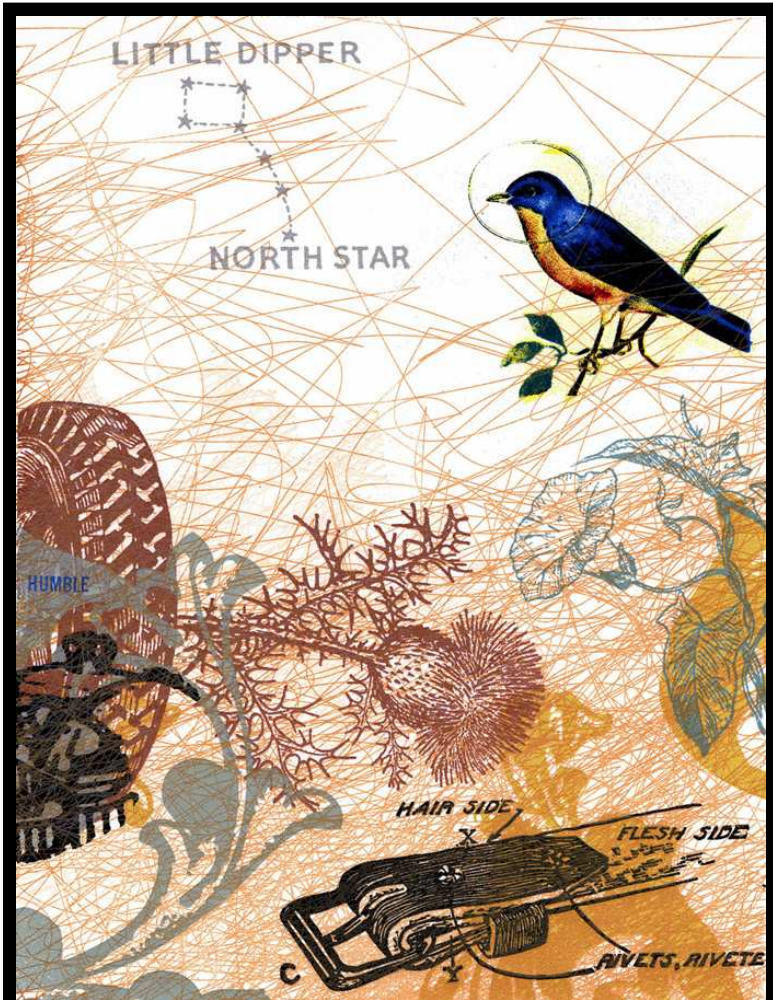


the **HEART** behind  
the **ART**



**JOHN BERGMEIER**  
**MIXED MEDIA AND PRINTMAKING**

The Gallery @ Common Grounds  
Living Word Community Church  
July & August 2011

...affirms that, because we are created in the image of God, each person is gifted with some level of creativity. We believe we will encounter Jesus in new ways and will go deeper in relationship with God as we give time to explore and develop— individually, and in the context of spiritual community— the creative gifts He's given us.

Want to hear more?

Contact deAnn

(see info below)

the arts @ living word



[www.lwcc-arts.blogspot.com](http://www.lwcc-arts.blogspot.com)

the gallery @ common grounds

*The Gallery @ Common Grounds*, Living Word's Coffee Bar, is a venue for emerging and established artists to courageously share their heart-felt creative expression. Exhibits change approximately every six weeks.

We hope you encounter God through interacting with the art on display and we pray that you'll be inspired to discover the artist within yourself.

For more information about *The Gallery @ Common Grounds*, or to submit your work for consideration, contact **deAnn Roe**, *Director of Creative Arts*, at 755.0089 x126 or at [droe@lwccyork.com](mailto:droe@lwccyork.com).

# NEWS FLASH=THE STUDIO & PAGES ON BREAK

Both **The Studio** and **Pages** pick up in the fall after being totally revamped and improved! Some really cool things are coming for the artists and the writers of Living Word and beyond. Stay tuned — check out: [www.lwcc-arts.blogspot.com](http://www.lwcc-arts.blogspot.com).

## The Studio

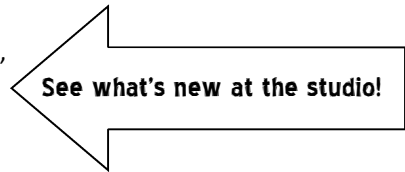
Artists' Group

Wednesdays in **September** – the theme is **Urban Art: When Heaven Scrapes the Pavement**. You'll get to try your hand at graffiti and anime.

*To sign up for this four week workshop, contact deAnn at [droe@lwccyork.com](mailto:droe@lwccyork.com).*

**The Studio** meets every Wednesday in September, November, January, March, May, etc.

Contact deAnn Roe with questions: [droe@lwccyork.com](mailto:droe@lwccyork.com) or 755-0089 x126.



