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## The unwritten lyrics

**H**eather Shirin's paintings are quiet and reflective portraits of women with other women.

"I am interested in the relationships that women have with other women—the closeness between sisters, mothers, lovers and best friends," Shirin says. "I capture the vulnerability, strength and romance that women share when together—using materials that define their beauty and presence..."

Shirin's mixed-media portraits, mostly in a large-scale format, are painted on deep birch wood panels. Shirin purposely allows the natural beauty of the wood grain to shine through in the skin tones of her female figures. Various fine art papers are used to depict clothing, and elements such as gold leaf and metallic paint give the pieces a highly reflective appearance. Intricate designs add texture and depth

to the works, creating modern portraits in a style that is reminiscent of art nouveau period pieces. Shirin received a bachelor's degree in fine art in oil painting from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and she studied design at the Museum School of Fine Arts, Boston. She has exhibited in New York, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, and now Georgia. She is a juried member of the National Association of Women Artists. She currently resides in Asheville, North Carolina, where she teaches art nouveau portraiture and mixed-media classes.

Her upcoming solo exhibition, *The Unwritten Lyrics*, will take place April 4 to May 30 at 2 Rules Fine Art in Marietta, Georgia. Two receptions will be held from 5 to 9 p.m.—April 4 and May 2—during the city's First Friday art walks. ●

**1**  
*Netted by the Dancer's Touch*, mixed media on wood panel, 60 x 48"

**2**  
*Holding Tight When We Should Let Go*, mixed media on wood panel, 40 x 30"