
EXHIBIT: A LEAP OF FAITH

BY SUSAN HENSEL



From the Soul by Susan Hensel, 2001. 34" height. Pastel, textile, binder's board, wax, lights. *From the Soul* is a large, sculptural book which invites you to peel back the layers of gender to find the soul. Based on the anatomy overlays in her childhood encyclopedias, Hensel drew and constructed layers. First you open the coat, then the dress, then the skin, then the muscles to reveal the gold leaf core surrounding the glowing heart.

A Leap of Faith was the second show at The Gallery at Susan Hensel Design and will be followed by Readers' Art 5, opening in March 2005. Information about the gallery, shows, and calls for art can be found online at www.susanhenseldesign.com



Resurrection is an internally lit New Orleans mausoleum that holds a book. The book, written by the artist, is the story of a death... but placed in the open, lit mausoleum; it becomes a story of hope and resurrection.

Resurrection by Susan Hensel, 2000. 15" height. Inkjet, binder's board, paint, lights.

From time immemorial, art has been the vehicle of communication for individual and corporate spirituality. Can we even imagine the great cathedrals without artists? But somehow, in these cynical times, art is distrusted as a conveyer of faith. In many parts of our country, when a contemporary artist claims to deal with matters of faith or religion, the "propriety police" go into action with phone calls, letter writing campaigns, pickets and more, sight unseen. The current assumption seems to be that

artists are anti-religion, anti-faith.

The show at Susan Hensel Design, *A Leap of Faith*, demonstrated that artists are just as concerned with matters of the spirit as everyone else. They have questions, concerns and bursts of praise. These works were from serious people sincerely considering what faith means to each of them. In the exhibit, you could find exultant hymns of praise, traditional religion, faith with a dose of doubt, faith set free of organized religion, eastern religious

focus and, above all, great hope. Books, sculpture, photography, drawing, painting, and collage filled the space. The many artists, from coast to coast, responded from their diverse experiences using various media to create a haven where one could contemplate the world of faith. ☺

Susan Hensel is an artist who is devoted to story. Every piece she makes is created to tell a particular story in a particular manner. After living in Michigan for over thirty years, she recently

relocated in Minneapolis, MN. She has opened The Gallery at Susan Hensel Design in her studio, a gallery devoted to the concept of the narrative in the arts. Because story is the focus, artists books are often seen in the shows.