For Immediate Release

**The Prospero Project**
**Works by Ken Phillips**

On view August 17 to October 17, 2026
Opening Reception, Thursday, September 10, 6:00-8:00pm
Artist Talk, Thursday, October 1, 7:00-8:00pm

Image: From the Enchanted Island – Catulpa Tree Spirit, 8 x 9' (approx.), cotton, lame, satin, machine embroidery

(Denver, CO, August 5, 2026) - O'Sullivan Art Gallery is excited to present *The Prospero Project,* textile works by Ken Phillips. At a time when the artist was contemplating his eventual retirement and thinking about his next milestone birthday, he was seriously pondering the future of his own creative life, fearful that the days of his own "magic" were coming to a close. Anticipating the imminent stages of letting go, he began a series of works inspired by a kinship with Prospero, the aging magician and central character from Shakespeare's last play ***The Tempest.*** In the play, Prospero, the deposed and exiled Duke of Milan and self-taught sorcerer, plans a magical end to his

years-long exile on an enchanted island and sets into motion a series of events that would: end his exile, find a future for his own (co-exiled) daughter, reunite and reconcile him to his family, and bring his magic career to a close. The large textile works in this series reflect the rich ideas, metaphors and imagery found in ***The Tempest,*** and are part costume design, part stage setting and part illustration. They express the four seasons, four magical cultures, four alchemical metals, and four magical entities, along with other elements and themes of the play.

## About Ken Phillips

Ken Phillips received his Bachelor's Degree in Art Education and Creative Writing from Siena Heights University in Michigan. After five vibrant years of teaching high school in Toledo, Ohio, he went on to receive his MFA in Printmaking and Ceramics from Bowling Green State University, Ohio.

The medium of fabric has been part of his creative life since high school, but it was launched in earnest with his move to Colorado from Ohio in 1986. This direction was chosen in part due to the unavailability of print and clay studios, but in larger part due to his abiding love for fabric and celebrational hangings which began in childhood (*thank you, Disney's "Sleeping Beauty"*).

The connection to ecclesiastical hangings was generated from his childhood rearing in the Catholic Church, with its rich history of textile arts. For nearly five decades Phillips fashioned hangings that accompanied and amplified myriad religious rituals and liturgies. His ongoing work continues a love affair with myths, folk tales, and historical styles.

Working in cut paper, watercolor, and fabric, Phillips has had multiple one-person and group shows in Denver, and has provided fabric art for decades of Regis University liturgical celebrations, for liturgical churches in Denver, and varied conferences and events throughout Colorado.

## About O'Sullivan Art Gallery

The O'Sullivan Art Gallery is located on the Northwest Denver Campus and features the work of locally and nationally recognized artists. With a reputation among artists, O'Sullivan Art Gallery prides itself as a place where their work will be studied and appreciated by students, art critics, other artists and the general public. O'Sullivan Art Gallery is curated by the Department of Fine and Performing Arts.

**General Information**
O'Sullivan Art Gallery, Regis University

Fine Arts Building
3333 Regis Boulevard
Denver, CO 80221
Enter Parking Lot 4 from Lowell Blvd
O'Sullivan Art Gallery Website

**Hours**
Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 10am-2pm
Friday & Saturday Noon-4pm

**Admission**
Free and open to the public

**Press Contact**
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