

Chasing Fireflies

by

Sudnya Shroff

artdistrict

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December 10, 2016

Sudnya Shroff is a San Francisco Bay Area artist who currently lives in Los Altos Hills on the peninsula. Born and raised in India, Sudnya graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Electronics and Telecommunication in 1995 before moving to the US for postgraduate studies in Electrical Engineering at the Iowa State University. After completing her masters, Sudnya worked at Intel for five years before switching careers.

In 2002, just before the birth of her second child, Sudnya dropped out of her Engineering Management degree at Stanford and quit her promising career in engineering to devote herself to the arts. It took until 2011 before Sudnya got her break in the art world and has since had several art shows in California, New York and India. She also wrote and published her debut novel, *Unraveling*, in 2012. In 2016, Sudnya launched her fashion label for contemporary women with a collection designed from fabrics that are exclusive prints of her art.

Her work is unmistakably influenced by her passion for enquiry into the intricacies of the workings of the human mind and its effect on human emotions. Oliver Sacks, Leonard Cohen, Andy Goldsworthy, Teresita Fernandez, Alexander McQueen, Kiran Nagarkar, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, Christopher Hitchens have been major influences.

She unapologetically stands up against issues of inequality in all areas, lending her loudest voice to women's rights and child empowerment. Sudnya's driving force is her unbending belief that nobody is equal unless everybody is equal; *nobody is free unless everybody is free.*

Artist's Statement

Every moment of every day I spend in living, learning, loving and growing with who, for whom and how I do it, my dreams, my passions, my desires and my values, both social and political - informs what I create inside and out of my studio.



An Owl's Howl

60" X 60" in

**Last night your faded memory came to me
As in the wilderness spring comes quietly,
As, slowly,
in the desert moves the breeze,
As to a sick man, without cause, comes peace.
- Vikram Seth (Last Night)**



