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mensional application of deep red, broken apart by the thrust of illuminating golds and heavenly blues from above and below, covering the intestinal ribbons of deep red. Then there is the painting of "Theosis" where becoming one with the Lord is a collision of galactic proportions... the red of the union and blend of colours becomes almost embryonic and the shape of the union becomes chalice-like and takes the form of the cup and woman.

**From the time you first started has your artistic direction and subject matter changed?**

I truly can say that I have always been searching in my work to find reconciliation in finding light in darkness. Some earlier works were more literal and figurative. As my paintings became more confident in technique and media the works became more abstract... but all the while still dealing with finding "light."

**What is your creative process - from blank canvass to art?**

I start out in contemplation of a verse, a prayer, a chant etc. I enter into the images that form and I settle into them and sketch them out in my sketchbook... making notations on the sketch where and how colour and texture will intersect. Most of my paintings start out being covered in black or in an indigo black... I mix black gesso and acrylic paint together and make directional scoring while wet to create textural movement. The works initially start on the floor and then are lifted onto a very large easel to work in details.

**Deep shades of blue, gold and white light seem to feature predominantly in your work.**

Yes, that's right! Blue has always been my "go-to"

colour. Perhaps the influence of my childhood working in the fields and always fascinated with the expansive blue sky above me. I always thought if I just looked hard enough I would see the Lord looking down on me. But yes, blue is like the heavens, the Kingdom... the blue that is not of this world, dense and infinite. Gold indeed is always found in some spot of my paintings. It represents illumination, the uncreated light of God and His heavenly kingdom. The gold is Christ's Divinity. White is always my final application or my first application on the canvas... like a moth to light.

**Which of all your pieces would you say is your favorite?**

My favorite piece is titled "Seventy times Seven"...the journey in creating this painting was a poignant spiritual journey for me. It was my most difficult yet my most successful and rewarding. I set out believing I could portray in a painting the concept of forgiveness. Yet in approaching the painting I realized that there was still unforgiveness in my heart. So after many layers of humility, shades of purple grey, I was able to create a golden portal into eternity where the key was forgiveness that let me into God through love.

**Not only are you skilled in the 'worldly' arts, but you have also written icons. Has iconography altered your overall artistic perspective?**

I took a beginning iconography class from my Father confessor, Rev. Fr. Michael Courey about 15 years ago. The notion of working from dark to light turned the corner in my paintings. Also there was a very mystical relationship when my hand painted the glycasmo onto the Face of Christ. I truly can say I fell into Christ's eyes for the first time in my life and I fell deeply in love. From that point forward all my paintings were done to glorify Him.

**You taught art for many years before becoming a full-time artist, so what has the experience of teaching 'taught' you?**

Teaching has taught me so very much about the power of the creative process, the power of the visual arts, how teaching art was such a gift because it always gave me a glimpse into the soul of my student. I know there is not a student in the world that I cannot love because of teaching.

I became a better artist, a more compassionate member of the world, a seeker of beauty and a more thoughtful mentor.

**What was it like making the plunge into the realm of a full-time artist?**

There was no fear in the plunge... life finally allowed me the time to use my gifts in a more focused manner. At my age now I no longer have to balance my roles as a woman, mother, wife, daughter, friend, employee. I have been blessed that I never lost sight of my soul's desire to be an artist and I have been blessed to have had all of my life's experiences and responsibilities that transformed and shaped the artist that I am today.

**So what's next?**

I will continue painting as long as the Lord has planned and I will continue to use my gifts to glorify Him. I also have made a commitment to offer my gallery and studio space to show faith-based artists who otherwise would not have the opportunity to show their works.

I am enjoying bringing together artists in my studio and finding commonality in our works. As He says, where there are three or more gathered, there I will be!

To see Angelica's work: [angelicasotiriou.com](http://angelicasotiriou.com)