



Morning offering

SOME PEOPLE LOOK TO ART to offer them beauty. Others seek out work displaying technical excellence. I am interested in artists who offer a new perspective, who present the familiar in a fresh or intriguing manner.

Linda Dolack's *Fruit Loops (Reliquary)* attracts my attention. Seeing a cereal box motif that is over five feet wide, especially one so colorful and bold, momentarily delights me. I am ready to turn

away from this oversize snippet of popular culture when I spy the object enshrined in the painting.

Within a small niche, covered in glass beads, rests a single-serving-sized box of the sugary cereal. Glittering and sparkling, cherished and belabored, what is usually tossed into the trash is offered as something precious, worthy of my attention. Perhaps this encounter will make me less confident in labeling things, people, and situations.

The gospels tell us of a Jesus who questioned conventional values, who ate with sinners and challenged religious authorities. Jesus held dear what others ignored and dismissed what others treasured—as if convention and truth are not the same.