

works in the “runes revealed” exhibition and *artist statements... cont'd*



Pamela Fingado
 BEGINNING, monotype with mixed media
The runes in this piece are called, in Old English, gyfu, meaning gift; the shape is an X. I placed this symbol “X” numerous times on one half of the piece using them as a graphic background. “Beginning” references new growth, the seeds of a beginning; the gold glitter extending from the bottom right corner, and two green leaves and a yellow flower represent the actual fulfillment of that growth.



Norma Anderson Fox
 BIRCH BARK BASKET WITH RUNIC ALPHABET
 birch bark
I inscribed the runic alphabet in this sculpture formed by a continuous piece of birch bark. I create pieces with a strong presence of their own, divorced from any suggestion of utility. The natural foliage that surrounds me is where my inspiration comes from.



Jenny M.L. Wantuch
 LETTER IN RUNES
 oil, charcoal and gold leaf on paper
This artwork is inspired by the way people during the Viking age created monuments for their loved ones; it commemorates my father. A 1,000-year-old rune stone praising an ancient and brave father named Ofégur stands in Upland, Sweden, on the farm where my father grew up. My artwork is a letter to my dad, translated from modern Swedish to the runic alphabet. The final letter is decorated with gold leaf for all the wonderful memories I have of him.



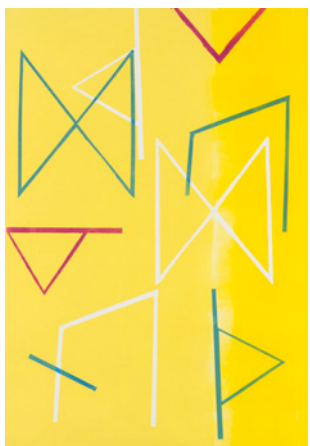
Matlena Hourula
 REBIRTH, mixed media encaustic wax painting on birch wood panel
“Rebirth” was inspired by the rune Berkana, which symbolizes rebirth of the spirit. This year has been a living testament to how death, birth, life, and the strength of our spirits all flow together in the cycle of our lives. The strength and healing we are able to draw from within ourselves in times of desperation is powerful and beautiful.



Helene Sobol
 TALL SHIP, STAVANGER, NORWAY
 photographic print on canvas
In the Old Futhark alphabet in use from c. 200 - 800 AD, the rune Raidō was interpreted to mean ride. Later, the meaning came to encompass not only physical travel, but also a concept of metaphysical or spiritual journey. My photograph is a nostalgic reminder of journeys in the past – people traveling by ship in search of a better life in faraway lands.



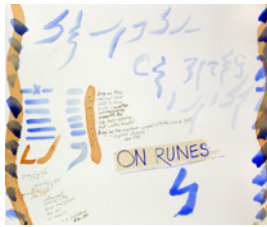
Lee Williams
 BERKANA 3 - INTO NEW FORM
 acrylic, unryu washi paper, aquarelle on canvas
Berkana symbolizes the birch tree and represents the cycle of growth from one form of being to another. Berkana came to me during a time of great changes, both painful and joyful-the entry into and exit out of my life of important people, career, and places. Berkana’s special reminder to me is that each person is a participant in her own growth process.



Marc Ellen Hamel
 DAGAZ/URUZ/THURIAZ, monotype
I consult the runes for guidance and, during an especially difficult time in early 2012, I selected three sets of 3 runes each for these time frames: Now, Next, and Eventually. The 3 runes that gave me strength to follow a new direction were: Dagaz (Breakthrough), Uruz (Strength), and Thuriiaz (Gateway). This monotype reflects a new focus in my art. Having been primarily an abstract oil painter, I now also explore printmaking, using very bright colors and clear shapes in a spontaneous and surprising way. I used the shapes of these runes freely and simply as a design element.



