

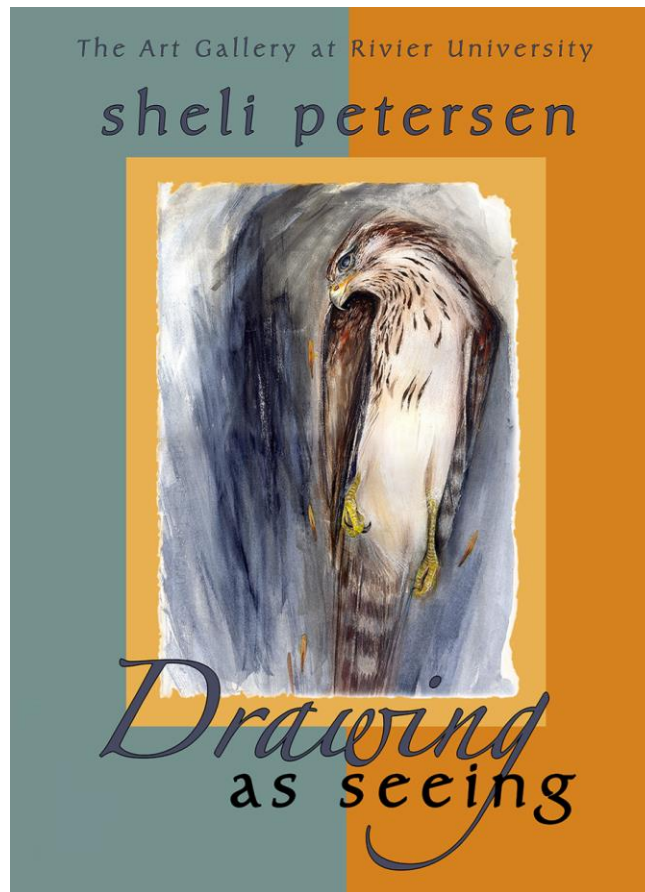
NEWS FROM THE ART GALLERY

(March 25, 2021)

Sr. Theresa Couture, MFA, D.Min.
Director, The Art Gallery at Rivier University

Dear colleagues,

There has not been much news from The Art Gallery this academic year, but we have been busy here despite COVID-related limitations. During the first semester, after a delay from Spring 2020, we finally mounted an exhibition of work by former faculty member in art, Sheli Petersen, a wildlife illustrator, and we received small groups of students by appointment. Originally, this event was to be accompanied by two in-person presentations which we had to forego as such, but thanks to the internet, we proceeded remotely. In the Fall, Sheli, now on the faculty at Texas Women's University, gave a lecture-tour of her work on view at Rivier to students of biology plus several guests. This was preface to a second semester drawing workshop intended to help students sharpen their seeing skills, especially when studying microscopic life. The latter is scheduled for tomorrow afternoon, March 26th, 2021, at the Science and Innovation Center where participants will be guided by Sheli with the help of onsite cameras monitoring their progress. It has been a pleasure to collaborate with faculty member Michelle Beck whose familiarity with the new building's state-of-the-art technology has made it all possible.

