

## HUDSON VALLEY CENTER for CONTEMPORARY ART

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For immediate release:

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**Hudson Valley Center for Contemporary Art  
presents a panel discussion:**

***Contemporary Art as a Bridge to  
Cross Religious Dialogue and Understanding***  
**July 29, 2007, 4 – 6 pm with Reception to follow**

(Peekskill, NY) On the occasion of the last day of the exhibition **reverence**, the HVCCA presents a panel discussion on the topic of "Contemporary Art as a Bridge to Cross Religious Dialogue and Understanding" on July 29, 2007 from 4 – 6 pm with a Closing Reception to follow. **Admission is \$10 for the general public and \$7.50 for HVCCA Members.**

This presentation marks the official closing of **reverence**, the HVCCA's critically-acclaimed exhibition that also served as a foundation for educational initiatives aimed at engendering inter-communal respect and admiration. In a world torn apart by religious, cultural and political tensions, **reverence** investigates the works of artists who appeal to the universal need for spiritual and emotional succor. By presenting works that have no specific religious iconography yet are designed to inspire, **reverence** attempts to help viewers bridge divisive issues and enter into an embrace of what unites all human beings. "Contemporary Art as a Bridge to Cross Religious Dialogue and Understanding" brings together a panel of theologians from particular religious backgrounds who are vested in the arts and seek to open a discussion in which a true admiration of 'the other' can be nurtured.

### **About the panelists:**



**Mary C. Boys:** Skinner & McAlpin Professor of Practical Theology at Union Theological Seminary

Professor Mary C. Boys has her master's and doctoral degrees from the joint program of Columbia University and Union Theological Seminary in New York. She has also done advanced study at the Theological Institute in Jerusalem, Israel and is the recipient of the Doctor of Humane Letters degree, *honoris causa*, from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. Her publications include *Educating in Faith: Maps and Visions* (1989) and *Has God Only One Blessing? Judaism as a Source of Christian Self Understanding* (2000). She has appeared in numerous TV and radio interviews, has edited some 70 books and journals, and has been the recipient of several fellowships and residencies, including the Lilly Foundation and the Henry Luce III fellowship in Theology in 2005.



**Rabbi David Greenstein:** Professor of Rabbinics, Mysticism and Jewish Thought, & Rosh ha-Yeshiva, Academy for Jewish Religion

Rabbi Greenstein holds a master's degree in Talmud and Philosophy from Yeshiva University, an MFA from Queens College and his doctoral degree from New York University in Kabbalah and Rabbinics. He is the Rosh Yeshiva at the Academy for Jewish Religion, a non-denominational rabbinic and cantorial seminary located at The College of Mt. St Vincent in Riverdale, New York. He is a core faculty member of The Skirball Center for Adult Jewish Learning at Temple Emanuel in Manhattan and the author of essays on Jewish Thought and Culture. For many years he was an exhibiting artist, mainly in the milieu of abstract painting.



**Elinor Aisha Holland:** Calligrapher, Student of Renowned Islamic Calligrapher Mohamad Zakariya & Freelance Writer and Lecturer

Elinor Aisha Holland holds a BA in religious studies, cum laude, from Temple University. She studies Arabic at the University of Pennsylvania and Arabic calligraphy in the traditional Ottoman style under the tutelage of internationally known Islamic calligrapher Mohamad Zakariya, Hassan Celebi and Davut Bektash in Istanbul. She has lectured widely and taught calligraphy in school, museum and university education programs, including the Sultan Qaboos Cultural Center, The Smithsonian Institute and the Detroit Institute of Art. Her published art works are included in such publications as *The Book of Sufi Healing* (1991) and *Believing Women in Islam*.

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The Hudson Valley Center for Contemporary Art opened to the public in June 2004. Founded by the Marc and Livia Straus family, the not-for-profit center is dedicated to the development and presentation of new art, exhibits and interdisciplinary programs that enrich our understanding of contemporary art, its contexts, and its relationships to societal issues. The Center is committed to the enrichment of Peekskill, a multicultural community that has recreated itself as a major center for art and culture. HVCCA operates a 12,000 square foot exhibition space in Peekskill and is the primary sponsor of the Peekskill Project, a city-wide exhibition of site-specific artwork. We are open Saturdays from 12 noon - 6pm and by appointment. Group tours are available by appointment throughout the year. Admission: \$5.00 adult; \$1.00 student; Members free. For more information on exhibits and programs, please visit [www.hvcca.com](http://www.hvcca.com), e-mail [info@hvcca.com](mailto:info@hvcca.com) or call 914-788-0100.

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