

venture.

I was converted to a fundamentalist faith at the age of fourteen, and have participated in various conservative church circles since then. In my experience, for the most part questions were not encouraged and were labeled 'doubt', and a refusal to acknowledge any data, subjective or objective, which did not correlate with accepted doctrine was labeled 'faith'. Even in more progressive circles, questions were encouraged but the assumption was that an honest search would end up with the expected and acceptable answers.

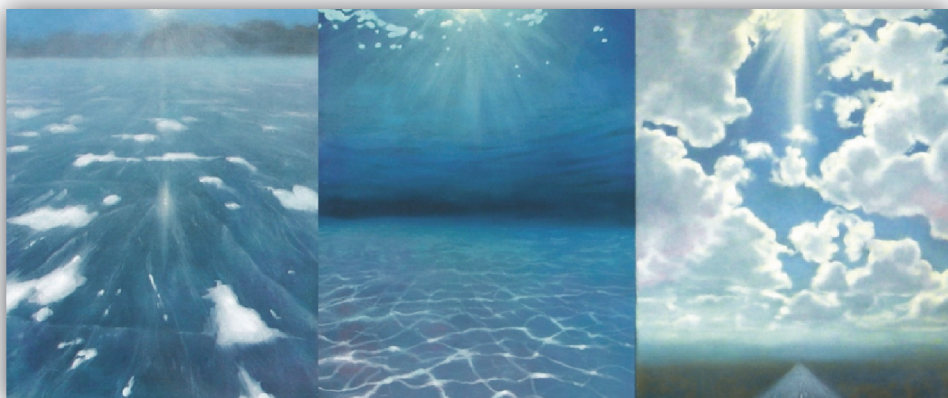
After a couple of decades of rather valiantly trying to hold onto this narrow 'faith', I finally had to acknowledge my cognitive dissonance (Be attentive - to subjective data and experience). I started asking questions (Be intelligent) and doing my own research into contemporary biblical scholarship and historical Jesus studies (Be attentive - to objective and empirical data). My commitment was to the 'truth' (Be rational), whatever that might turn out to be and at whatever cost that might have for my faith as I vowed I would not limit my quest to finding the expected answers (Critical reflection). I recognize now that the answers are not obvious, and that even the scholars run the gamut of belief through to unbelief and that I still have to take responsibility for my own interpretation of the data, subjective and objective, and make a decision about what I personally believe (Be responsible).

At a time when I was struggling with these issues, I painted my personal manifesto, a declaration of my right to acknowledge my authentic experience, ask questions, reflect honestly and critically, and make my own responsible judgments. I find it telling that I titled this painting "Reflections" (2005) before I was even aware of Lonergan's Structure of Intentional Consciousness.

“TRINITY” (OIL ON CANVAS, 2007)

68

Janice Poltrick Donato



In this painting of the Trinity, I unknowingly (and heretically) fell prey to a form of modalism, in which I represented the Trinity not as three distinct 'persons', but as three modes of one essence; water, air and ice as modes of H₂O.

Janice Poltrick Donato is a professional artist/illustrator/mural painter who is studying Studio Arts at Concordia. She has recently discovered the wonder of Theology, and is enjoying the challenge of combining these two most excellent disciplines.