## pages

Writing Group

Will pick up in **October** and will also have a new look and feel. **We'll meet every Wednesday in October, December, February, April.** This is much better than before.

Contact deAnn Roe with questions: [droe@lwccyork.com](mailto:droe@lwccyork.com) or 755-0089 x126.

## MEET JOHN BERGMEIER

John Bergmeier is a unique print and graphic artist whose primary focus in recent years has been on print-making, though his artistic versatility is displayed in his many mixed media and three-dimensional pieces as well. John enjoys incorporating multiple colors, textures, layers, and images to create highly original and distinctive visual narratives. He works with various graphics, photographs, implements, and other materials, assimilating these into his art as symbols and reference points. John uses these elements effectively in his pieces to provoke thought, evoke emotion, and perhaps revive forgotten memories in the viewer by illustrating meaningful moments and events, or by memorializing life stories.



The artist then allows the viewer to interpret each creation based upon his or her own particular understanding and experience. These narrative works reflect John's unending fascination with how choice and coincidence converge in our lives to comprise the personal path each of us ultimately walks during our lifetime.

Born and raised in Nebraska and Kansas, John Bergmeier now resides in Michigan with his wife, Carla. Coming from the American heartland, John traces the roots of his inspiration back to his Christian upbringing, and considers his faith an integral part of his art and of his motivation. He states, "I am increasingly becoming more confident and daring in expressing my Christian faith through my art. That. . .and to touch the emotions of people. . .is what I strive for."

*continued...*

## MEET JOHN BERGMEIER

Indeed, in his current works, this frequently exhibited and award-winning artist continues his exploration of the various perceptions of the mysterious union of the physical and spiritual lives of human beings. Piece by piece, the experience of each real or imagined person is depicted by certain icons left behind in time, such as images from old children's books; passages from Sunday School; photographs of family, farm tools, or other implements; and more. For John, these apparently mundane every-day items excite his imagination and stimulate his own, personal memories and emotions, sometimes even serving as the actual catalysts for his final artistic conceptions. While referencing familiar or traditional themes, in John's hands these images, as applied in each piece, become intriguingly profound and layered in meaning, often accompanied by biblical passages, hymn quotes, or original poetry—all designed to draw the viewer toward the inevitable recognition of both the essential importance of living and the unavoidable certainty of death.

Bergmeier's singular and provocative art results from his strong religious convictions and his abiding love for his craft. Working intuitively with the power and symbolism of compelling images and eloquent words, John combines his extraordinary artistic sense with diverse materials to create each captivating print, mixed media piece, or three-dimensional sculpture. John Bergmeier is a completely original and absorbing artist whose distinctive and exceptional work is as replete with multiple layers of meaning as it is with multiple layers of color, texture, imagery, and materials.

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**ADDRESS:**        582 Upland Avenue  
                         Pontiac, Michigan 48340

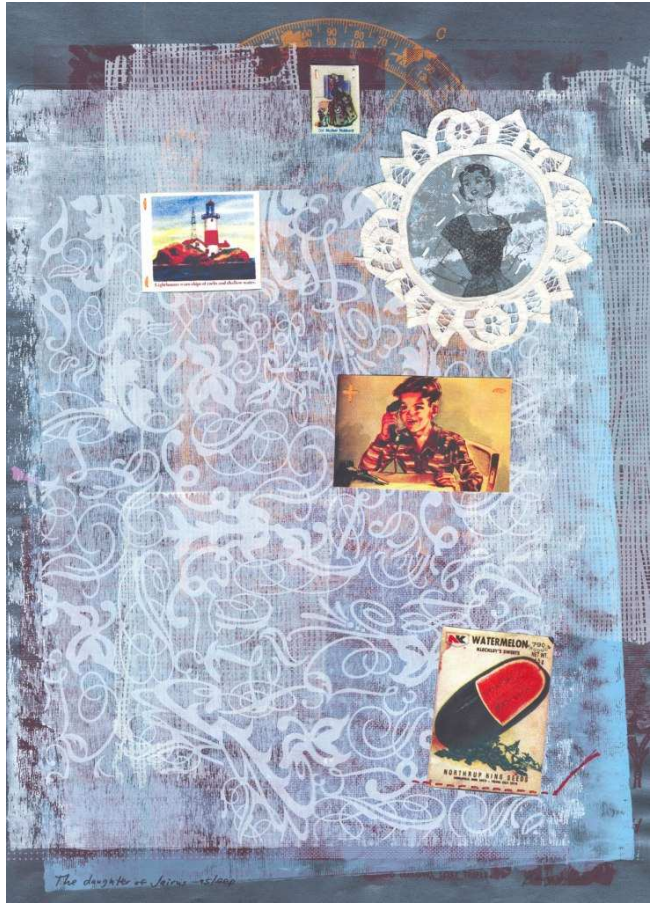
## BEHIND THE SERIES

Here are John's comments regarding the included artwork series...

