

Menfolk
An Exhibition of stained glass by
Deborah Coombs

Deborah Coombs has paused in her production of dramatic windows for American Churches and Cathedrals to create the 'Menfolk' series of intimate stained glass pictures of manhood and maleness. Here past, present and future relationships have been examined through a range of highly evolved personal metaphors. Some of the images are overtly American (eagles and soldiers) other references include tributes to relatives (her father and nephew). Every panel contains its own mysterious story superbly crafted in the great classic tradition of glass painting. Such total control of a complex skill has enabled Coombs to create images whose edgy, challenging quality is very much of our own day. Indeed this sharpness of intent has only rarely been seen in the history of the medium, best appreciated perhaps in the very earliest examples of stained glass at a time when the verve of the sacred story was forcefully expressed in the black lines of the new cathedral windows. These amazing panels will later tour the United States.

Caroline Swash