

ANN THERESA GREGORY



THE GALLERY

The purpose of the Stillwater Public Library Gallery is to provide education through exhibits and displays; to increase community involvement in the library; and to provide an enjoyable environment for the library's users.

For more information about the gallery,
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Revelations Along The Secret Camino

Stillwater Public Library Gallery

March—April 2018

Artist Reception and Guest Speaker Neville Strumpf
Sunday March 18, 2 pm - 4 pm

About the Art

In June 2017, I walked the Camino Lebaniego in northern Spain, in the congenial company of a quartet of fellow pilgrims from the USA, Canada and Spain, including Professor Neville Strumpf from the University of Pennsylvania.

It's been described as The Secret Camino in contrast to the better-known Camino to Santiago de Compostela featured in movies like Martin Sheen's *The Way* and in books like Shirley MacLaine's *The Camino*.

The winding route covers 72 km from the wild northern coast of Spain heading south through the Picos de Europa (Peaks of Europe) to a well-hidden monastery at Santo Toribio, where pilgrims travel to see what is believed to be a fragment of the left arm of the cross on which Jesus was crucified, known as the Lignum Crucis (or True Cross).

It is said that in the 7th century AD the 'True Cross' arrived at Santo Toribio. Around the same time, a monk known as Beatus, created an illuminated manuscript depicting the events in *Revelations*, the last book in the New Testament. Things do come in threes, it seems, and around that same time the Moors over-ran much of what is present day Spain, apart from a few areas in the north, like Santo Toribio, that was naturally barricaded by the inaccessible, mountainous landscape.

As a result, the Cross was kept safe, and the Beatus manuscript became a revered symbol of resistance for several centuries, being 'copied' in various monasteries throughout the world.

Several partial copies of these manuscripts are in existence today, including in the Morgan Library in New York. It was an exhibition of these manuscripts in Potes, the nearest town to Santo Toribio, that provided a revelation of my own – had I been walking to see the True Cross, or to see the place where these magnificent miniatures were created in their first iteration, with images that spoke to me, a bibliophile and artist?

Revelations Along The Secret Camino continues the tradition of copying the Beatus manuscript, albeit perhaps about 900 years after the last official copy! Selected miniatures from various versions have inspired these contemporary versions that are mostly executed as enamel on tile, with one 'signature' oil on canvas. They are complemented by several landscapes, also oil on canvas, seen along the way to discovering the Beatus manuscripts.

About the Artist

As my Facebook page says*, I am an exhibiting visual artist interested in identity and humanity, working in the post-modernist tradition across a number of media. I am, in fact, an Australian who is delighted to be living in the US for a few years, while my (also Australian) husband Steve Paull pursues his own career in Stillwater, Minnesota.

With a few strings to my bow, my art "career" has been a wonderful mid-life surprise for me. I gained a Certificate in Visual Arts from a technical college in Sydney, and have exhibited in several group and solo exhibitions, including at Sydney's Royal Botanic Gardens, and at the Royal Sydney Easter Show. I have donated works to assist fundraising for health care programs, such as for those living with motor neuron disease or cancer.

In recent years, my solo exhibitions have evolved to become "pilgrimage-based", providing a visual diary of my travels to places of personal significance.

I am a Member of ArtReach St Croix, and honored and delighted to be exhibiting at Stillwater Public Library Gallery.



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For more information,

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*<https://www.facebook.com/AnnTheresaGregory/>

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