



**Jill Cardinal – Zoetropia
July 6th through September 1st**

My pictures are painted in gouache on Fabriano Artistico hot press watercolour paper, and sometimes on Strathmore plate finish Bristol board. I have, I think, a medieval sensibility and like things flat and dense and bright. I have no use for perspective. Marie Louise Von Franz, the Jungian writer, speaks of the flower image as being the symbol off the immutable self. Looked at in this way, my pictures of flowers and seeds are mandalas and intimate self-portraits. They are also my plea to mankind to observe the beauty of life that surrounds

us and to respect and honor the natural world in which we are embedded, and conversely appear to be continually trying to destroy. In addition, my paintings are a memory of a childhood lived up close to the intense and detailed flora and fauna of the Pennsylvanian countryside. They are pictures of the life cycle, which helps me to come to terms with finding myself in the midst of this set of opposing forces that we call life on earth

The altars and collage boxes, which I call "Recycled Reliquaries" stem from my childhood experience of the trappings of Catholicism and the yearly activity of constructing "May Altars" to the Blessed Mother. As an adult, I have come to realize that this is a custom from antiquity predating Christianity. I happily embrace altar construction from this pagan point of imagery. To me, the image of the mother and child is universal. We have all been children, we were each, without exception, born of a mother. I draw from my love of (and lust for) icons and folk art in this area of my work. The figures in the collages and boxes are made of polymer clay. The two dimensional images are usually made from holy cards or black and white Xeroxes of quattrocento paintings, for which I have a great fondness. I alter them with acrylic paint, gouache, pastel, crayon and gold leaf and further adorn them with the discarded flotsam and jetsam of urban life which I find on my daily walks. Entropy, to me, is beautiful and a part of the cycle of life. To elevate the apparently useless and cast off seems a good thing to me, both in ecological and symbolic terms. The boxes that I use to frame my mixed media pieces I find at St. Vincent de Paul, or in someone's trash. My husband makes frames and boxes to order for me from reclaimed wood. I also make altars from paper mache.