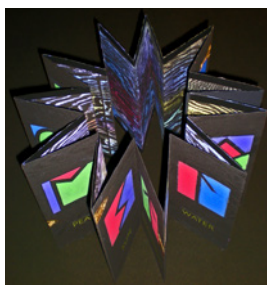
Barbara Stevens Strauss
 DRAUGHT OF MEMORY, hand-built ceramic, raku fired with metallic interior glaze and clear crackle exterior
The runes that inspired and were incorporated into my sculpture are Joy (Wungo), Gift (Gebo), Inspiration (Ansuz), and Birch Twig (Berkana). Ever since I began sculpting, I would incise the rune Berkana into my work as a signature since it resembles my first initial. Unaware of runes on a conscious level until adulthood, they have surfaced repeatedly in my designs. Spontaneity and orchestrated possibilities are characteristic of the raku method of ceramic firing, and the basis for my choosing this medium.



Loren Rehbok
 ON RUNES, watercolor and ink on paper
Runes: Where to start? By casting the book of changes (I Ching), “resolution with one moving line” appeared. From The Man of Many Qualities, here is a quote from the Austrian Arnold Schonberg: “Extravagant emotion is the fever that purges the soul of impurity.” The moving line changes caused the divination to change into the Creative Principle. A quote by the Italian Poet Eugenio Montale, also from The Man of Many Qualities: “Bring me then the plant that points to those bright Lucidities swirling up from the earth, And life itself exhaling that central breath! Bring me the sunflower crazed with the love of light.” Which then leads to the rune Sigel, the Sun.



Diane Rusnak
 JOY, colored pencil/paper
I chose the rune Wunjo randomly; it means Joy. It took me on an artistic journey into childhood. The children are playing around and within the rune letter. This reminded me of an image I saw long ago of a medieval nun who had painted herself exercising on a large illuminated letter from a bible page, which she had designed.



Maj-Britt Hilstrom
 RUNIC ALPHA BOOK, handmade artist’s book, woodcut, monotype and gold leaf on French Arches black paper
In this handmade book, twenty-one images of a runic alphabet are printed with interspersed gold leafed herring images. Many of the surviving rune stones are believed to be memorials to fishermen lost at sea. Herring is and was one of the most sought after catches. While overfishing of many species of fish is endangering their survival, herring is not in danger of extinction.



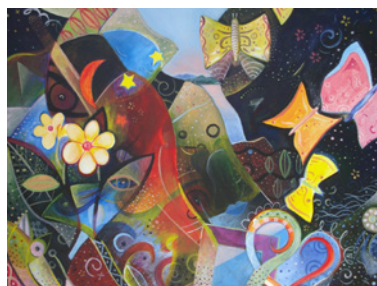
Kristin Lindseth Rivera
 AWAKENING
 bronze sculpture consisting of three wall-mounted heads
The runes that I used as inspiration for this work include Raido, for growth in the journey; Ansuz for inspiration, a true vision and self-knowledge; Gebo for sharing with others, and Wunjo for fellowship and joy

in living. My serial piece conveys the process of feeling fragmented or incomplete and then of awakening and finally adopting the runes for change. The runes appear in the third head; they are carved or inscribed in the face.



Russell Herrman
 CHROMOSOMAL RUNES
 color pencil & watercolor
Just like runes, chromosomes are a mystical part of living beings. Runes are primal and pre-date modern humans as well as forming part of the modern alphabets. I chose to display them as a chromosomal alphabet floating in a primordial liquid medium. The runes that I chose resonate with me, an abstract artist, for their shapes as well as their meanings. I chose to combine the collective

meaning of each rune into a narrative. Loosely translated they mean: “I feel that runes take me, a male, on a journey from Norwegian ice to water, bringing me to the joy of daylight and abundance.”



Helena Tiainen
 LEARNING TO SEE, acrylic on canvas
When painting “Learning to See,” I was contemplating 3 runes: Sowelu (wholeness, life forces and the sun’s energy), Jera (harvest, fertile season, and one year), and the blank rune (the unknowable and the god Odin). The painting is about the process of learning to see how truly interconnected is all life, existence, and creation on planet Earth.

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