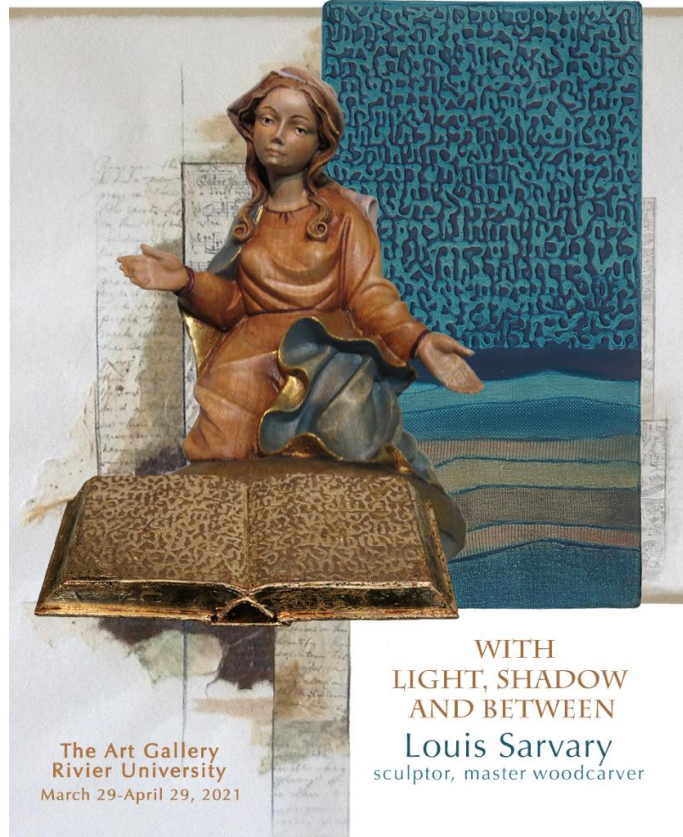


MINdING THE DEEP

WITH WORD AND SONG

Sandra Bowden

printmaker, multimedia collagist



WITH
LIGHT, SHADOW
AND BETWEEN

Louis Sarvary

sculptor, master woodcarver

The Art Gallery
Rivier University
March 29-April 29, 2021

Next week at the gallery we will open the second and final exhibition of this unusual year. It combines semi-abstract printmaking collage and figurative sculpture in wood. With entirely different media and stylistic preferences, two artists demonstrate a mutual interest in exploring Christian themes, and the unique juxtaposition of their work invites reflection on the role of image, word, and music in religious thought and practice. The exhibition, entitled MINdING THE DEEP, will remain on view through April 29th, 2021. It is accompanied by printed information and commentary. Though we are not offering regular open hours, we do cordially invite you and your students to view the work as a stimulus for discussion, particularly in relation to courses that examine, directly or tangentially, the social and cultural impact of the languages through which we communicate. And, of course, a topical highlight is that the exhibition is appropriately positioned within this Lenten-Easter season.

The exhibition is a reflection on TIME. Two artists of differing skills and perspectives look at the passage of time in relation to sacred scriptures and the traditions that emerge from them.

Sandra Bowden's work probes what happens to written texts over time. Her work reveals a keen awareness of change and fluidity. As historical contexts shift and new interpretations emerge, as emphases rise and fall and translations alter nuances of meaning, there is a rich layering that occurs, but that layering also obscures. Bowden's work literally layers texts, languages, fragments, and even semblances of communication—verbal,

musical, and imaged. Sometimes the deeper layers barely poke through, and texts occasionally run off the edges of her work. A predominance of calligraphic marks superimposed over printed materials yields a sort of archaeological exploration of what time, its gifts and its ravages, does to how we relate to expressions of the most sacred of our beliefs. Bowden's work highlights the persistence and endurance of what is essential to the survival of the human spirit, the human imagination, and ultimately the human desire to expand its conscious presence within an evolving universe of meaning.

Louis Sarvary's sensitivity was aligned with a concern that centuries of varied handcrafting skills, highly developed across the world, are gradually being lost to the efficiencies of an industrialized global economy. This also implies that a deep inner spirituality and its convergent outer lifestyle are in peril. Sarvary, by a compelling attraction, shaped much of his life around the skill of hand woodcarving and focused on a connection he found with religious meanings. For him, there was an urgency to pause, to preserve, and to foster something of great value that had flourished more fully in earlier times.

We are pleased to accommodate visitors either on class time or outside it. Once more, however, we must limit attendance to no more than six persons at one time, and preferably no fewer than three. For further information or to make arrangements, simply contact me by email: tcouture@rivier.edu.

Wishing you well,

Sr. Theresa Couture, MFA, D.Min.
Director
The Art Gallery at Rivier University