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CONTENTS

Guatemala Sojourn and New Gallery

Santa Fe Sojourn and New Gallery for Anne

ALO Hayati Magazine Feature

Band of Brothers, an Image from a Men's Retreat



Solola Shadow, Oil on Canvas, 16"x12." For details, and a larger view, click on the picture.

We went to Guatemala in February. Much had changed since the 32 years when we lived there. But much hadn't, too. The ancient city of Antigua is as beautiful as ever but now all the more full of tourists. Who can blame them (us)? With that comes more services for tourists, and the Indians working all the harder to sell their textiles. Guatemala is known for colorful clothing, a different motif for each town and language group. There are some 20 languages of Mayan decent in Guatemala, snatches of which you hear if you listen to the banter they use with each other.

"Traje," or the traditional clothes, are worn mostly by the women. But in some places the men still wear it, like in this "shadow-scape" from a photo I got one morning in the high-land market town of Solola.

Sandra Profile, Oil, 16"x12."



Santiago Stripes, Oil over acrylic, 60"x27."
Below, *Santiago Six*, Oil, 14"x21.5."
For details, click on the pictures.



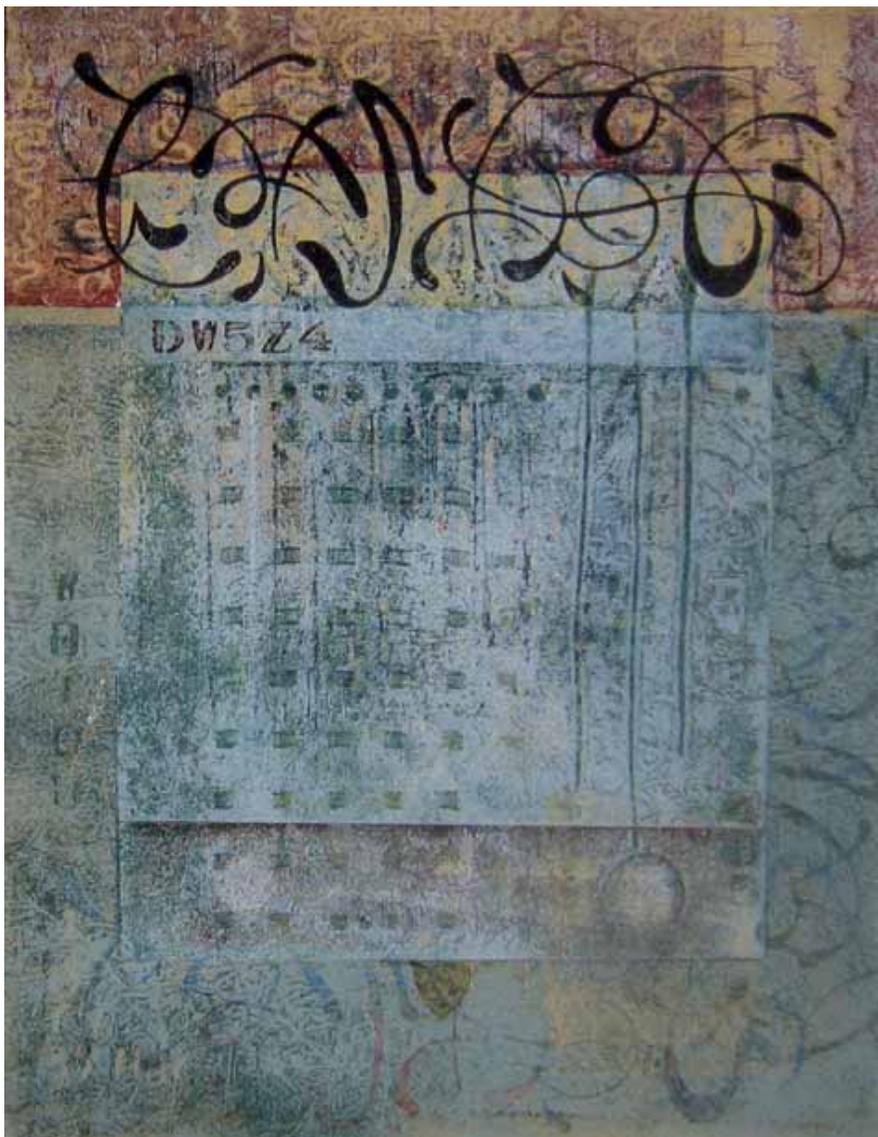
I must have taken hundreds of photo, all pretty much without being noticed, thanks to the wonders of a pocket digital camera. Some people I got to know a little, like Sandra, far left, a sweeper in a church in Santa Catarina. All the women in that village wear those colors, and it's quite radiant taken together. The life size painting, "Santiago Stripes," came from my following a funeral procession—at appropriate distance, of course. She was among the mourners at the graveside. The six above were catching up with each other outside the church at the same event.



New Gallery in Guatemala

I took some paints and canvas along to Guatemala, hoping to find some leisure to capture more than just images on camera. As it happened, on our first stroll into Antigua we encountered a beautiful, multi-roomed gallery for local and international artists. Talking with the director it came out early that I was a painter and that they were looking for another artist. By that time I'd already begun one painting ("Market Smile," above right). So arrangements were made for me to make more paintings during further travels that week and return with them to see if there was interest. I did, and there was. So now I'm represented in another gallery, and a seeming perfect fit for the Guatemalan images. Those on the wall above are paintings I made on the trip and left there. I've since made a dozen more and sent them down. Check the website for the new work at [La Antigua](#).