### ★ DAUGHTER OF JAIRUS SERIES –

I've recently become intrigued with the biblical stories regarding someone who has died and then been brought back to life. In the case of Jairus' daughter we are told that she was a young girl. I'm imagining her after she has had a glimpse of heaven and been in the presence of Christ and his angels, and then having to be

brought back to a world of stupid boys and parents that made her do her homework. Along with this I have self-appointed Jairus' daughter as the patron saint of doilies. Thinking that afterward family and friends would have asked her what it was like dying and going to heaven...and the best way that she could

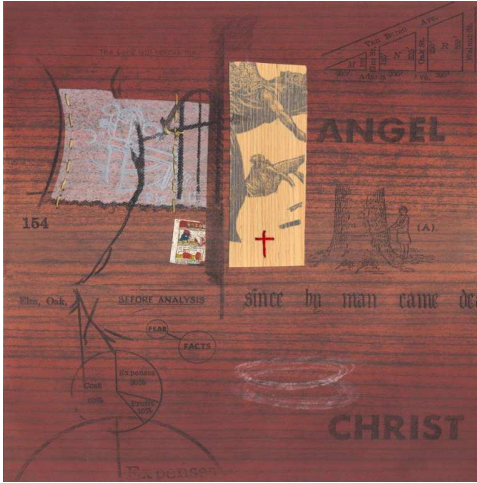


describe it was by making a swirling weaving of white string. I have used these types of materials and images in the prints and drawings of this series.

*continued...*

## BEHIND THE SERIES

### ★ THE TREE OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL –



This series of work began with my reuse of old commercial printing plates of wood grains. I wondered what it would be like if we could have images shown to us (much like we are able to tell the age of a tree by counting its rings) that represent these ideas of good and evil. I'm also interested in the implied symbolism of

this tree in the Garden of Eden (the Fall into sin), and the wood/tree that Christ died on (to save us from our sins).

### ★ MARY AND MARTHA SERIES –

After the recent death of my Mother, I stumbled upon a stash of old coupons and recipes that had belonged to her. Of course this brought a flood of memories from my childhood. I was also reminded of the New Testament sisters and the story of their priorities and how we, in our business of life, are likely to forget what is most important.



### ★ EZEKIEL'S ARM BRACE –

To me, one of the most compelling people in the Bible was Ezekiel... I consider him one of the first performance artists. He was told by God to do the most outrageous things as a way of prophesying to His people. One of these performances was to lie on his side on the ground for quite a long time with his arm in the air. I imagined Ezekiel being an obedient and resourceful man, and to aid him in this project he used two previously inscribed sticks as props to support his arms and also God's wishes.

As you can see, I am often times inspired by God's word and am compelled to fill in some of the blanks in the biblical stories. I call them biblical stories, stories that are in the Bible, but do not intend to portray them as made-up fiction. It is never my wish to reinterpret God's word, but rather to make it more real and relatable to us as contemporary Christians. I am motivated to share the Gospel message and wish to move the hearts of all Christians to boldly confess the name of Jesus. God will always accomplish what He desires – to bring people to faith through the good news of Jesus Christ. Because of this we rejoice.



# 2011 GALLERY SCHEDULE

- ◇ January "Being Made"
- ◇ February "still...life" ~ Photography
- ◇ March "Silhouette of Grace" ~ Global Missions Focus
- ◇ April "A Journey of Love" - Last Supper to Resurrection
- ◇ May "Found Expressions" ~ Joe Kelly
- ◇ June/July "Get To Know Us" - A Staff Exhibit
- ◇ July/Aug Featured Artist: John Bergmeier
- ◇ Sept "KidsArt 4.0"
- ◇ October Featured Artist: Fiel Patricio
- ◇ Nov Honored to Serve
- ◇ Nov/Jan Featured Artist: Joseph Becker

[Exhibit themes are subject to change. But we hope they don't.]

attention writers & poets

## inklings



celebrating the art of written expression -  
composed by people from the Living Word Community Church family

Summer Edition: July - September 2009

We are collecting written pieces for the October Inklings publication. If you are a writer or poet, please send your piece via email to [deAnn, droe@lwccyork.com](mailto:deAnn.droe@lwccyork.com).

**Deadline is Monday, September 19**

Go to [www.lwcc-arts.blogspot.com](http://www.lwcc-arts.blogspot.com) to read past issues of Inklings online.

the arts @ living word



[www.lwcc-arts.blogspot.com](http://www.lwcc-arts.blogspot.com)

This booklet is created as a companion piece to  
the exhibit at Living Word Community Church



**Living Word**

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