

Illuminated Silence, the theme of emergence.

Ya La'ford's installation, *Between the Lines*, arouses reflection of an image of the unseen, in the search for transcendence. Shrouded in dark serenity, the use of contrasting gold elements illuminates the metaphorical journey, and stimulates solitary understanding, peace, or oneness. Her installation seeks to mirror her need to disseminate and transmit humanity's unseen experiences, within layers of interconnecting lines that are echoes of a diverse but shared account.

Nathan Beard's paintings use *Exit Music* as a metaphor for transition and for the complicated and often contradictory feelings that exiting or "the end" conjures. Colors, lines and shapes are in constant transition. He uses these elements to emphasize the moment of emergence through struggle or deliberation, as well as the potential for congruity between human will and cosmic forces. It is by exploring the concept of infinity that he finds singularity, purpose and connection.

This exhibit, then, is about searching and finding, and the perplexing interplay between the two. It is about the constant cycle of diving to silent depths, only to be bathed in light as one surfaces for air. La'ford's contributions to this exhibit act as a metaphor for tendrils of inquiry, leaping from nests of accumulated knowledge to explore a dark, vast uninhabited space. In their search, her tendrils find Beard's paintings, each of which stands as a singularity emerging from a sea of possibility...not on their own, but because they were being sought.

Ya La'ford, J.D., M.F.A., earned a bachelor from Florida State University, a Juris Doctorate from University of Florida, and a Masters in Fine Arts from Boston. La'ford is currently a professor at University of Tampa and Saint Petersburg College, and lives and works between Florida and New York. La'ford is an interdisciplinary artist: educator, visual painter, installation/video artist, and muralist. In her practice she explores human interconnectivity, evidence, negative/positive space and time, metaphysics, obsession and manipulation. La'ford's paintings are included in corporate, private and public collections, and she has exhibited her work nationally and internationally.

Nathan Beard was awarded a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Colorado State University in 2001 and then worked in galleries and as an Art Consultant in Denver, CO for seven years. He grew up on a dairy farm in western New York. Prior to his university studies, Nathan lived in Egypt for one year as an exchange student and, upon his return, worked as a cowboy in Wyoming for two years. Nathan currently maintains a studio in St. Petersburg, FL. He is represented by ARTicles Art Gallery (St. Petersburg, FL) and by the Darrell Edwards Art Gallery (Southport, NC).

Ya La'ford + Nathan Beard : Illuminated Silence

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