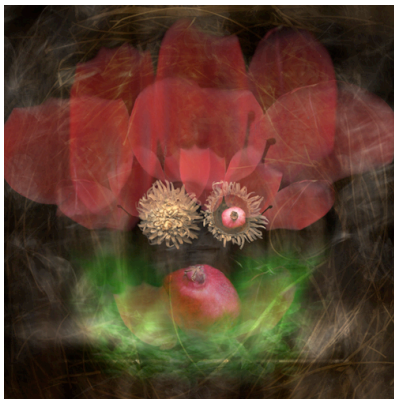


<i>Project Title</i>	"Litany of Loreto"
<i>Image Title</i>	"Mater Salvatoris– Mother of our Savior"
<i>Medium</i>	Iris giclee print on Arches Cold Press
<i>Size example</i>	"Mater Salvatoris – Mother of our Savior " 30" x 30" unframed
<i>Artist</i>	Lisa A. Johnston
<i>Style</i>	Montage Photography
<i>Synopsis</i>	This image is part of a series currently in progress and is a visual study on the names given to Mary the mother of Jesus in the "Litany of Loreto", a solemn litany of titles sung or prayed in honour of the Virgin Mary. The imagery is concerned with examining these <i>titles</i> through contemporary photographic technique which is supplied heavily with the vigorous usage of religious and poetic literary symbolism and iconography.

*Particular Image Background
And Reference Notes*

This particular image "Mater Salvatoris – Mother of our Savior" is a visual interpretation of this title and theme. As reference points for understanding the imagery the following quotations are invited:



There is a holy and chaste union between Christ the Savior and his mother, Mary, the new Eve. "being obedient, became the cause of salvation for herself and for the whole human race." – St. Irenaeus

The Virgin Mary, who at the message of the angel received the Word of God in her heart and in her body and gave Life to the world, is acknowledged and honored as being truly the Mother of God and Mother of the Redeemer. Redeemed by reason of the merits of her Son and united to Him by a close and indissoluble tie, she is endowed with the high office and dignity of being the Mother of the Son of God, by which account she is also the beloved daughter of the Father and the temple of the Holy Spirit. [LUMEN GENTIUM 53]

Salve mater Salvatoris, vas electum, vas honoris, vas misericordiae, sis pro nobis fons veniae.
-- Hail, mother of the Savior, vessel that was chosen, vessel of honor, vessel of mercy, be for us a spring of forgiveness [Jean Mouton, composition]

Salve, Mater Salvatoris!
Vas electum! Vas honoris!
Vas coelestis Gratiae!
Ab aeterno Vas provisum!
Vas insigne! Vas excisum
Manu sapientiae!

Mother of our Saviour, hail!
Chosen vessel! Sacred Grail!
Font of celestial grace!
From eternity forethought!
By the hand of Wisdom wrought!
Precious, faultless Vase! - *Adam de Saint-Victor*

"Against thy breast and covered with thy hair Christ Jesus lay, for God so trusted thee His only Son was born — dear mystery! — A helpless Baby, needing all thy care. Sweet Mary, was He even then aware — The little Saviour shepherds came to see In Bethlehem — that to His Calvary Thy love must follow and His Passion share?" - *Caroline Gilman*

Visual Symbols

Contained within this image are many symbolisms including:

- **Red Rose Petals** – Red represents the ardent love with which the heart of

Visual Symbols

Contained within this image are many symbolisms including:

- **Red Rose Petals** – Red represents the ardent love with which the heart of Mary was always inflamed towards God. The red signifies the mortification of her flesh and her compassion for the world. Red also symbolizes the blood of the cross which she was to stand under. The rose is the queen of wreath-flowers and ornamental expression of beauty.
- **Sawtooth Oak Seed** – The mighty oak grows from a small acorn like the Church which rose out of the salvation earned through Christ. Mary's womb the pod which holds the seed, Christ the sower who brings redemption to the world of sin. God the creator's almighty power shown both visibly and invisibly. The Oak Tree symbolizes Christ's unshakeable faith and virtue and legend believes Oak to be the wood of the cross. In Judaism, the oak is the tree of the Covenant and signifies God's presence.
- **Doves nest** - The image of the doves nest is symbolic of the home of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit in this case, is to make its home in the womb of the Virgin. The image is duplicitous and also serves as an image of foreshadowing a crown of thorns which symbolizes the ultimate sorrowful mystery and passion of Jesus.
- **Myrrh** – A gift brought by Caspar, one of the three wisemen who followed the star to Bethlehem. The myrrh plant contains various medicinal uses. This gift represents Christ's human nature, the Suffering Savior, the Great Physician, and the Passion. Because myrrh was used in the embalming or anointing of the dead, it came to represent mortality, suffering, and sorrow. Nicodemus brought "a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds" to prepare Jesus's body for burial ^[John 19:39]. "Myrrh and aloes, by their bitterness, their pleasant perfume, and their preserving qualities, represent the penance by which we preserve our souls from the corruption of sin and the pleasing odor of a good report rising before God " -- Thomas Aquinas – ^[Summa Theologica v. 5 p. 694] The psalmist portrays Christ as a king upon His wedding day being clothed in garments "scented with myrrh and aloes and cassia" ^[Psa 45:8]
- **Green** - color is an emblem of spring, hope, and victory.
- **Pomegranate** – symbol of love and of Christ's Passion. It symbolizes unity or nourishment of the soul. The round has a purplish-red shell and is completely packed with seeds, each of which is encased in a sack of blood red, delicious but sometimes bitter juice. Each fruit may contain up to 1,000 seeds representing "the Word of God" "The seed is the Word of God." ^[Luke 8:11]. Christ, The Word of God sent as our Savior was God's promise to man. The blood red juice suggests the blood of Jesus Christ, which cleanses us from all sin. Christ is the Bridegroom in Song of Songs as he listens to the soul who seeks Him: " I will take hold of thee, and bring thee into my mother's house: there thou shalt teach me, and I will give thee a cup of spiced wine and new wine of my pomegranates." ^[Canticles8:2]