



## **Kelly Thorn Dulka Artist Statement**

The works selected for this show are a combination of colored pencil and gold leaf applied to 4-ply museum board and adhered to Masonite. From my earliest years and still today, I continue to be wowed by God's creatures and the natural world. To experience God's creations through personal encounters in nature has been the true introduction to our Creator and remains the core influence of inspiration, ideas and my faith life today. Its mesmerizing strength and beauty pulls me in. The creatures that thrive within the differing eco-systems of ponds, lakes, streams, seas and oceans fascinate me and spark wonder of God.

As a self-taught artist in colored pencil and gold leaf, I explore new ways to create works and devise new techniques with them. My artworks have an Asian and contemporary feel as I convey a juxtaposition of complexity and simplicity with a fragile balance of composition. These nature-inspired organic shapes interplay with linear patterns that create a rich depth of rhythmic beauty. Love of color, pattern and design make my work intriguing and dynamic, but more importantly, it is the deep desire to create something beautiful and still have fun with it!"

As a professed artist and mermaid at the age of five, I love the arts and nature. I created and acted out my own mermaid stories. I've always loved working large, my most significant piece (as a child) was a larger than life papier mâché squid! I continue to work large, of which I think is an important aspect of my art. Its size draws you closer while the color and design holds you in the encounter.

The majority of these works are of sea creatures set alone paired with a beautiful flower or set with plants and coral. I like pairing sea creatures that live in cold, sometimes brutal waters with delicate, fleeting and unfolding flowers. An unlikely coupling.

The seven-piece *Antelope Canyon* series (five are represented in this show) may seem different from the *Fish and Flower* works but actually comes from the same place—that same awe of beauty in nature, waves of water carved walls in color and design. I continue to take realism and push design to abstraction. From the curvy swirls and lines of the fish drawings to the patterned rhythm of etched stone. (*Fish and Flower* and *Sea Life* series.)

Major influences that shape my works in composition and design are Gustav Klimt and Paul Gauguin with a hint of perfectionism of Albrecht Durer.

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