


“Wide-Ranging Art”

By Gideon Hopper, Managing Editor



One of the first things we look for in a top-notch artist is their range of ability. In medium, in composition & coloration, in style and subject matter, the wider the range, the easier it is to curate exhibitions that amaze & inspire the viewers. One of our very first artists, Curtis (with us since 2015), is just such a craftsman—whether its landscapes, Western art, abstracts, you name it, he’s painted it. One of the most interesting series he created was made from left-over scrap ink from an old printing press that was to be discarded. In those brilliant compositions, he embodied one of our core principles—creating beauty & value out of things that others thought were worthless & threw away. Truly inspirational—Thank You Curtis!



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For fifteen hundred years, the Lighthouse of Alexandria (named Pharos, after the island it was built on), guided travelers safely to port. Borrowed from the Egyptian Coptic ‘phareh’ (guardian), in Greek, the word ‘pharos’ means lighthouse.

Whether this publication lasts for five years or fifty, it is our aim to keep watch over the Captive Arts™, and to be a guarding and guiding light home for all those artistic sailors currently adrift on stormy seas.

Editor’s Note

To all of our talented artists and writers out there, we want to say how tremendously grateful we are for the wealth of articles and art you all have submitted for this publication.

THANK YOU!!

Our goal is to publish The Pharos Gazette every month, and we need all the help we can get. Justice-involved stories, articles, poems, drawings, art, music, you name it, we want to publish it! Given our current size & format limitations, we ask that all of our contributors follow our publishing guidelines below—this helps us tremendously in getting each new issue of the Gazette out accurately and on time.

- Single column: 400-450 words (this is ideal for showcasing a single art piece, along with a short description of your artistic process/inspiration for the piece/etc.)
- Full page: 900-1,000 words (good for stories & articles with an accompanying illustration/photo/art piece)
- Letters to the Editor: 100-250 words (if we can fit more than one per issue, we will!)

The best way to send us submissions is via Jpay.com, using our publishing email pharos@atouchoflight.org. Due to the volume of submissions we receive, we are unable to reply to Jpay emails—however, every contributor will receive a copy of the issue in which they are published. Art submitted for publication will be considered a donation, unless you are one of our contracted artists, or return postage is included and you specifically request we return it.



The Pharos Gazette™

Volume I, Issue V

May 2020

“Bulldoze Your Debt: Step Two”

By Maître de la Dette, Contributing Artist

Greetings again!

You cannot get out of debt if you do not have discipline. Discipline comes from your self-talk and controlling your thoughts. Some people say, “I have no control over my thoughts,” but this is not true. If you have a bad thought, you can tell yourself, “I don’t really think that,” and force yourself to think something else.

This is a major part of self-talk. You can actually put yourself into depression by slumping, hanging your head, and telling yourself how horrible everything is. Or, you can throw back your shoulders, lift your head high, get off your butt, become active and focus on positive things. Tell yourself, “Things are getting better – quit thinking about yourself and find something good to do for someone else.” You will no longer be depressed!

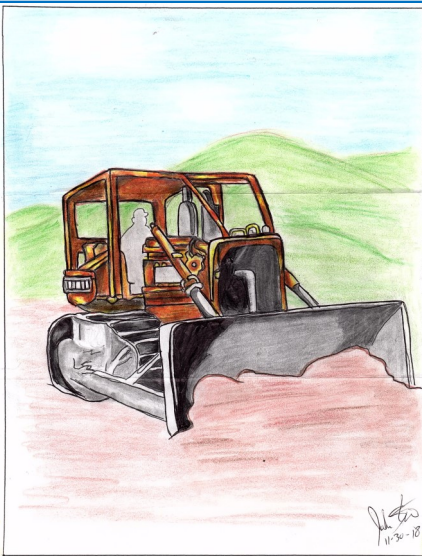
Tom Hopkins is a sales trainer that wrote a book called *Mastering the Art of Sales*. He was the top real estate salesman in California for many years, and in his book tells the story of when he was in training. His trainer took him out about five miles from the office and told him, “Get out, door-knock your way back to the office, and see if you can get some real estate listings.” So Tom got out, started knocking on doors, introducing himself, and asking if they would like to list their home for sale.

In one of the homes he came to, the lady of the house was very rude and antagonistic. Tom had these affirmations that he would tell himself as part of his self-talk – my favorite is, “I never see failure as failure, but only as a learning experience.” As Tom was walking away from that house with the rude woman, he was saying to himself, “I never see failure as failure but only as a learning experience, and boy I learned that there are some nasty people around here – I’m going to knock at the back door.”

