

TWELVE SAINTS

art & poems

Nia Michaels & Knox Gardner

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art **Nia Michaels** poems **Knox Gardner**

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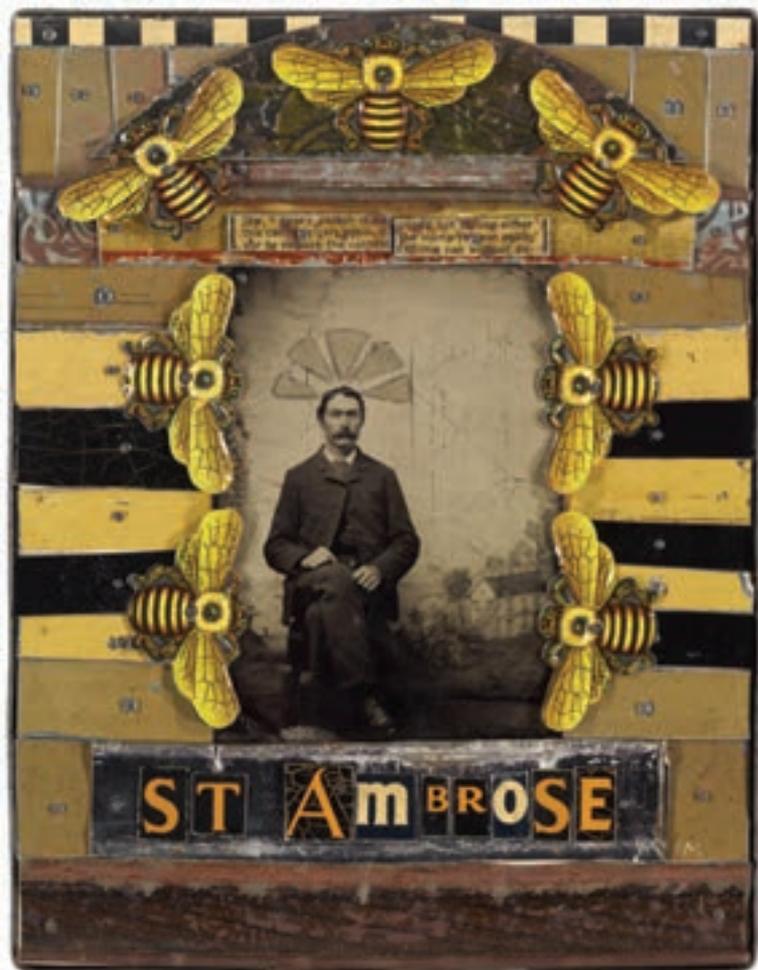
Twelve Saints
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SAINT AMBROSE

Patron Saint of Beekeepers

To each age its marvel, a growing wonder—
to every song its voice found sweetly aligned.
That striving redemption as impermanent

as beds neatly kept— every flower its place,
each herb its story bred for curative or
riotous pleasure. A brash taking of bees

piled on echinacea, our garden is born
of toil, hungry conciliation between
the comb. O that *sweetness*, summer abounding.

SAINT CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

Patron Saint of Librarians & Wheel Makers

A beautiful myth— the burning library
your shattering touch demanding answer
from the men binding your half, a slackening

thought *destruction appears on the local scale*
brights & ball peen hammer, cutting past coherence,
now broken hub & spoke angering him that

condemns you, while smoke writes an argument which
you proud in faith reject, not hearing the scrolls
hissing and the shelves, like your life, unburdened.



