

# *JEANNE AUREL-SCHNEIDER*

Alex Gallery 2106 R Street, NW Washington, DC 20008 202/667-2599

Jeanne Aurel-Schneider elevates and transforms the familiar, reaching into her childhood and French heritage to find elements for each artistic meditation.

In her mixed media pieces, Aurel-Schneider uses objects and materials associated with home, with women's work, or with the painter's craft to consider human themes that are vexing and often painful.

The process of making each piece is itself a metaphor for the slow, daily effort of building a life. In some pieces, fabric (often from old clothes) is collaged onto unprimed canvas. Coat after coat of gesso is applied to create a hard bas-relief surface that can then be painted. Or, objects are carefully affixed and woven into a piece to create a complex whole.

*Between Two Nests* incorporates two delicate bird nests to represent the womb and the grave. Like the nest itself - a collection of fragments - the artist uses cheerfully tangled

yellow, blue, and red ribbons to suggest the infinite episodes that constitute a life. Bits of mirror strewn through the piece make the viewer an immediate participant. And at the center, a Polaroid of the artist's aging father and deceased mother-in-law, whose fates the artist contemplates with sadness and frustration.

With similar materials, Aurel-Schneider created *Nest With Yellow Ribbons* during the Gulf War. The dense construction of yarn, paint tubes, spools, snaps, and other detritus reflects the everyday items that hold us together and the (perhaps futile) search for sanctuary in a world that includes rank barbarity.

Sometimes a work acts as a visual pun; *Granny Nails* was inspired by a strong-willed woman who was, proverbially, "tough as nails." And in *Carmine* the figure of a woman artist, symbolized by a tube of paint, is menaced by a razor and surrounded by pins.

These unusual assemblages

remind us that the personal is indeed universal, and that the common forms a continuum with the deepest mysteries of existence.

Aurel-Schneider has also received deserved recognition for her watercolors and monotypes. Using a vacuum table designed for making paper, the artist prints images on watercolor paper. In *Transformation*, for example, she used twisted sheets soaked with dye to make an areal impression of land.

From these many experiments with media and method, the artist always returns home, to the brush and the figure, as in the watercolor series that includes *Sybyl Erythraea & Sybyl Hildegarde*.

Jeanne Aurel-Schneider is an artist of many-sided talent with a refined sensitivity to life's unknowable secrets.

- Eleanor Kennelly

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Eleanor Kennelly writes for *Art & Auction* magazine.

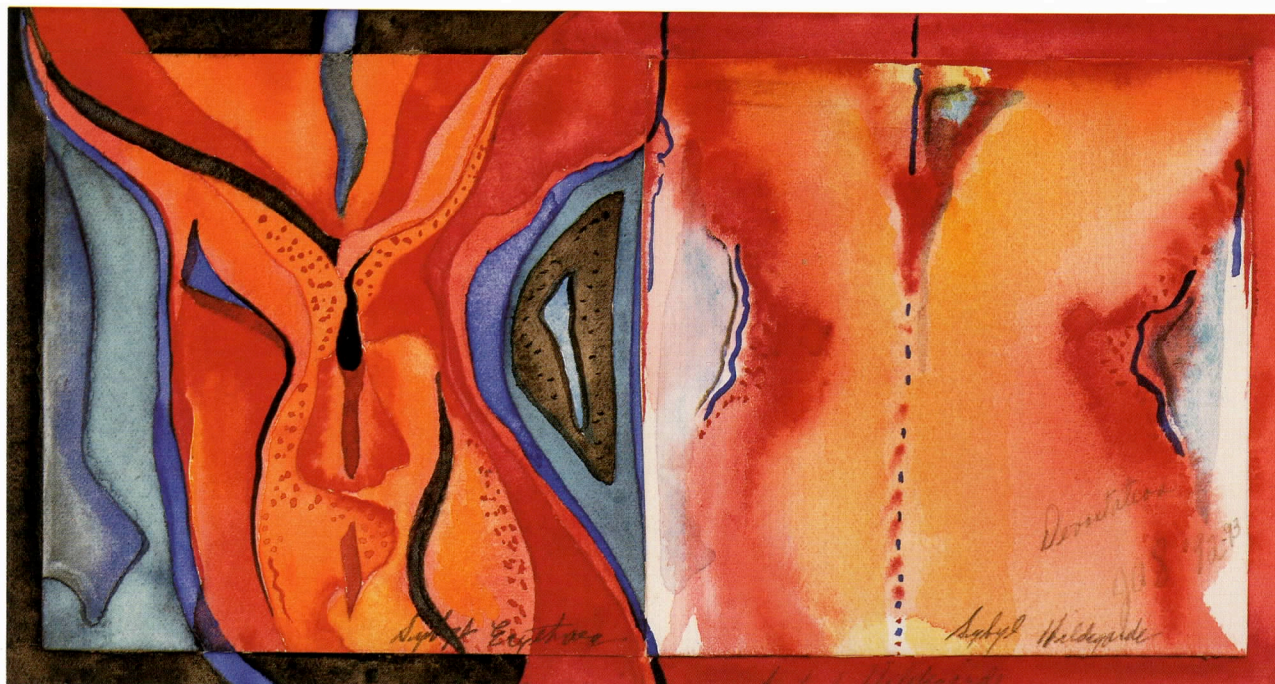
cover:

