

# Cultivating the Spirit And Harvesting the Bounty Within

## An Artist's Statement by Harrison Goldberg

My work is a synthesis of impressions influenced by the natural environment, along with those derived from a less obvious source, the land within. Beginning with all that I see and feel externally, my sacred process unfolds as an unpredictable journey into the multi-layered treasure trove of the imagination. For the creatively inspired, this can be fertile soil to till and the harvest is full to bursting with unexpected fruits.

As a conceptual artist my motto is a simple one: "*Always be prepared to consider the unexpected!*" Often utilizing organic material from the Earth's geological fabric, I have dutifully interpreted this multi-faceted journey. Surprises abound and occur at every turn. In a fluted seashell fragment found long a Northern California beach, a detail resembling the Roman Coliseum emerged. I later incorporated this "living" find into a pen and ink study of a medieval Italian city square. Then there was an ancient saxophone reed into which this musician/artist breathed no less than a hundred tunes. With silver paint carefully applied to its aged cane surface, the reed was transformed into a fabled Russian city glittering with onion domes. For me, this work resonates with the feel of jazz music from the reed's earlier memory.

Here, on the website, I have assembled art pieces that reflect my own myths, dreams and musical experiences. Such elements, when combined with urban and rural images and impressions, seem to fit together comfortably and establish their own unique aesthetic.

Although inexplicably familiar, the land into which I am irresistibly drawn with ink, paint, paper and objects, remains a remote, numinous frontier. As observer, I enter and reenter this "other" place at will. It is often a bewildering, limitless, labyrinthine landscape strewn with the architectural fragments from present, ancient and future civilizations. Here, there are no boundaries and I can see forever. The terrain is an intricate puzzle whose source, no matter how deeply I probe, will forever remain a mystery. Still, not to heed the clarion call to creative self-exploration would be, for me, a grave mistake, a denial of life itself.

I invite you, the viewer of these works, to share in the joy of my self-discovery. Perhaps in the shape of the line, the tension between forms, or where two colors meet and harmonize, meanings personal to you will emerge and define themselves. Then, when your own creative journey beckons, you, too, will eagerly follow in pursuit of your muse.