



HYLAND

A preview of

ICFF

2015

DIGITAL
VERNISSAGE

Pictured: Tom Dixon, HYLAND Lifetime Achievement Award Winner

TRIPTYCH

Editor in Chief Christopher Hyland

commissions Folditure's Alexander Gendell





Alexander Gendell

The Good Angels, Triptych 2015

Mixed media: Folditure furniture and Christopher Hyland Inc. textiles.

Commissioned by Christopher S. Hyland in honor of those who seek

Pea**c**e.



I saw in Alexander Gendell's work the singular opportunity to create a fine art triptych emanating from the fusion of the artistic aspects of furniture and textiles, a world which he and I inhabit, all the while memorializing and celebrating the good angels of Fort Saint Angelo, of Lincoln, of Martin Luther King, Jr. and of Walter Benjamin - the angels of hope and peace.

My interest regarding castles, good angels and peace began during childhood.

A haphazard assemblage of wood remnants, logos, cardboard boxes and books, constructed on the third floor of my parents house, formed my models of famed castles Saint Angelo and Saint Elmo.

As a school boy I eventually visited the real Forts Saint Angelo and Elmo on Malta, where 450 years ago an epic battle occurred between East and West.

For me Fort Saint Angelo came to symbolize a physical embodiment of peace, its namesake the spiritual. I later realized a childhood dream when the castle was returned to the Knights who once occupied it during the siege: today their mission no longer includes war, but rather the charisma of assisting the needy of all faiths and races, East or West.

The Good Angels triptych commissioned from Alexander Gendell commemorates all those individuals and entities that seek to resolve conflicts and sustain peace. Martin Luther King, Jr. told me, while a student at Lawrence Academy: “look evil in the eye and give it no succor.” Lincoln, however arduous the price, pursued the noble course. Benjamin,

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The Good Angels with Folditure chairs removed, Christopher Hyland fabric remaining

who I came to know during university, commissioned an image of an angel from Klee, and although his thoughts were pessimistic I found his narrative inspired by the Good Angels.

An alternate name for the triptych could very well be “The Holy Angels of Peace” in keeping with Fort Saint Angelo’s name.

Gendell invites us to reveal the layers by literally sitting on the folding chairs which form part of the work: integrating our bodies and in effect creating a performance piece. As his Folditure chairs are peeled away, the image of Christopher Hyland fabric remains, in this case a textile inspired by a field of millions of grass blades, each one representing a different life story, a different aspiration, yet all forming a natural, harmonious whole, a visual metaphor for peace. **H** *Christopher Hyland*