



## Alfonse Borysewicz: Beginning Comes Last

HENRY LUCE III  
CENTER  
for the  
Arts and  
Religion  
DADIAN GALLERY

October 17, 2016 – January 11, 2017  
Reception & Artist's Talk: Thursday,  
November 10, 2016, 4:30 -5:30 pm

## Artist's Statement and Biography

The paintings in this exhibit are a cross section from different time periods (mainly the 1990's to the present), some being a combination of both new and old. Together they serve as book ends, if you will, of the Christian promise. Each painting portrays a segment or a moment from my own meditations on the Gospels and various Christian traditions through the ages. Each work is visually rooted in the gift of creation (hives, bees, leaves, a sparrow, earth, etc.) as they hold the tension between the already and the not yet.

Alfonse Borysewicz, October 2016

Alfonse Borysewicz was born in Detroit, Michigan where he was raised. He completed his seminary studies there as well with a short stay in Jerusalem. Afterwards he entered the Museum School of Fine Arts in Boston. With acclaim he began exhibiting in Boston then New York. In 1995 he received a Guggenheim Fellowship in painting. His work is included in many collections and has been written about extensively. He has been living in Brooklyn, NY for the past thirty years (he also spends significant time in his wife's hometown of Kyoto, Japan).

## Curator's Statement

Alfonse Borysewicz' vocation is to find new ways to express an ancient faith. He combines the visual language of abstraction with collage and figurative elements to craft contemporary religious paintings. In his hands, ordinary nests, honeycomb and pregnant mothers are transformed into poetic images of wonder.

Like Renaissance and medieval artists before him, Borysewicz finds inspiration in biblical stories and the rich heritage of Christian art. He uses traditional and found materials on his canvases: oil paint, gold leaf, honeycomb, sheet music, plastic and cardboard. *Your Own Soul* is a triangular-shaped work with hinged panels, alluding to the form of medieval altarpieces, with abstract images and expressive brush marks.

Three paintings in the show reveal the origins of the artist's work: *Self Portrait*, *Studio Chair*, and *Oratory Church of St. Boniface/Chairs with songbooks*. They reflect the core preoccupations of his life as well. "What authenticates this work, and keeps me faithful to it, especially in my mature years, is that 'undertow of mystery' in the painting itself."

## Works in the Exhibition

Angel, collage on linen\*

Pantocrator, oil on linen

Beginning Comes Last, oil/wax/linen/comb, gold leaf

Chairs with Songbooks/Oratory Church of St. Boniface, oil on linen

Self Portrait, oil on linen

Eden-Dawn, oil/linen

Your Own Soul, oil on linen

Eden-Dusk, oil on linen

Mustard Seed, oil on linen

Nest, collage/plastic

Magnificat, collage/wood

Studio Chair, oil on linen

\*located in the office of the President

*The Henry Luce III Center for the Arts and Religion is a program of Wesley Theological Seminary. The Center sponsors a variety of cultural events which explore the intersection of art and religion. All contributions are tax-deductible and gratefully accepted.*

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