



NATIONAL MUSEUM OF
FUNERAL HISTORY®

[National Museum of Funeral History](#)

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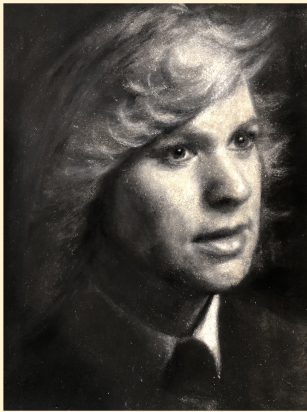
National Museum of Funeral History presents
ICONS IN ASH, a new exhibit of life affirming portraits made from cremated remains

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ICONS IN ASH



HOUSTON – Following the opening of the History of Cremation exhibit in Fall 2018, the National Museum of Funeral History is proud to announce the opening of a new temporary exhibit, Icons in Ash. This exhibit of memorial portraits, made with the cremated remains of the deceased, by artist Heide Hatry is one example of how options to memorialize the deceased are changing.

Hatry is a contemporary fine artist represented by Ubu Gallery in New York City. Her work has been exhibited in museums and galleries around the world.

Genevieve Keeney, president of the museum and curator of exhibits, states, "The funeral industry has a challenge on its hands: cremation eclipsed casketed burial as the most popular form of disposition in the U.S. and it shows no signs of slowing. Consumers are choosing cremation, but they know little about it. They don't know the process, the possibilities for memorialization, and they don't understand cremation's history. Heide Hatry's portraits in the Icons in Ash exhibit explores one option of memorialization of deceased loved ones."

Hatry's father's death at a young age left her with a persistent sense of unresolved grief and a daunting void within. Many years later, after a dear friend died, she sought solace through her art as a way of coping with this now intensified and fiercely resurfacing grief. Following a sudden inspiration, Hatry decided that she must make portraits of her father and her friend using their cremated ashes.

She invented a labor-intensive mosaic technique in which she embedded the individual ash particles into a surface of beeswax through several applications until a rich and textured likeness has been achieved. Her discovery revealed the possibility of a life-altering silent communion that Hatry knew she wanted to share with others who were suffering their own loss.

Knowing that love and loss are not exclusive to only human relationships, Icons in Ash also includes portraits of beloved animals.

For more information, go to www.nmfh.org

About the [National Museum of Funeral History](#)

Since 1992, the National Museum of Funeral History houses the country's largest collection of funeral service artifacts in 30,500 square feet of exhibit space and features 15 permanent exhibits on one of man's oldest cultural customs. Visitors can discover the mourning rituals of ancient civilizations, see up-close the authentic items used in the funerals of U.S. presidents and popes and explore the rich heritage of the funeral service industry and its time-honored tradition of compassion.

The museum is located at 415 Barren Springs Dr., Houston, Texas 77090 and is open Monday – Friday from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., Saturday from 10

a.m. – 5 p.m. and Sunday from 12– 5 p.m. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$9 for seniors and veterans; \$7 for children 6 – 11 years old; and free for children age 5 and younger. For more information, visit www.nmfh.org, like us on [Facebook](#) or call 281.876.3063.

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