Bird's Nest

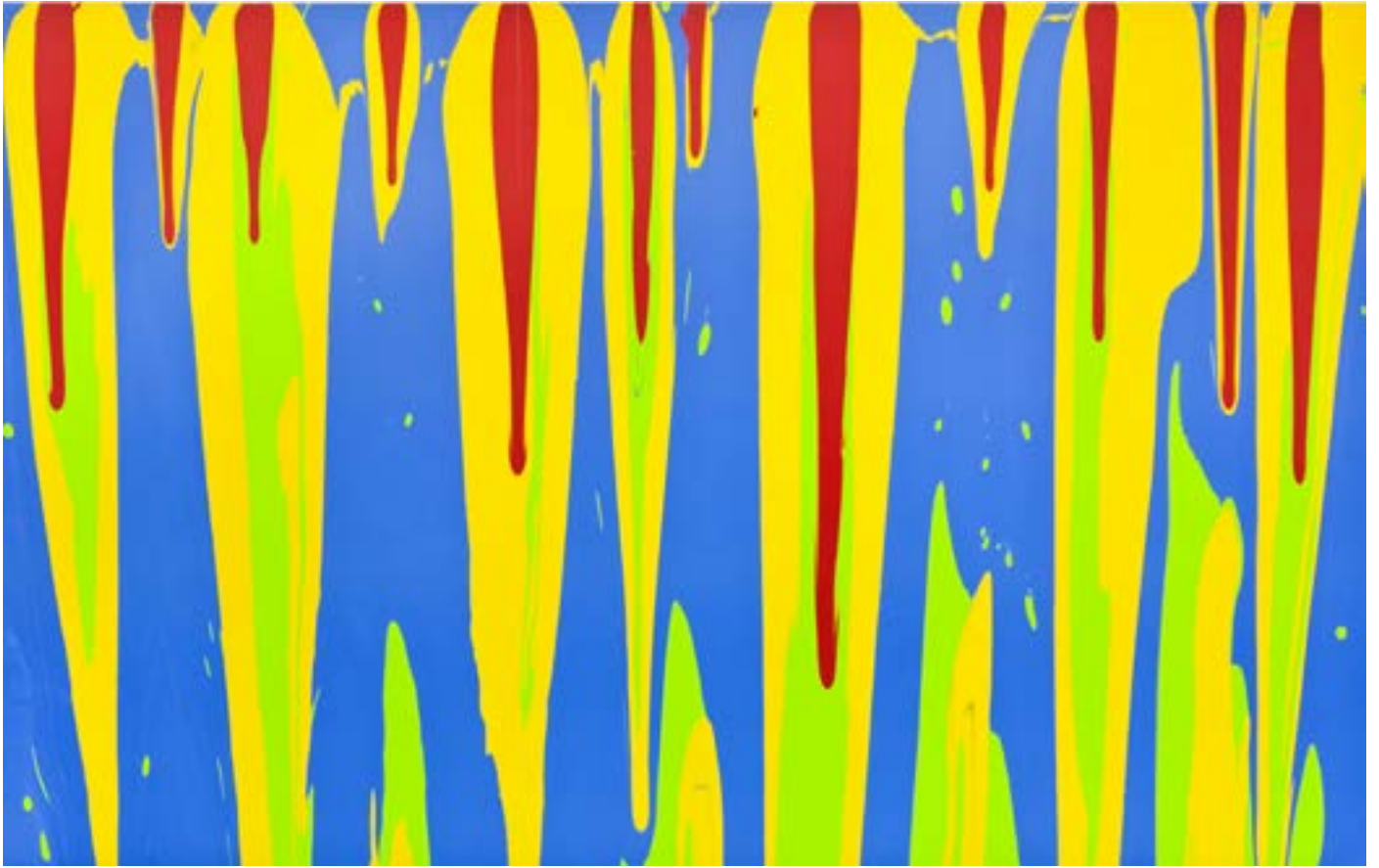
36" X 72" in

Droppings and drippings

Feathers and twigs

The extent of vitality

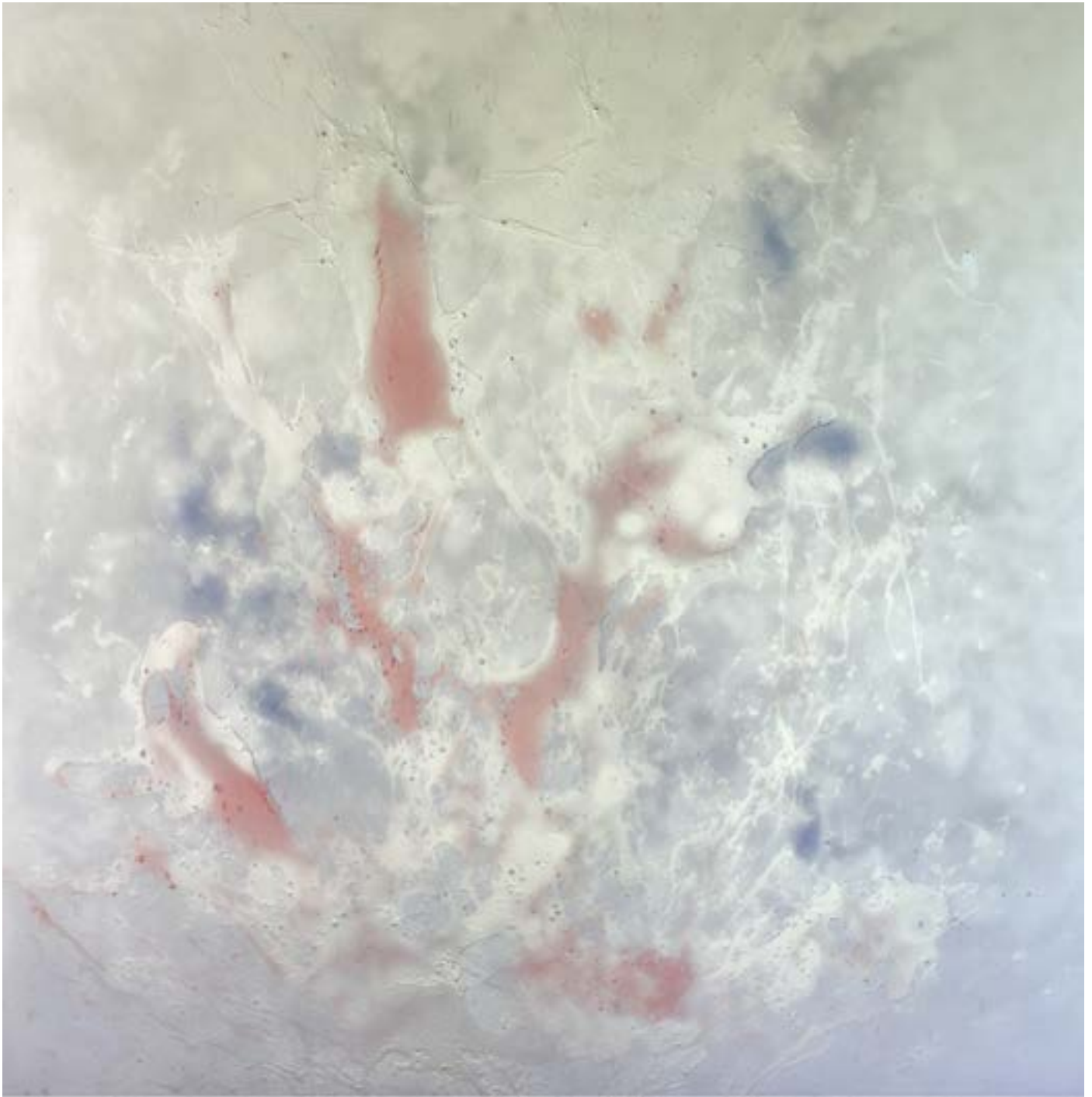
Is reflected in this



Blow Hot, Blow Cold

48" X 30" in

**Disappointment to a noble soul is what cold water is to
burning metal;
it strengthens, tempers, intensifies, but never destroys it.
-Eliza Tabor**

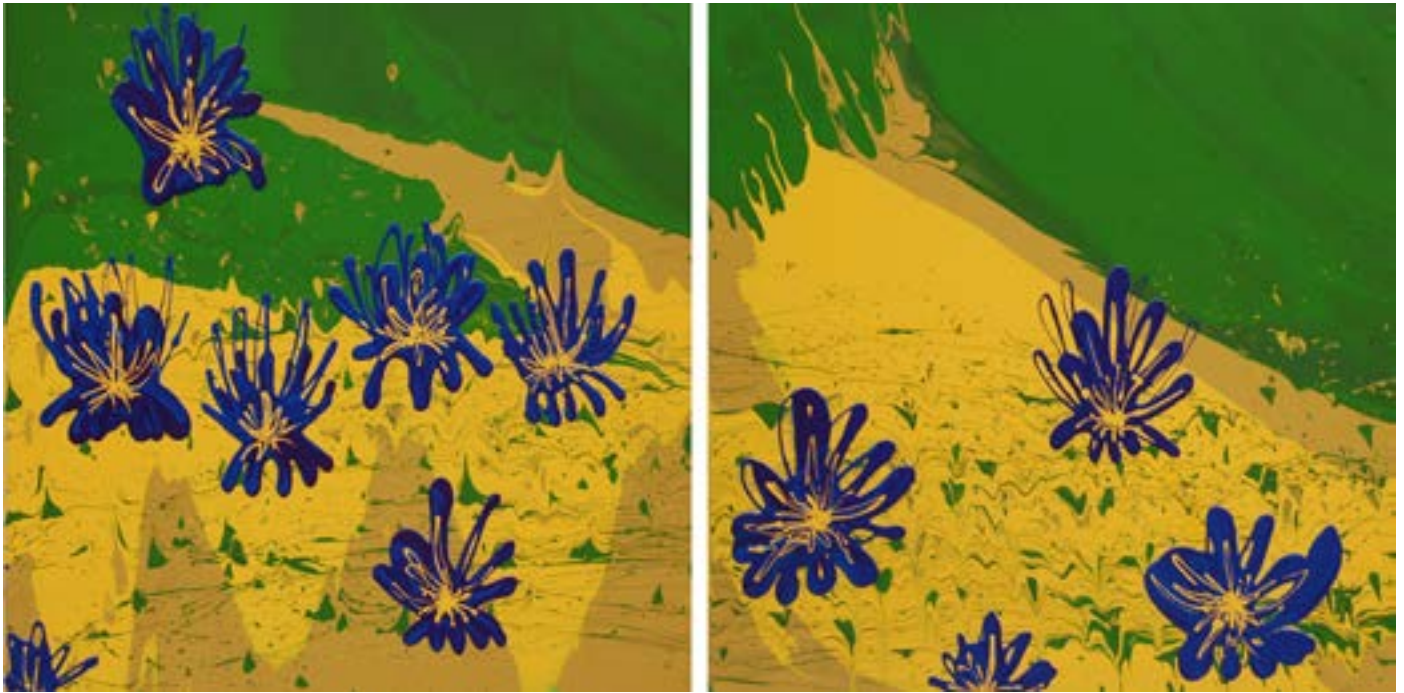


Breath of Love

72" X 72" in

**The red rose whispers of passion
And the white rose breathes of love
O, the red rose is a falcon
And the white rose is a dove.**

- John Boyle O'Reilly



Chasing Fireflies

40" X 40" in each

**Here come real stars to fill the upper skies,
And here on earth come emulating flies,
That though they never equal stars in size,
(And they were never really stars at heart)
Achieve at times a very star-like start.
Only, of course, they can't sustain the part.
-Robert Frost**



Enlightenment

72" X 72" in

**The path to enlightenment is not a path at all.
It is the time one takes to realize that one is already there.**



Fantasy Forest

36" X 36" in

**"Between memory and reality there are awkward
discrepancies..."**

-Eileen Chang



Ink Trail

20" X 60" in

Let yourself be silently drawn by the stronger pull of what you truly love.

