

'Sex and Death' by [Dottie Ashley](#)

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"Creation comes out of destruction, and sex and death are polarities of the natural cycle," says artist **Richard (Duke) Hagerty**, explaining his solo show opening Oct. 1 at the Corrigan Gallery.

A surgeon, Hagerty began painting while in medical school, using his surgical training to enhance his eye-hand coordination.



Richard Hagerty's 'Happy Man' demonstrates a Buddhist concept that a person is only happy when others are happy.

Self-taught, he fashions his fantasy-based imagery from mythology, religion, history and science using watercolor, oil and pen-and-ink.

In "Sex and Death," Hagerty notes that his painting "Happy Man" demonstrates a Buddhist concept that a person is only happy when others are happy.

Lese Corrigan Gallery

"To even introduce the very idea that the word 'happy' can be used in relationship to death may be considered astonishing, particularly in Western religion and philosophy," Hagerty says. " 'Happy Man' can face death when he embraces all, as planets and stars orbit around his head."

Inspired by visits to the Middle and Far East, the artist also uses the serpent in several paintings, explaining that "the practice of yogic Kundalini uses the serpent as the representation of energy, sex and life force. Both 'Happy Man,' showing the ability to let go of ego, and the image of the serpent represent the strength and potential freedom gained from facing destruction, death and finality."

Gallery owner **Lese Corrigan** notes, "Richard's tableaus are reminiscent of **Dali, Bosch, Kandinsky, Calder** and **Chagall**, and also frequently reference Latin American and Asian cultures."

Hagerty's paintings have appeared in solo and group exhibitions in New York and throughout the Southeast.

A public opening reception will be 5-8 p.m. Oct. 1 at the Corrigan Gallery, 62 Queen St., where Hagerty's art will remain through Oct. 31.

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