

AN EXHIBITION OF THE ART OF

DOROTHY HOOD

IN HONOR OF FATHER FRANCIS MONAGHAN, CSB



The University of St. Thomas is honored to exhibit the paintings of Houston's own Dorothy Hood, a well-regarded and admired artist of national and international caliber who, in turn, is honoring her friend, Father Francis Monaghan of the University, who died last April and is sadly missed by her, by us, and by his many friends far and wide.

Father Monaghan enjoyed the company of artists. He appreciated their creative work and empathized with them because he was himself an artist, a musician of considerable talent and accomplishment. He shared his abilities widely and generously whenever asked because he loved people and they him. We might say that he had an art for friendship.

This exhibit is in loving remembrance of a gentle, sensitive, and spiritual man whose life was spent for others. As Dorothy writes in the accompanying essay: painting is a type of visual music. I am sure that the harmony seen here will blend with the celestial music to which Fr. Monaghan is now so finely attuned. He will not be forgotten while those like Dorothy remember in such a beautiful way. May God grant him that which he brought to all who knew him - light, happiness, and peace!

Edward A. Bader, CSB  
University Art Curator

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There are a few people whom we may not see often but whose living presence is felt even at a distance because of their spiritual belief and radiant hope. Father Monaghan was one of those. His keen insight into human nature was a gift and he used it well. Without any intrusion, he was there when needed. He read the human soul and he also read and understood the rules of worldly etiquette - all of which he respected, meeting all in perfect equipoise.

While putting my paints and brushes aside, I sometimes muse on my childhood in an Anglican home. Here family, clergy and friends provided a calm, happy and safe environment - in contrast to the vague fears produced by the zoo next door and the uncertainties of the world outside. I place Father Monaghan among those nurturing and warm souls who comforted and gave me a sense of peace in life, though our paths crossed infrequently. Art deals with the unknown and demands solitude. It risks much for intellectual discovery. I counted on him to understand that, and he did.

The human spirit rises and sometimes sinks in a tediously slow movement. Who can say when the spirit within art is most in flower. Even when painting under stress, the artist is the means to change chaos into order through art, and works to allow what is created a life of its own - transmuting into a grand elixir outside the self. An artist is kin to astrophysicists and other scientists, to composers, writers, creators and inventors of every kind. In short, a common experience that brings the human close to palpable illusion, grace in gravity, the electric spark Chekhov calls Love.

From the beginning I have participated in my art and felt a growing awareness of the naturalness of spirituality. I have also grappled with the angst of birth, decay, and death present in the phenomenon of life after its creation. Nature, energy, life - time and again they reappear, connecting me more closely to what I sensed long ago - a distant, heavenly mathematics with its own aesthetics, ordered and true. This I struggle to attain, a vision that is not easily won.

One's little glimpses of the face of God must be earned; through trial and trying Truth is revealed. Great art is both visionary and mathematical with multiple relationships of color and line - a visual music. The pulse of art and its perception may begin in the brain like an atavistic knowledge, but what becomes known are hints of the Divine shining forth in the pureness of color, form and light.

Dorothy Hood

Jones Gallery on the Academic Mall  
November 5 to December 3, 1995

# Exhibit Catalogue

## 1. TIXO'S VOID

70 x 60 inches  
Oil on canvas G36987

## 2. MY BLUE FLOWER

72 x 48 inches  
Oil on canvas G36988

## 3. THE SEEMING BEGINNING

70 x 60 inches  
Oil on canvas G36993

## 4. FIRE FROM THE LAKE

90 x 70 inches  
Oil on canvas G36980

## 5. GRAY DIPTYCH - Part 1

48 x 48 inches  
Oil on canvas G36983-1

## 6. GRAY DIPTYCH - Part 2

48 x 48 inches  
Oil on canvas G36983-2

## 7. YEATS STANDS HIGH

70 x 60 inches  
Oil on canvas G36986

## 8. BRONZE TRIANGLE

90 x 70 inches  
Oil on canvas G36981

## 9. RED FLOWER #1

36 x 36 inches  
Oil on canvas G36990

## 10. SLOUCHING TO BETHLEHEM

70 x 60 inches  
Oil on canvas G36989

## 11. RED FLOWER #2

36 x 36 inches  
Oil on canvas G36991

## 12. SUMMER LOVE

60 x 48 inches  
Oil on canvas G36985

## 13. ORIENTAL

68 x 42 inches  
Oil on canvas G36992

## 14. CONFRONTATION

70 x 60 inches  
Oil on canvas

## 15. RISING BLUE

90 x 70 inches  
Oil on canvas G36982

## 16. ASSERTIVE FLOWER

45 x 48 inches  
Oil on canvas G36996

## 17. SPACE OF THE MIND'S EYE

66 x 44 inches  
Oil on canvas G36984-1

## 18. THE CAVE

66 x 44 inches  
Oil on canvas G36984-2

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Dorothy Hood is represented by Meredith Long Galleries here in Houston: 523-6671.

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