-Rumi



Ivory Dream

36" X 36" in

**Sleep baby sleep
The day's on the run
The wind in the trees
Is talking in tongues**

**If your heart is torn
I don't wonder why
If the night is long
Here's my lullaby
- Leonard Cohen**



Let Down

30" X 40" each

**I'm not surprised, not everything lasts
I've broken my heart so many times, I've stopped
keeping track**

**Talk myself in, I talk myself out
I get all worked up, then I let myself down**

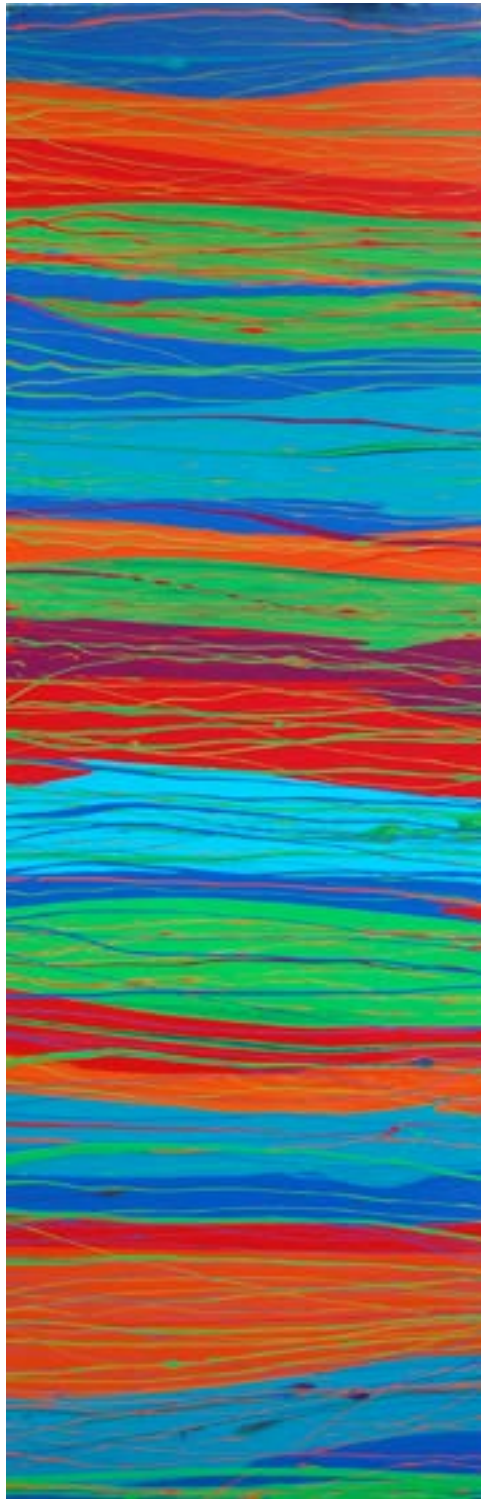
-Michael Buble (Haven't met you yet)



