

## The Modern Mandala at Endicott College

### Now on exhibit

BEVERLY - The School of Visual and Performing Arts at Endicott College is pleased to open the Fall exhibition season with *The Modern Mandala*. This enchanting exhibit presented in the J. David Broudo Gallery of Art features four contemporary artists: Jo Thomas Blaine, David J. Bookbinder, Chris Flisher, and Marjorie Kaye. The extraordinary modern interpretations on view, drawn from an ancient mystical art form, have been created in a variety of contemporary media including; glass platters, inkjet prints, acrylic paintings and colored pencil.

The Modern Mandala exhibit is on view through Friday, Sept. 26, with the reception on Wednesday, Sept. 17 from 4:30-6 p.m. Gallery hours are Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. The public is invited to visit the gallery and to meet the artists at the reception.

The term "mandala" originates from Sanskrit and loosely defined means circle, circumference or completion. The spiritual significance of mandalas was developed in

both Hinduism and Buddhism traditions, and to this day continues to spread and transform into new interpretations as evidenced in this exhibit. Most often recognized are the sandpainting mandalas created by some Tibetan Buddhists, while the more esoteric belief system referred to as Tantra utilize mandalas in meditation practices. In all these examples mandalas have been employed to focus attention, establish a sacred space, to access deeper levels of consciousness and to ultimately visualize the unity of the cosmos. Mark Towner, dean of Visual and Performing Art, says of mandalas, "It is believed by many that mandalas contain answers to the mysteries of life. Regardless of the creator, the medium or any associated spiritual practice, the making and viewing of mandalas is a practice of centering, of locating one's soul in relationship to the Great Creator."

The four contemporary artists chosen for *The Modern Mandala*, have backgrounds as fascinating as their works of art. Jo Thomas Blaine is a

healer, artist, musician and has a license to practice acupuncture. David J. Bookbinder is a photographer, psychotherapist and writer living in Gloucester. Chris Flisher is a practicing astrologer with a steady client base. He hosts a weekly radio talk show called "Turning Of The Wheel" which focuses on astrology, art and spiritual adventure. Marjorie Kaye is an artist, curator and gallery director.

The School of Visual and Performing Arts at Endicott College offers the Bachelor of Fine Arts degree, giving students the opportunity to study Creative Arts Therapy, Graphic Design, Photography and Studio Art; and the Bachelor of Science degree in Interior Design with an option for a concentration in Sustainable Design. The School also offers minors in Art History, Music, Photography and Studio Art. For further information on programs relating to the School of Visual and Performing Arts or about *The Modern Mandala*, please contact Kathleen Moore at 978-232-2655 or [kmoore@endicott.edu](mailto:kmoore@endicott.edu).

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