



# HONORING THE ARTIST

by Marion W. Weiss

## Charles Wildbank

While this week's cover features a beautiful wave, it's no ordinary wave. In fact, the image is part of a powerful series by artist Charles Wildbank called "The Hado Series" (named after Dr. Masuru Emoto who creates microphotographs of water molecules).

Inspired by the meaning of "Hado," Wildbank's wave images are similarly energetic, emotional and ethereal. There's also dynamic movement in his waves that appears to transcend the picture plane.

His still lifes possess common characteristics; for example, his luscious strawberries, figs and pears are vital and passionate as well. They are simultaneously realistic and surreal. We feel an urge to devour them immediately, yet we are also mesmerized by their beauty.

**Q:** Why is the cover of "The Wave" important to you?

**A:** This painting was a turning point for me. I was working on a large commission for Cunard Lines, which involved a lot of international travel. As I crossed international borders, I shifted away from

the confines of beliefs and emotions; this allowed me to be free. The image reflects my feeling of expansiveness.

**Q:** I certainly got that feeling of transcendence. How has your art changed in other ways this last year?

**A:** I have applied new techniques such as metallic pigments and gold/silver leaf. For me the reflective surfaces and illumination of light, contrasted against the dark, resemble the beacons and pulsars of a lonely cosmos. As far as the gold leaf, the Incas used gold sun shields to send signals across the peaks at great distance.

**Q:** What does gold mean to you personally, not necessarily related to your art?

**A:** Gold is for me the sun, our radiant selves. It is my intention that my gold paintings close the gap between our limited and unlimited selves.

**Q:** What things have you been doing besides art recently that somehow relate to this theme and your intentions?

**A:** I loved the early morning fire ceremonies in Buddhist temples in Japan at Mount Koya last autumn. A favorite memory was one with my wrinkled toes pointing at Mount Fuji on a balmy November afternoon.

**Q:** Do you have a personal worldview?

**A:** I am an artist, and my life is a beautiful dream. I always feel loved by the cosmos, even if I would get eaten alive. The cosmos and I are one entire entity, and that is art.

**Q:** How about a political worldview? For example, what's your response to the current financial situation?



**A:** I think it has been a time of great and important shifts; I know that life is in perpetual flux. Thus, things change all over again. I use Hope. Hope is what fuels new creations for me. Hope is the rough draft, that armature in clay, my raw sketch on a canvas.

**Q:** You seem content despite the upheavals we are experiencing. Would you rather be living in another place or involved with another profession?

**A:** I follow the sun to get longer days of painting and work, like the Cayman Islands. I also very much enjoy the endless summer days in the Hamptons. As to another profession, I love what I do now. Always art, any form.

*Charles Wildbank's new work will be on view August 2-25 at The Laurel Group at Baywoods, 910 Montauk Highway, Water Mill, 631-726-5950. His website is [www.wildbank.com](http://www.wildbank.com).*