Maldives

40" X 30" in each

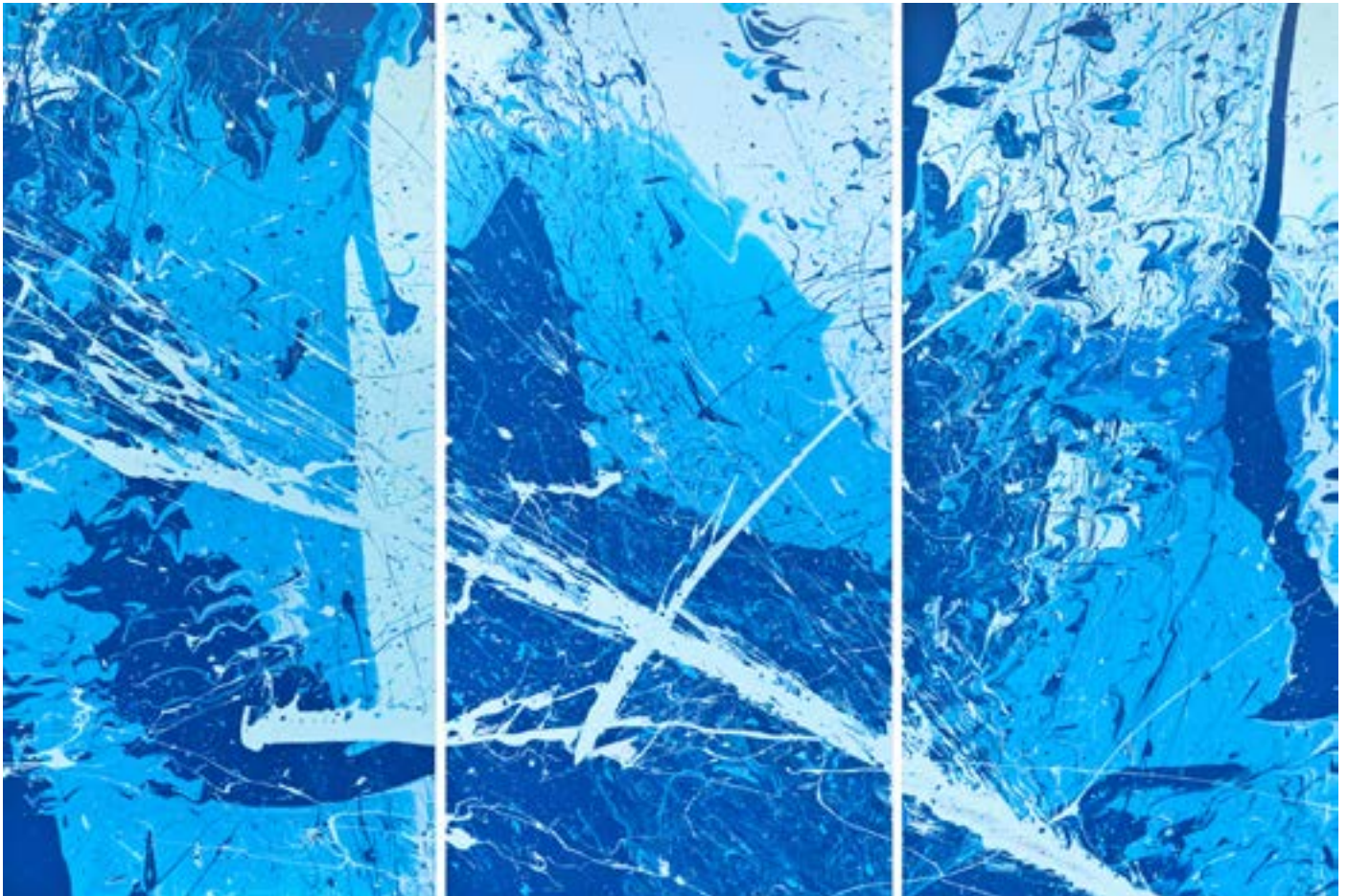
Turmoil and turquoise – Ah, tranquility playing truant!



No Strings Attached

20" X 60" in

...really?!



Ocean Motion

30" X 60" in each

Not because, but in spite of...



Parrot Parody

48" X 72" in

**We once had a blasphemous parrot
That swore till we just couldn't bear it
When we tied up its beak
He learned in one week
In American Sign Language to swear it!
- Vintage Limerick**



Round and Round in a Dream

60" X 60" in

**Once in the dream of a night I stood
Lone in the light of a magical wood,
Soul-deep in visions that poppy-like sprang;
And spirits of Truth were the birds that sang,
And spirits of Love were the stars that glowed,
And spirits of Peace were the streams that flowed
In that magical wood in the land of sleep.**

**Lone in the light of that magical grove,
I felt the stars of the spirits of Love
Gather and gleam round my delicate youth,
And I heard the song of the spirits of Truth;
To quench my longing I bent me low
By the streams of the spirits of Peace that flow
In that magical wood in the land of sleep.
- Sarojini Naidu (Song of a Dream)**



Sinew

48" X 30" in

Do you really think it is weakness that yields to temptation? I tell you that there are terrible temptations which it requires strength, strength and courage to yield to.

- Oscar Wilde



Trailblazer

20" X 60" in

**If I have seen further, it is by standing upon the shoulders of
giants.**

-Isaac Newton



Voice of Freedom

48" X 72" in

**The caged bird sings with a fearful trill
Of things unknown but longed for still
And his tune is heard on the distant hill for
The caged bird sings of freedom.**

- Maya Angelou



Whisper of Passion

36" X 72" in

**The red rose whispers of passion
And the white rose breathes of love
O, the red rose is a falcon
And the white rose is a dove.
- John Boyle O'Reilly**