is listening to me and that God's Kingdom is all around me. These hikes, these photographs, these moments make up my prayer closet. I am away from the distractions of life and it allows me time to concentrate, to seek God. I always love seeing what I'm about to photograph, and I truly enjoy viewing the pictures afterwards, observing little details I may not have noticed during my hikes."





# Acknowledgments

*Presence* was curated by: Krin Van Tatenhove and Angelica Gudino  
February 2020

Deisgned by: Denise Gomez Markowski

Edited by: Krin Van Tatenhove and Steven Markowski

Front Cover Art, *Spiraling Center* by Hope Florenzie

Back Cover Art, *Constance Butler Means* by David Zamora Casas

## Connect with the Artists

### Jamie Anderson

[www.coastalgeorgiaprints.com](http://www.coastalgeorgiaprints.com)  
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### Kim Anguiano

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