*Finding the Balance - A Needle in the Haystack*

Multi-media on canvas

11 x 11, 1989





*Sybyl Erythraea & Sybyl Hildegarda*  
Watercolor  
10 x 5½, 1993



*As It Was In The Beginning*  
Multi-media on canvas  
11 x 11, 1990





*Between Two Nests - Life & Eternity*  
Multi-media on canvas  
48 x 48, 1991









*The Painter's Dance*  
Multi-media on canvas  
144 x 72, 1987



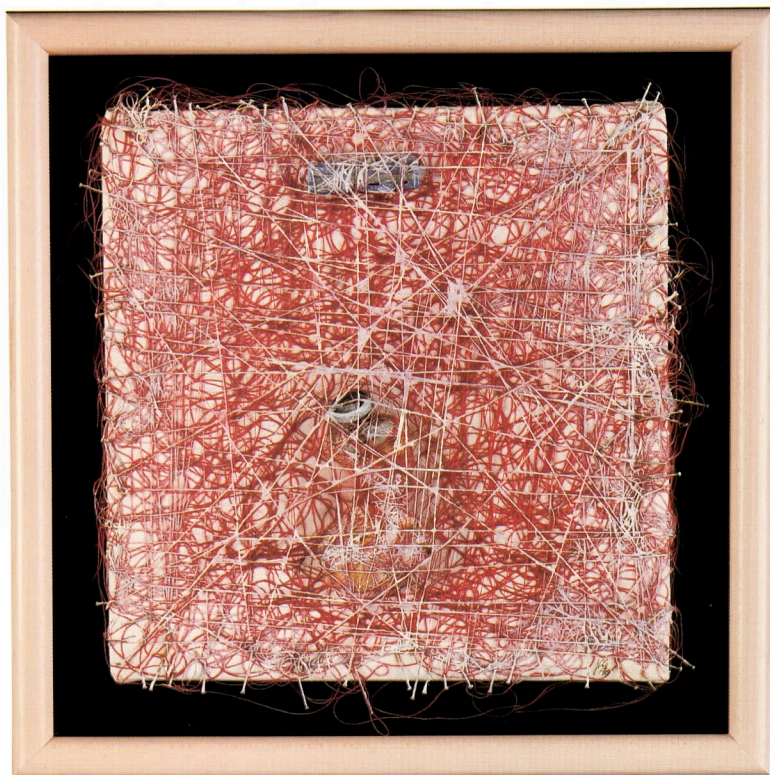


*Nest With Yellow Ribbons*  
Multi-media on canvas  
48 x 48, 1991



*Granny Nails*  
Multi-media on canvas  
11 x 12, 1989





*Carmine*  
Multi-media on canvas  
11 x 11, 1989





*Transformation*  
Watercolor  
78 x 40, 1992



## Selected Exhibits

1993	Alex Gallery	Washington, DC
1991	Eleanore Austerer Gallery	San Francisco, CA
1990	d. p. Fong and Spratt Galleries	San Jose, CA
1989	Manukau City	Auckland, New Zealand
1988	Espace Delpha	Paris, France
1987	Syracuse University	Syracuse, NY
1985	Gallery 30	Burlingame, CA
	DeSaisset Museum	Santa Clara, CA
1984	Laguna Gloria Art Museum	Austin, TX
1982	San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art	San Jose, CA
1977	SPACE	Hollywood, CA

Jeanne Aurel-Schneider studied art at Mills College in California and received her Masters Degree in Art from San Jose University.

Her work is included in private collections in the United States, France, Great Britain, and Singapore and in permanent collections including the Triton Museum of Art, the San Jose Museum of Art, Price Waterhouse, and SAPTEL in Paris.