

## *Material for PRESS RELEASE about Rusty Cantor prepared for Create Space*

### Rusty Cantor — Multitalented Artist and Warrior Woman

Rusty Cantor has been an artist all of her life. She has been a humanist activist and an artist activist. As a member of the NAACP, The Fair Housing Council, UNICEF, AMNESTY International USA, the NRDC, and others, she has worked to make the world a better place. Rusty's extensive resume shows her exhibitions in Paris, Italy, Glasgow, and venues all over the United States. She's been in Who's Who for many, many years. Her work consists of paintings, bronze sculpture, fiber art, large wood cut-outs of her signature Warrior Woman.

Cantor's work hangs in the collections of Rutgers University; the Rene di Rosa Preserve; the Native American Museum in Santa Fe; and in the personal collection of Hillary Rodham Clinton. See some of her extensive work and her resume at [RustyCantor.com](http://RustyCantor.com).

For twelve of the twenty-eight years in which she has been a member of the Women's Caucus for Art Cantor has been president of its Northern California chapter; she has also, at various times, served as membership chair, on the exhibition committee, and other chapter board positions. She also mentored some of the members. For many years, she hosted Sunday salons in her home/studio so that members could get together in a less structured, more personal way. She's often served on the national board of the WCA. Cantor has also been on the board of the Women's Building in Los Angeles.

Cantor's visual artwork is extensive, diverse, beautiful, and well done. And there's a lot of it! Now she has expanded to the written word through her book *The Interview*. A work of fiction, *The Interview* draws much from the personality and experiences of its author. A skillfully woven tapestry of how it wonderfully was and how it might have been had



"The *Woman Warrior* is a symbol for all women. She is not a warrior who goes to battle in the usual sense, but rather, she fights against poverty, prejudice, abuse, sexism, racism, agism, etc. with integrity, courage and spirit to overcome her problems, protect her loved ones and make the world a better place for all."

dreams come true, *The Interview* thrills with love and achievement; heartens with the courage, wisdom, and perseverance of its protagonist; and stuns with an unexpected twist at the end.

Rusty Cantor has two children. Her son Matt Cantor lives in Berkeley, as does Rusty, and has two daughters, Hannah and Andy. Daughter Lesley Cantor lives in Walnut Creek, California; her daughter, Shauna Fallihee, has sung opera around the country and teaches voice in California. Says Rusty, "They are all charming and beautiful as well as smart and funny!"

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Quotes from Rusty about her work, from her website:

**Artist Statement:**

"My work is about hope. It's about praying in a spiritual but secular way. It's about bringing a balance of male/female energy and intelligence back into the world. We need this kind of balanced power in order to save the planet and ourselves.

"Much of my work of the past 17 years is based on the findings of Marija Gimbutas the archeologist and linguist who taught at UCLA and Harvard.

"In all my work I use my vocabulary of symbols in the hope of touching emotions beyond the reach of words. The symbols in my work come from all over the world. Many of them have decorated artifacts for tens of thousands of years. They denote fertility, water—the source of all life, creativity and death and regeneration. They show how long we have been able to imagine symbols and concepts. I believe, along with Gimbutas, that they were in part the very beginnings of language as we know it. I believe that the message of these ancient symbols is that there is only one race on our planet, the human race, and that we all share the same spiritual yearnings.

"I love making art. I have produced art in various media; paint, glass, bronze, marble, found objects and other materials and processes. I enjoy every part of it. It's exciting when a new idea presents itself. It's wonderful to play with it; to invent new ways to work with it; choose the colors, materials, sizes and whatever else goes into it. Making art is intuitive, intellectual, physical and emotional. I use all my talents and abilities in the process and that makes it a very satisfying experience."

**On Symbols and Feminism**

"I am an ardent feminist. Since hearing archeologist and linguist Marija Gimbutas speak in 1986, and consequently reading her books, I have incorporated into my art many of her ideas and symbols from the era of the Goddess. The Woman Warrior series was also inspired by my admiration for humanist and feminist ideals.

“The symbols in my work have been used in countries all over the world. Many of them have decorated artifacts for tens of thousands of years. Some are symbols for the Goddesses of fertility and creativity and some are symbols for water, the source of all life. “Others denote death and regeneration. The Woman Warrior is a symbol I created; I’ve used her in my work over and over again.

“Most of these concepts seem to have been the first ideas of spirituality and tribal living that human beings conceived. They show how long ago we were able to imagine symbols for concepts. And they were part of the very beginnings of language as we know it. Although they are cryptic they evoke emotions beyond the reach of words.

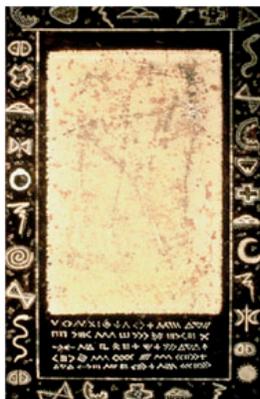
“I believe that the message of these ancient symbols is that, contrary to the opinions of some, there is only one race on our planet, the human race, and that we all share the same beginnings and basic spiritual yearnings.

“My Invocation series reflects my delight in the beauty and diversity of the universe. After reading that there are 125 billion galaxies I was inspired to imagine what some of them might look like, so I have painted and made sculpture of them. I also have painted Skies of Elsewhere and Planetscapes as part of the series.

“I am always in awe of the beauty of nature, the colors and shapes of flowers, seashells, the things we have found in outer space, our bodies, everything, including how wonderfully it all works.

“The one thing that puzzles me and always has is human nature and why it doesn’t work as beautifully as everything else. Why we seem to need to have conflict of one kind or another. But then I think of disease and tornados and hurricanes and volcanoes and I suppose that’s all part of the universe too. Conflict seems to be at the heart of everything.”

### **Some of Rusty Cantor’s Series, in Brief**



*The Woman Warrior series: see above*

“*The Goddess Redux series is a prayer to the Goddess (the feminine in the universe) to bring peace, abundance and healing to our planet. It is also a plea to my fellow humans to consider the survival and fulfillment of the generations to come.*”





The pieces in the *Invocations '98* series are a cosmological fantasy. The *Death & Regeneration* series is about conscious living / conscious dying, reincarnation, metamorphosis, and/or whatever the viewer wishes to bring to it.



The *Other Works* series was inspired by books, plays, and poems I have read and seen—works that have inspired me humanistically.



The *Fetishes* in this series are inspired by spirit. Their purpose is to let the spirit speak in visual terms.



The *Bronzes* are a more permanent way of expressing what the symbols say.



The Fiber Art series: I spent 12 years working on this series of fiber pieces. The *Songs of Sorrow* pieces were done shortly after my husband's death. This work was healing. I had a solo exhibition of these works at the Brand Gallery in Glendale, California, and another solo exhibition at the Institute of American Indian Arts. There are many, many more pieces in this series.

[RustyCantor.com](http://RustyCantor.com)

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