



***The Power of Three (Triptych)***  
Oil on Canvas

Charles H. Reinike III  
36" X 36"

## **Power of Three**

Three is much more than a number. It is the first number for “all,” creating multiplicity, overcoming duality. Duality is in balance and therefore static. Three moves beyond and its forward movement overcomes duality. Man and woman duality produces an offspring or third being. Three is the number for whole, which encompasses a beginning, a middle and an end. It represents the past, present and the future. It is the first figure in geometry, and in a religious context, it is symbolic of the Holy Trinity.

In the triptych, *The Power of Three*, duality is represented by the two flanking panels with plants in flowerpots – a symbol of Man’s ongoing attempt to contain Nature. Man’s static nature is ended by the introduction of the center panel and its evergreen and eternal cypress pointing to the heavens and the triangular window, symbol of the Holy Trinity and therefore God. Ethereal figures enter the archways in their movement toward the windows and the Enlightenment beyond.

Above it all and running from left to right across the three panels is a time line of humanity, reminder that we do not live in a vacuum, but are products of all that has gone before us and we will contribute to the future beyond us.

—Charles H. Reinike III