ST MARGARET
OF CORTONA

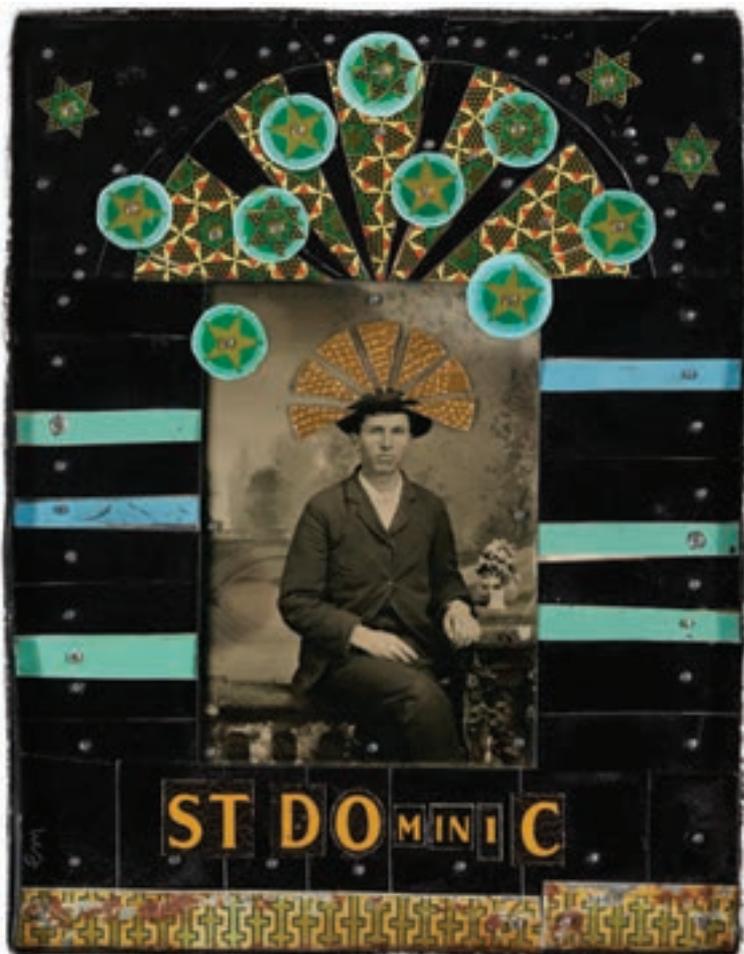
SAINT MARGARET OF CORTONA

Patron Saint of Depressives

Wild girl, when hounds arrived without your master
rupturing the threshold, did you snatch jewels
considering the unforgiving future

among men? There is no place for a woman
who loves pleasure more than station, craving much
like the weather of Spring's heartless seduction.

The movies would give you howling fields or dank
gutters, but you took that madness rending sharp
your heart's building of hill mansion room & lock.



ST DOMINIC

SAINT DOMINIC

Patron Saint of Astronomy

Knowledge is a burning dog headlong rushing
through this battered world. Bright chase: the untouching
or comfort taken where & when you can. You were

a comet with its own hunger in wobbly
multitudes, building towers, grinding lenses,
honing the westward heavens. Your callused thumb

on worried beads kindles the mind as answers
scatter across the giving foreground. No need
for stars or skies or useless atmosphere.

Brief Lives

Ambrose d. 397

Feast Day: December 7

When Ambrose was a baby, bees swarmed his face and fed him honey. His parents took this as a sign that he would have a honeyed tongue. This proved true and he was known far and wide for his eloquence. He is also known for his love of music and the rise in popularity of antiphonal chant. He was beloved in Milan where he was a bishop. He is one of the Four Fathers of the Western Church.

Dorothy of Caesarea d. 311

Feast Day: February 6

As Dorothy was being martyred, the prosecutor taunted, "Where is your bridegroom's garden now?" She sent him her hat filled with apples and roses. It being the middle of winter, he understood this as a miracle and converted. They were both beheaded.

Catherine of Alexandria d. 305

Feast Day: November 25

A devoted virgin, Catherine's miracles include shattering the wheel she was to be martyred on. The Catherine Wheel is a torture where the victim is strapped to a wagon wheel and her bones are smashed between the spokes. The library of Alexandria was most likely destroyed shortly before her birth.