He went around the house and knocked on the back door – when the same lady answered, he said, “Gee ma’am, I sure

hope you are a lot nicer than that lady in the front.” She had to laugh! I don’t know if he got a listing or not, but at least he broke the ice and was able to communicate with her. It is the constant, persistent effort that is a major part of discipline. When I quit smoking, I was smoking four packs of non-filter a day. I told myself that, “I am a non-smoker.” I’ve been a non-smoker now for twenty-six years.

Set yourself a goal, write it down, and read it every day, several times a day if need be. Follow my step by step plan to bulldoze your debt, and you can become debt free!



“Bulldoze Your Debt” by Maître de la Dette

“I never see failure as failure, but only as a learning experience.”

— Tom Hopkins, “Mastering the Art of Sales”

“Crows to Free Thy Soul”

By Sandor R., Contributing Artist

Crows to Free thy Soul

Among the twisted Tree
Sits the murder of misery,
The sick and the twisted
holds the company of crows
through the pain and the misery
the seed of Hate blooms,
So sits the murder,
to Feed among the Hate,

The Sacrifice of crows
to free thy soul of pain,
Dark is its feathers
for all it may consume,
Beauty was the crow
before they soul was hurt,
Among the twisted tree
sits the murder of misery

to free thy soul,
of the sick and the twisted
through the pain and the misery
A murder is thy company,
for all my insidious Sins,
Only a crow may forgive.

Sandor
ASR

CROWS TO FREE THY SOUL

AMONG THE TWISTED TREE SITS THE MURDER OF MISERY
THE SICK AND TWISTED HOLD THE COMPANY
OF CROWS THROUGH THE PAIN
AND THE MISERY
THE SEED OF HATE BLOOMS
SO SITS THE MURDER
TO FEED AMONG THE HATE
THE SACRIFICE OF CROWS
TO FREE THY SOUL OF PAIN
DARK IS ITS FEATHERS
FOR ALL IT MAY CONSUME
BEAUTY WAS THE CROW
BEFORE THEY SOUL WAS HURT
AMONG THE TWISTED TREE
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THROUGH THE PAIN
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A MURDER IS THY COMPANY
FOR ALL MY INSIDIOUS SINS
ONLY A CROW MAY FORGIVE

ASR

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This publication is shared with our arts affiliates around the globe, and is available in digital format at www.ATouchofLight.org/pharos

“Working in Copper”
By Steve P., Contributing Artist since 2016 (Pennsylvania)

My art or craft, if you will, consists mainly of turning regular gauges of copper 36-6A to 40-6A sheets into works of art – tooling them by forming and molding the copper. I have also done some projects by way of etching. I first learned of this craft here in the federal system, and have been teaching a class on copper tooling for about four years now.



In my bio picture, you can see a 12” x 18” piece, which started out as just a sheet of 36-6A copper. A small clock was also installed. Everything you see was made from copper, except the wooden frame and clock parts.

These custom works of art make very nice gifts, and creating them has made my time in prison go more quickly. I have been incarcerated since 1997, with a sentence of 50 years, and have very little resources – the wages I make from my prison job go entirely towards the supplies and materials I need to continue creating my art.

Creating my art keeps my mind busy and keeps me out of trouble – allowing me to do something useful with my imagination. I create everything from ships to wild animals, to my favorite football team logos and much more – you name it, I can put it on copper!



“Hope Rises in Hong Kong”
By Esther Tung, Chief Ministry Officer, HKCKSA

In collaboration with A Touch of Light.Org and their Arts affiliates around the globe, we’re pleased to announce an international Call for Artists! We will be holding an exhibition of prison art from October 31st—November 1st, 2020 at the Maritime Museum of Hong Kong.

Our original purpose was to hold this exhibition as a celebration to coincide with the Hong Kong Correctional Services Department’s 100th year anniversary. While this is still true, since the COVID-19 threat there has arisen a deeper purpose, as all our in-prison classes were suspended to ensure that no infection would enter the prisons. This proved successful as there was no outbreak in the Hong Kong prison system.

The downside is that the prisoners have felt more isolated and were not able to worship and congregate together with volunteers, they also do not have internet and social media so they cannot access online resources. This art exhibition is an outlet for the prisoners to release their emotions, to anticipate and hope for better things to come in the future. The theme of the exhibition is ‘Hope Rises.’

We want to open this exhibition up to also showcase prisoner art from around the world to reflect on the international city that Hong Kong is, but also as a sign of solidarity & hope from all us for the future. We are hopeful that a successful show this year will provide opportunity for a larger, month-long exhibition in 2021.

