



Oil on Canvas
48" X 30"
Charles H. Reinike III

Keys

There are four major symbols that comprise this painting: Figures, Alphabets, Keys and Arches.

The lower portion of the canvas depicts a matrix with vertical line after line of alphabets from many lands and in many layers. The alphabets represented here (over fifteen of them) range from ninth century B.C. to our Roman alphabet. In the center is the Phoenician alphabet, the precursor of most modern alphabets.

In an upper part of the canvas are keys in varying sizes and shapes. Some are simple; others are complex. Only the right key will open its lock. The arched window alludes to a keyhole. As in all the arches, it suggests a passage from the physical world into a spiritual world. Hopefully, we can find the key that fits and is capable of opening up awareness beyond the tangible world.

The alphabets are the keys to knowledge. Only the right combination of these keys forms the words that result in understanding. Only the right keys form the written words that carry knowledge into the future, answer questions and solve problems.

Writing systems throughout history are dynamic and ever changing, whether they be ancient Semitic forms, hieroglyphics, or hieratic scripts. Their similarity reveals their connection to one another even though they come from different cultures and countries. The languages and ideas may vary, but the roots and origins of their alphabets are shared.

Some of the symbols found in this painting:

Aleph and Tav – Old Testament, Yahweh as the beginning and the end of all things.

Alpha and Omega – New Testament, Christ/God as the beginning and end of all things.

Alphabets – Keys to physically capturing knowledge.

Angels – Guardians and guides.

Arch – Gateway to understanding, alludes to keyhole, eternity.

Keys – Symbols of anything that opens awareness.

Timeline of Figures – Mankind is connected to the past and future by genetics and intellect.