

Swartz exhibition showcases intersection of religion, art

Harvard Divinity School will host an exhibition of paintings by Susan Swartz in the Andover Hall Braun Room through April 20. Signing all of her paintings "GTG," for "Glory to God," Swartz primarily creates impressionistic landscapes in watercolors, oil, and acrylics on canvas.



Swartz

All of her work is inspired, she explains, by "God's creation." Ensnoring herself in natural beauty in her Utah home and studio, Swartz, who has been working as an artist for more than 30 years, hopes to create work that encourages others to reflect on the wonder of God's hand in nature.

In 2002, the International Olympic Committee chose Swartz as their "Spirit of the Land Environmental Artist" for the 2002 Salt Lake City Olympic Games. She was commissioned to create paintings of the Heber Valley and of Mount Timpanogos, one of which raised \$155,000 at an auction for Olympic Aid, a nonprofit that works for development in third world countries. Swartz donated

a percentage of the poster sales to help replant trees in the Heber area, where the stadium was built for the Games.

Swartz was born in Pittsburgh and raised in a family of artists and musicians. She went on to study art at Edinboro University of Pennsylvania, and then became the head of an art department at a high school in Princeton, New Jersey. Swartz took a break from her work to raise her children, but notes that seeing the world through their eyes only heightened her artistic vision.

Preston N. Williams, Houghton Research Professor of Theology and Contemporary Change, made the initial suggestion that Swartz's art and personal story would be of interest to the HDS community. "When [he] approached me at an art show about talking about my spiritual and artistic life at HDS, I was both honored and intimidated," Swartz said. "For me, painting is a way to worship the beauty that God has created. I hope to give students at HDS encouragement to express their creativity and spirituality by cultivating the artistic gifts God gave them, and I look forward to what I will learn from them in return."



White Light is one of several Swartz paintings that is on display in the Andover Hall Braun Room through April 20.

More information is available at www.hds.harvard.edu/artexhibit/. A gallery of Swartz's art is available at www.susanswartz.com.



The HDS Dean's Council: Back row: Mone Anathan, Diana Phillips, Gerard Roche; Middle row: Karen Budney, Martin Kaplan, Robert Beal, Dean William Graham, Thomas Chappell, John Whitehead; Front row: Arlene Hirschfeld, Jerry Baker, William Rainer, James Carroll. (Not pictured: Simon Guerrand-Hermès, Ernest Monrad, Robert Jones, Al McDonald, Betsee Parker, Denie Weil.)

Dean's Council members meet faculty and students, tour HDS campus

In early April, the HDS Dean's Council convened in Cambridge for its third meeting of the academic year. For the first time in the group's history, council members held extensive meetings with students and faculty, and toured the Andover-Harvard Theological Library and other areas of the HDS campus.

"It was a great opportunity for the council to learn firsthand from students and faculty about what the most pressing issues of the day are," said Elizabeth Sloane, associate dean for development and external relations.

The HDS Dean's Council, consisting of friends, supporters, and alumni/ae, serves as the core advisory panel to the Dean and the School on various aspects of the life of the institution.