Submission Details

Theme: Hope Rises (in Chinese, 信心启航, or “set sail with confidence” *xìnxīn qǐ háng*)

Size: International A4 (21.0 x 29.7cm/8.27 x 11.69 inches) minimum, to A3 (29.7 x 42.0cm/11.69 x 16.53 inches) max.

Medium: No restrictions

Deadline: August 1st, 2020

Any art submitted cannot be returned, and will be considered donated for future use by ATOL & HKCKSA. Therefore, we will also accept print reproductions of original artwork. **Editor’s Note:** Work submitted to ATOL for this exhibition will be reproduced and submitted to Hong Kong as Fine Art Prints on A4 paper.

信心启航!
Hope Rises!



“Let’s Take New Ground!”
By Yankee Éireannach an Chósta Thoir, Assistant Editor

I happened to watch Joel Osteen on TV this morning – his message about honoring all those who went before him resonated with me. He spoke about how each generation needs to honor their relatives/ancestors – those who came before us – by taking new ground. He spoke about the incredible hardships that his, and many of our relatives/ancestors chose to endure & overcome; never giving up in the face of powerful hardships and darkness, so that we could be here today. *SPOT ON!*

Recently, a dear/wonderful Aunt of mine passed away. She was at the hospital for a simple elective surgery but, because of the hospital’s COVID-19 protocols, her husband and children could not see her. This article is to honor her and all she did for others. The passing of my beloved Aunt has left a powerful pain in my chest. I find myself sitting and thinking on all the hardships & darkness that my family/ancestors endured – the Irish potato famine, and the Spanish Flu in Europe. This has caused me to focus my thoughts on living my life in a way as to honor those who have gone before me. They never gave up! For thousands of years, our ancestors endured, overcame, moved forward in life – that’s why I am here today. I have a duty to take some new ground, for those who will arrive after me.

And, it seems to me, that everyone has a duty to live their lives in ways that honor their parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, their own families/ancestors. Each of us should think on the best ways to rise above jail/prison/hardships – and set the highest standards. We can honor those who came before us by overcoming the hardships & darkness of our own lives. We must build new lives and take some new ground. We owe them that!

General Jim Mattis, former Secretary of Defense, wrote the following in his book titled *Call Sign Chaos* (co-authored by Bing West):

“The judge who sent me to jail as a nineteen-year-old taught me a lesson, but he didn’t ruin my future.”
– General Jim Mattis, USMC (Ret.), *Call Sign Chaos*

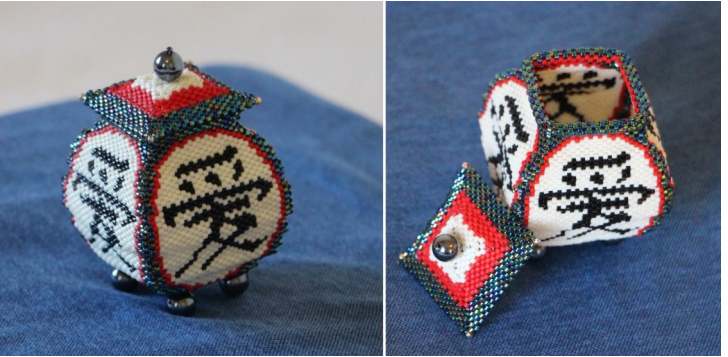
In my opinion, there’s Better Days ahead for those who embrace some change and seek to live lives that honor their families & ancestors. Let’s make them proud! Let’s take some new ground. And always remember,

FAMILY MATTERS!



Artist Spotlight
By Preacher Mike, Contributing Artist since 2016

Michael’s artistic expertise is in creating beaded jewelry using specialized Delica Beads, which are a top-quality bead designed especially for jewel and decorative work.



Wo Ai Ni (“I Love You”) Jewelry Box by Preacher Mike

He is originally from Pennsylvania, but has lived all over the United States, as well as parts of Europe. He comes from a military family, and has traveled extensively, including being stationed in Germany with the U.S. Army and serving with the U.S. Navy. He has a son, and has nearly completed his 15-year sentence. His ambition when he is released is to work with his church and open a free automotive shop for the members of his church and the local community.

“There’s always a single parent who needs some work on their car, truck or van, but simply cannot afford it. I want to “give back” to society by offering my automotive experience and skills to those who need it, free of charge.”
– Preacher Mike

To see videos of Mike’s beadwork, scan the QR code below, or visit www.ATouchofLight.org/preacher-mike

