



The Assumption of Mary

Statement by the Artist

Title: Assumption of Mary
Artist: Chloe McEldowney
Medium: Oil on linen

With fluid marks and large brushstrokes, the artist creates the oil painting “Assumption of Mary” to become a part of Old St. Mary’s Parish. Mary kneels in a blue robe, a symbol of her virginity and connection with the divine, in a simple white veil contrasted against a celestial violet field. In mimicry of the of the church’s stained glass imagery, this ethereal background further emphasizes her significance over humanity in relation to the divine. The wispy, bright clouds that swirl beneath her mirror the stained glass to the left of the altar. About her head rests a halo of expressive golden stars.

In an expression of humility and love, her eyes turn toward the congregation, and her hands lie gently on her chest in contemplation of her immaculate heart. The completed image illustrates a mother, the glory of heaven, set above the moon and stars, ever supporting humanity with her love and prayer.

Chloe McEldowney

My Soul Glorifies the LORD!

My Spirit Rejoices in GOD my SAVIOR!

The ALMIGHTY, has done great things for me

- HOLY is HIS NAME!

A SPECIAL FEAST

An aspect of our Lady’s holiness is brought out in her oldest liturgical feast, the Assumption. The meaning of this doctrine is that Mary is one with the risen Christ in the fullness of her personality, or as we commonly say, “in body and soul.”

Pope Pius XII solemnly proclaimed on November 1, 1950: “The Immaculate Mother of God, Mary ever-virgin, after her life on earth, was assumed, body and soul into heavenly glory.”

[Behold Your Mother: Woman of Faith, National Conference of Catholic Bishops, November 21, 1973, no. 57.]

On Wednesday, August 15, 2018, the parishioners of Old St. Mary’s Catholic Church celebrated its patronal feast day with the blessing of this new image of Mary.

Back in 1833, the parish was established as St. Mary of the Assumption - the first Catholic Parish in Chicago. Ten years later, under the same title, when Chicago became a Diocese, the parish became the first cathedral.

Following the great Chicago fire, the building destroyed, the parish continued its mission to proclaim the Gospel, now as Old St. Mary’s Church. Holy Name became the new cathedral, and Chicago and its catholic community grew and thrived, South and North and beyond. In each age since, our parish like the Archdiocese itself, has proclaimed the Gospel anew, through action, words and images that express the belief and dedication of the people.

Our new image, *THE ASSUMPTION OF MARY*, expresses our faith in a new way, and now inspires us to reflect on the great mysteries of the faith and proclaim them anew with our lives individually and as Church.

Rev. Brad Schoeberle, CSP - Pastor

About the Artist

CHLOE McELDOWNEY

b. 1991, Russia, Ohio

A native of the very small town of Russia, Ohio, Chloe found drawing and painting to be a space just for herself. As the second oldest of eight children, Chloe's family was constantly shifting, as her parents welcomed in foster children, single mothers, or anyone in need of a place to stay. As a child, Chloe became fascinated with the



human experience, human relationships, and the stories being told by these shifting family members. These relationships fueled a deep passion for figurative art at an early age.

In 2014, Chloe received her BFA from the University of Dayton, focusing on painting and printmaking; her figurative work concentrating more on the basics of anatomy, technique, and observation. During undergraduate, she was awarded a Yeck College Artist Fellowship at the Dayton Art Institute. Her senior year, Chloe ranked as a finalist in the Excellence in Visual Arts Awards by the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Ohio.



In 2015, Chloe moved to Peoria, IL and became a resident artist at the Prairie Center of the Arts, enjoying a year of painting, printmaking, volunteering, and teaching. A year later, she was awarded a six-month residency at Access Arts in Columbia, Missouri. During these artist residencies, Chloe's figurative work pushed beyond likeness and representation. Her paintings started to focus on the subjects themselves, using color and mark to reflect these relationships and stories.

Chloe has exhibited her work in over fifty exhibitions across the United States, including the Dayton Art Institute in Dayton, OH, Tag Gallery in Santa Monica, CA, the Riverfront Museum in Peoria, IL, and recently Anne Irwin Fine Art, in Atlanta, GA. Chloe currently works and resides in Wilmington, DE.



www.chloemceldowney.com