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For Immediate Release

Spirit, Place and Person: Journeys Through Time and Space

Exhibit May 1 – June 28, 2009 at St. John's Boulder Art Gallery

Featuring Gwen Bowers, Deborah Bowman, Karen Poulson

Artist Reception: May 1, 2009, 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m., free and open to the public

Boulder, Colo. (April 25, 2009) – Gwen Bowers, Deborah Bowman and Karen Poulson are seasoned travelers who bring different cultures to life through their art. Journeys, both physical and spiritual, are at the heart of this exhibit.

As artist and anthropologist, **Karen Poulson** is a compulsive traveler and finds inspiration from observing the global community through the “filter of prehistory”. In this collection, she has created a series of defaced and altered heads, a kind of imaginary portraiture. She pursued the collection after reading that the Vikings and other warriors sometimes “beheaded captives believing the head is the repository of power.” In *Archaic Head I*, as with other pieces in the collection, Karen makes an effort to reveal the “hidden face” by manipulating the image – “deforming, obliterating, masking” it to affect a “loss of boundaries”. Her goal with this series is to convey that ancient perception of power and explore “the possibilities and limitations of both the viewer’s and the artist’s relationship with the human face.” She evokes for viewers of this collection a timeless journey to the heart of the human psyche.

Deborah Bowman, author, psychologist, Gestalt therapist, and professor at Naropa University, has honed her craft as a photographer and writer for thirty years. *Friendly Protector* is an image that appears in her most recently published book, *The Luminous Buddha: Image and Word*. Deborah derives artistic inspiration from several spiritual traditions, primarily, however, from Tibetan Buddhism. Her subjects are ancient and provide an awareness of the transitory nature of life since many spiritually inspired objects have vanished over time, destroyed by political or religious fervor and by natural disasters. Deborah’s photographs are an attempt to salvage what color and beauty remain. *Friendly Protector* appears on an ancient temple in Thailand, *Wat Arun*. Paradoxically friendly, yet fierce, these protector figures form the mosaic of the fesod.

Gwen Bowers seeks to conjure the atmosphere of foreign places in order to give others “a sense of being there.” She says her art is a “journey of love” since her primary goal is to elicit from those who see her paintings a strong sense of empathy and compassion for her subjects. *Guatemalan Girl* presents a child’s profile as she quietly contemplates the water. The child’s expression suggests that she is older than her years. Does the water conjure memory, serve as the palette for her imagination, or simply instill a sense of calm?

About the St. John’s Boulder Art Gallery

The St. John’s Art Boulder Art Gallery is a non-profit organization established by St. John’s Episcopal Church. It serves as a venue for talented local and regional artists. Juried shows are developed around themes, and submissions must be appropriate for all ages. Located at 1419 Pine Street, the St. John’s Art Gallery is free and open to the public. Visit the gallery on line at www.stjohnsboulder.org/artgallery/