



Contemporary Art Center Press Release:

Keith & Shari Grace

November 8-December 26 Gallery 3R

Opening Reception: Saturday, November 8, 6:30-8:30

About Keith Grace

Since 1988, Keith Grace has exhibited and sold his paintings across the country in galleries, museums and universities, through one-man and group shows. He has participated in over 70 art festivals and invitational exhibitions and has won many awards for his work. His paintings have appeared in magazines, newspapers, books, posters, annual reports, brochures, websites, restaurant walls, and stage sets—as well as numerous corporate and private collections internationally. The process for each painting begins with sketches, often inspired by photographs that Keith has taken of friends and objects. Many of the abstract shapes are derived from subconscious doodles. The sketches evolve into the final composition that are enlarged and drawn onto canvas.

Keith then collages individual pieces of typography "ripped from magazines" securely onto the surface with many layers of an adhesive, transparent medium to ensure a flat, seamless application. The typographic images are chosen randomly by type font, size, boldness and color. Next, color is blocked in with layers of acrylics, painting and rubbing out areas where the type appears, to create various levels of transparency.

Further collaging work is added at this stage. Detail painting is then applied with oil colors, using a drybrush technique. This process is performed by using unmixed paint directly from the tube and rubbing it into the surface with a flat, hard brush, almost like sketching with paint. Also, using a cloth, small amounts of the oils are rubbed into the painting to enhance and intensify the color.

About Shari Grace

Each of the pieces are designed and constructed primarily of leaded stained glass. Sometimes inserts of nuggets, glass rods, or found objects are added using the "Tiffany" foil method. The finished piece is reinforced with rebar formed in the shape of the design to prevent the lead from losing shape, and for hanging purposes.

By combining interesting shapes, strong lines and rich colors in my designs, I move away from the symmetry and geometry of traditional stained glass. The freedom of these shapes provides a surprising contrast to the windows where they hang. Although some pieces are marked sold, most can be recreated as custom work, to match your décor.

To see more images of the couples work, visit www.grace-design.com

The opening reception on Saturday, September 6 will also honor *Painting Pink Pajamas*, a group of artists curated by Heather Brammeier in the Preston Jackson Gallery on the 2nd floor of the facility and Sung Jang who will exhibit in the Side View Gallery. Food & drink will be provided. Admission is free but a donation is requested.

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