

News Release

(for use at will after April 23, 2006 1pm PST):
Contact: Charles Michael Murray / Dick Ward
Endangered Planet — (949) 497-5690
384 Forest Ave., Gallery 13, Laguna Beach, CA 92651

June Phelps' Art at Endangered Planet Gallery Is a Five-Year Exploration of Woman's Spirituality

LAGUNA BEACH, CA — Sometimes great results can blossom serendipitously from the simplest of beginnings.

Five years ago, Los Angeles-artist June Phelps found an unusual scrap of rice paper while working on a mixed media painting. The blank white scrap had been accidentally torn into a unique shape, suggesting to Phelps the image of a woman, robed and hooded, and deeply contemplative.

Using collage, ink and watercolor on tissue and rice paper, she began to explore the shape's dimensions. These early works, as Phelps says, were almost eerie in their creation.

"As I began to experiment with this figure, the person seemed sometimes to move," said Phelps, "and also to be simultaneously still, sometimes looking forward, sometimes backward. At times she was alone; other times she appeared to be accompanied."

More than 50 works and five years later, selected paintings and collages from this artistic odyssey will be exhibited at Laguna Beach's Endangered Planet Gallery opening May 1, Phelps' first Orange County solo exhibition.

The show includes ten mixed media works as well as two mixed media canvases that trace the evolution of the "Spirit Path" series through a variety of techniques and variations. A new limited-edition print of Phelps' 2001 ink-and-watercolor work "They Comfort Me" is also available.

"For me," said Phelps, "this body of work has come to represent the inner journey, a woman's journey of faith toward self-understanding."

Phelps is a member of Gallery 825 (L.A. Art Association) and the current president of Women Painters West, founded in Laguna Beach in 1921 and now the oldest extant artists' group in Southern California.

Born in Long Beach, Phelps is a graduate of Pomona College, received her masters from Harvard University, and taught literature in the Beverly Hills schools. She began painting full time in 1989. She and her husband Carl have two grown children and live in Pacific Palisades.

A reception for the artist is scheduled for May 4, from 6:00 - 8:30 p.m., in conjunction with Laguna Beach's First Thursdays Art Walk program. Phelps' exhibition opens Monday, May 1, and continues through June 26. Selected works from the show are available for viewing and purchase on-line at endangeredplanet.org.

Endangered Planet Gallery also offers CDs, DVDs, videos, and books on environmental and cultural-protection topics for adults and children. Endangered Planet logo shirts and jackets and EarthDayLagunaBeach.org logo clothing is also featured. A portion of sales of all artwork and other items supports the Orange County Chapter of the American Red Cross and a variety of other charities.

Endangered Planet Gallery is located in The Lumber Yard Mall at 384 Forest Ave., Suite #13, in Laguna Beach (across the street from Café Zinc). For more information, contact Endangered Planet Gallery at (949) 497-5690 or visit the website at endangeredplanet.org.

-###-

Caption: (image attached | ©JPhelps_TheyComfortMe.jpg)

New June Phelps limited-edition print "They Comfort Me" from her "Spirit Path" series showcases the enigmatic shape of a robed and contemplative woman that emerged for the artist from a torn scrap of rice paper five years ago.

-###-

e n d a n g e r e d p l a n e t . n e t
LAGUNA BEACH CA USA