

**For Immediate Release**

**The Gallery at Grace Arts Centre Presents New  
Paintings by Asheville Artist Harper Leich.**

*Harper Leich creates portraits that reveal an aspect of the subject's divine nature through the use of color and light.*

ASHEVILLE, NC, July 25, 2012- Asheville based artist, Harper Leich, will exhibit a new series of paintings in the Grace Centre Gallery in Mills River, NC. The exhibit will run August 5-September 13.

Through portraiture, Leich seeks to connect with and represent the magical-essential-ordinary natures of

women by illuminating the extraordinary essence of ordinary women. The majority of her paintings depict women who have a deep and honest connection with the natural world and the universe/source consciousness. Using light and color she seeks to reveal their natures in quiet moments of connection, reflection or ritual. With very few exceptions, she composes and shoots the reference photos herself with an emphasis on light and color. The time of day and lighting are critical to the composition and the setting is a reflection of the subject in some way. The subject's clothing, who she is interacting with, and what she is engaged in all reveal aspects of her nature. There is often an element of magic in the paintings, whether real or imagined, and the viewer is left to interpret these scenes in a way that is personally meaningful.

Leich graduated from Denison University in 2004 and received a bachelor's degree in Studio Art with a concentration in painting and printmaking. Following graduation, she moved to Philadelphia where she was an intern with the Philadelphia Mural Project and helped paint many murals under the guidance of master muralists. She moved to Asheville in the fall of 2004 and shortly after began her studies in natural healing: massage therapy, herbalism, energy healing, meditation, and yoga. She helped paint "The Lexington Gateway Mural" under I-240 and has worked on several private mural commissions both indoors and out around the Asheville area.

The Gallery at Grace Arts Centre is open Monday-Friday 9-5 and Sunday 9-12 and is located at 495 Cardinal Road Mills River, NC 28759. Grace Centre: 828-891-2006, [graceinfo.org](http://graceinfo.org). Exhibit open August 5-September 13. For more information on the artist and examples of her work, visit [HarperLeich.com](http://HarperLeich.com).

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