The place is spacious and full of great art.



Left, *Someday*, Monotype, 16"x12."

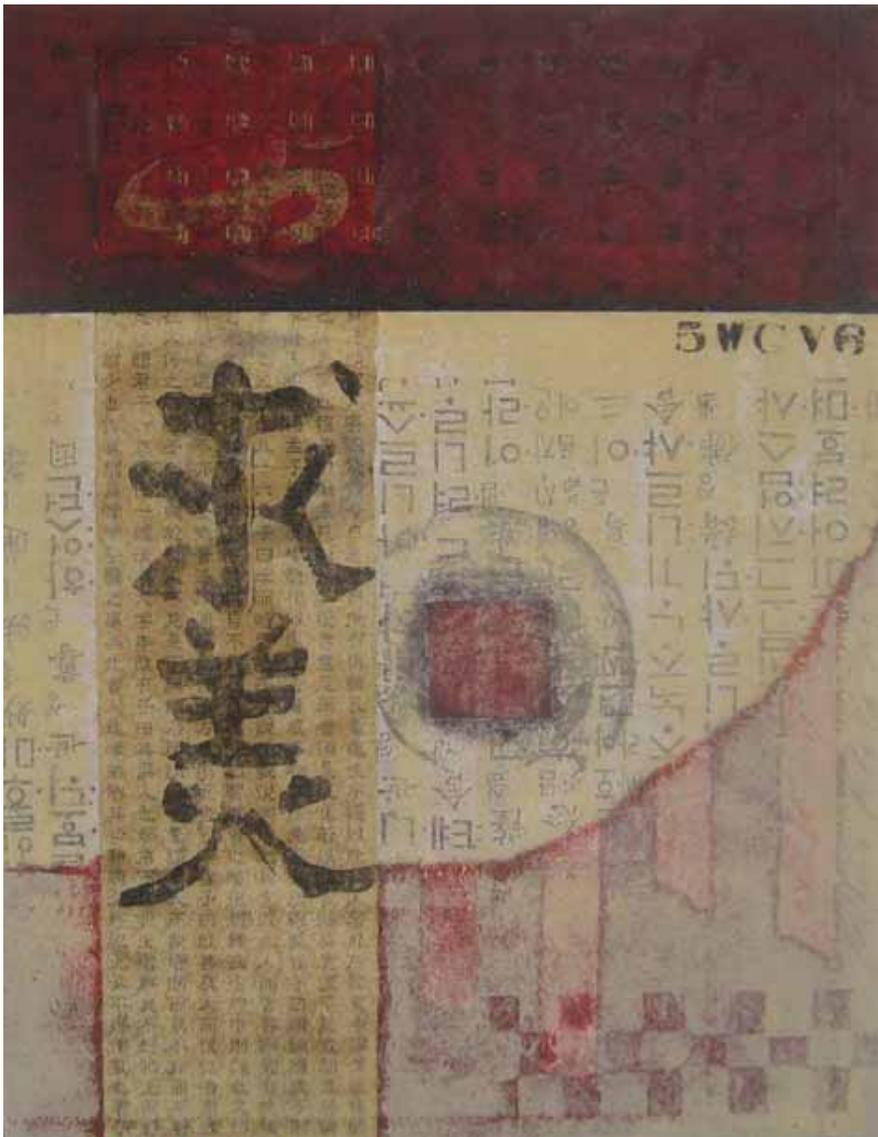
Below, *Fives*, Monotype, 15"x14."

Click on pictures for more detail and larger view.



More Monotypes

Anne continues to push the limits on monotypes. That is, if there were any limits. These are works on paper, with layer after layer of ink, with a new design applied to each. The results can be really quite extraordinary. At least those that make it. Some wind up in the trash. Even then, some I rescue for my own inspiration. If the trash man only knew what treasures he was carrying away. But the best ones stay, often making it to frames, and arriving in one gallery or another, and eventually to someone's personal space. They provide beauty wherever they go.



Left, *Continuing the Quest*, Monotype, 16"x12.5."
Above, *In Memorium*, Monotype, 17"x15.5."
Click on each picture for details.

New Gallery for Anne

Speaking of galleries, Anne and I are now in the same one in Santa Fe. Wiford Fine Art has determined to carry only abstract. Thus I've moved my figurative pieces out and replaced them with new abstracts. While there we showed examples of Anne's work—just for interest—thinking we might find a place for them in some other gallery in that town (or anywhere). As it turned out, they loved them and requested she leave them all. The four shown here are samples of about a dozen new pieces now in Wiford Gallery in Santa Fe.

Band of Brothers,
Acrylic on canvas,
72x48.



From the Men's Retreat

Speaking of random directions, here's one that came up quickly and is enjoying a large influence in a narrow place. The image came from a meaningful moment at the end of three days together in the mountains among men from Heritage Christian Fellowship. Again, it was the pocket digital camera that captured the instance. After that it was all paint and splash on a big canvas that already held another image. That, in fact, adds to the story, as the first image was a giant crucifix painted in public during a service at another church. That was a good experience but not a great painting, so I covered it over. Still, there's something meaningful about that image being invisible and behind this one. The painting remains in on-going display at the Heritage Church in San Clemente, California.