

Praying with art

Artistic beauty can lead the human heart to God. Art is capable of making visible our need to go beyond what we see and it reveals our thirst for infinite Beauty, for God.

Prayerful images can inspire viewers' faith as well as their desire to be more creative. You are invited to simply look only at a piece of artwork. Or you can look at it with text that includes scripture and a poem that reflect on the subject of each painting. In either case the following directions can lead you to more conscious contact with God.

1. QUIET: Stop for a moment, breathe and simply relax. Perhaps recite a formal prayer.
2. INTENTION: What am I grateful for? What do I want right now?
3. ATTENTION: Look over the entire image. Is there a figure, shape, color, texture or word that calls your attention?
4. NOTICE: What feelings, thoughts, or desires do you notice? What could they reveal about God and your life?
5. RESPOND: Speak to God as you would one friend to another.
6. CLOSE: Offer a prayer or gesture as a way to end the experience.

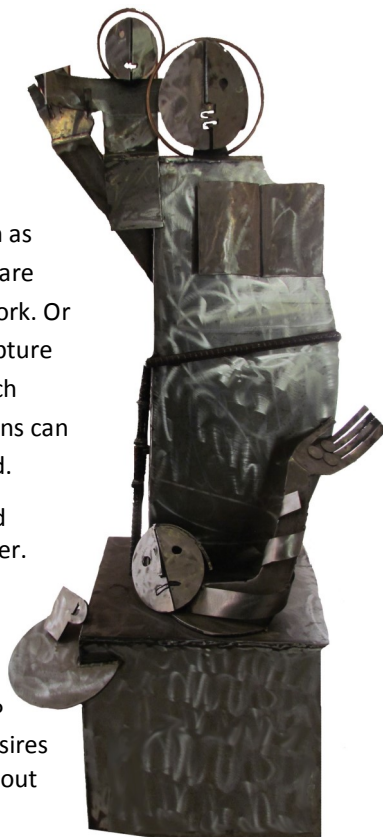
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St. Anthony, stainless steel, 2009, in the lobby



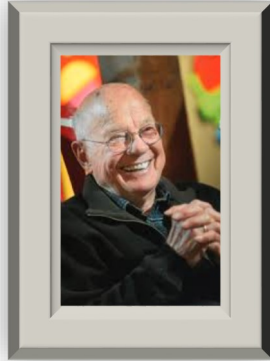
*A
Retreat
With
Art*

The Art of Bro. Mel Meyer, SM

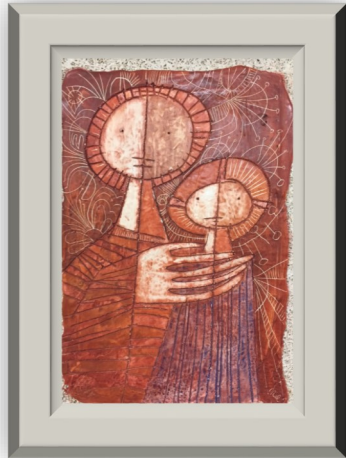
The Marianist Retreat & Conference Center

"All my art is religious."

"People ask if what I do is religious. Everything I create is religious – because of the inspiration behind it, the motivation for doing it and the impact it has on the people looking at it. My faith and art are inseparable." Bro. Mel



Bro. Mel Meyer, SM, created an estimated 10,000 pieces of art in his career. His work includes metal sculptures, watercolors, stained glass, frescoes and acrylic on canvas paintings. He also worked in handmade paper and textiles. There are over 50 pieces of Bro. Mel's art work at MRCC. Asked once what his inspiration was for a particular painting he said, "If I told you what it meant I would be limiting you to my interpretation."



Blessed Mother and Child,

Melvin Meyer was born in Florissant, MO in 1928, the second of seven children. After becoming a member of the Marianists in 1947, also known as the Society of Mary, he completed his Bachelor of Arts degree at the University of Dayton. As a young artist, he was sent to work with masters in Paris and in Europe. In 1960, he earned his Master's degree from the University of Notre Dame. In 1969, he opened his art studio and gallery on the Vianney High School campus. He passed away in October, 2013.



Paper grid on canvas, c.1990

"All creation is a God-like act, and we participate in this universal making. In that sense I say that all my art is religious." Bro. Mel

The Bro. Mel Sculpture Garden

Our Savior,
rusted steel,
c. 1980



Painted steel blue sculpture, 2008

"Bro. Mel's work often speaks with bold geometric shapes of primary and secondary colors that seem to dance with a freedom of spirit, joy and laughter."

(From the book, "A Lifetime of Making Art, Brother Mel")



Painted steel green sculpture, 2008

"The best place to find God is in a garden. You can dig for God there."

George Bernard Shaw



Painted steel red sculpture, 2008

Holy Family,
rusted scrap metal, c. 12000



Paper & Watercolors

"God has made everything beautiful in its time." Ecclesiastes 3:11



Paper on canvas, 1992



Watercolor on paper, c. 2000

Bro. Mel's handmade paper wall hangings are mostly found in the dining room. His water colors are located in the first floor hallway.



Paper on canvas, 1992



The Lobby

The Incarnation: God embracing our humanity and the human condition



Rusted steel, scrap metal and fresco cross, c. 2000



Abstract paper painting on canvas, c. 1990

*I set My rainbow in the cloud,
and it shall be for them a
sign of the covenant between
Me and the earth.*

Genesis 9:13



*Dance, dance, wherever you may be
I am the lord of the dance, said he
And I lead you all, wherever you may be
And I lead you all in the dance, said he*

The Lord of the Dance, stainless and rusted steel, 2009



Acrylic on canvas, c. 1980

The Chapel and the search for God

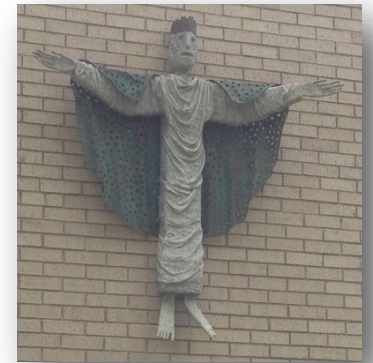


Cross made of mixed media (acrylic, wood, fiber board), 1983

Metal crucifix attached to fresco surfaced chapel wall, 1983



Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let them deny them self and take up their cross and follow me." Mt. 16:24



Crucifix, stonecast and rusted and verdigris steel, c. 1960



Genesis, The Story of Creation, latticed rusted steel (doors), c. 2000



Light fixtures repurposed from rusted steel shell casings from Vietnam War, c. 1970s
Tabernacle, rusted steel, glass and gold, c. 1970



Stainless steel crucifix, c. 2000

They will beat their swords into plowshares.
Isaiah 2:4

The artist's creative process is a dialogue with God