

S T A T I O N S   O F   T H E   C R O S S   2 0 1 8



## INTRODUCTION

When I begin to see the images that artists have created for Stations of the Cross, the works take my breath away; I see the world, and life itself, in fresh ways. I am continually staggered at the capacity of artists to give fresh understandings, renderings to the deep questions about what it means to "be".

We ran the first contemporary Stations of the Cross exhibition at St Ives Uniting Church in 2007. It is now a cooperative venture between Northmead Creative and Performing Arts High School, Northmead Uniting Church and the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture in Canberra. Each year the exhibition seems to go to a new level. The artists seem to reach further and go deeper. And the people who come to look have deeper, richer experiences.

Each year we ask artists to participate about 9 months from when the show is to be; the long gestation time allows for the deep questions to be addressed slowly. It takes a long time to answer questions in 'paint'.

Along the way, I attempt to visit artists in their studios. Studios are very intimate spaces, and it is a great

privilege to be invited in and to engage conversation with artists about their art practice, and about life, and being. I always come away energised and excited.

It intrigues me that 16 artists, all with different life experiences, different cultural backgrounds, different art practices produce works that speak in lively ways that complement each other.

I am grateful to the artists who have shared their work with the promise of nothing more than a question that might stimulate their art practice.

The pattern of the Stations of the Cross goes back to a discipline initiated by St Francis in the early 13th century. That pattern offers a number of stopping places or stations to reflect on the journey of Jesus from his being sentenced to death to his crucifixion and resurrection. The 'pattern' provides a way of reflecting on our individual lives from that moment when we recognise that we are mortal through to and beyond our death.

No easy answers are provided; questions are held up and explored. To engage the journey is to live an intentional life.

The exhibited works are not so much about illustration of the journey, as an engagement of the emotions and issues raised by the journey in contemporary living.

How to look.... The best way is to begin at station number 1 and follow the sequence to station 16. Don't try too hard to understand or know. There isn't a right and a wrong way to look. Enjoy looking and being in the presence of the work. Be aware of the physical sensations you experience as you look. Name what you see and what you feel, what questions you have, what you think, and any connections you make with life. Choose a couple of stations to go back and spend more time with. Share your thoughts with a friend.

It is a unique exhibition! Enjoy!

**Rev Dr Douglas Purnell OAM**  
(co-curator)

**Cover – Artist: John Forrester-Clack**  
*In the presence of the risen Lord*  
charcoal and acrylic  
100cm x 70cm



## **STATION 1. JESUS IS CONDEMNED TO DIE**

The brief given the artist: Each of us learns at some point in our lives of our own mortality, that we are going to die. The circumstances and time when we learn that in our deeper being varies greatly.

Artist: Christopher Auckett

*In Transit* (detail) 2018

work in progress

mixed media



## **STATION 2. JESUS CARRIES HIS CROSS**

The brief given the artist: Learning of our own mortality, is in many senses the cross that we carry through our lives from the moment we become conscious of our mortality.

Artist: Chris Wyatt  
*Christ takes up his cross*  
gouache on cardboard  
105 x 160 cm



### **STATION 3. JESUS FALLS THE FIRST TIME**

The brief given the artist: We often 'stumble' or fall under the weight of the knowledge that we will one day die. The more imminent that death seems the harder the fall.

**Artist: Euan Macleod**

*First Fall* 2018

work in progress

acrylic on polyester

110cm x 160cm



## **STATION 4. JESUS MEETS HIS MOTHER**

The brief given the artist: How differently we relate to the person who gave us birth when we realize that she and we are mortal.

**Artist: Lachlan Warner**

*Station 4*

gold leaf, shellac, paper, cardboard

46 x 49cm



## STATION 5. SIMON HELPS JESUS CARRY HIS CROSS

The brief given the artist: We can't carry the knowledge of our mortality alone. We need others who will help us carry the burden.

Artist: Marikit Santiago

*Traslacion 2018*

second-hand toys, puzzles, chopsticks, ceramic cannister, plastic box, frames, cricket trophy, used perfume bottle, figurine souvenir, second-hand boys shoe, hot-glue gun, cloth tape, packaging tape, clear tape, artist's bedroom rug  
dimensions variable



## STATION 6. VERONICA WIPES JESUS' FACE

The brief given the artist: On the journey there are often intimate others who help us by attending to our intimate needs.

Artist: Gina Bruce

*The painter and her muse*

tempera and acrylic on gesso board (6 pieces assembled)

60 x 60 cm





## **STATION 7. JESUS FALLS THE SECOND TIME**

The brief given the artist: Our mortality continues to be a heavy burden to carry and we fall many times under its weight.

Artist: Greg Warburton  
*Second fall near Billimari*  
acrylic on paper (framed)  
91cm X 67cm



## **STATION 8. JESUS MEETS THE WOMEN OF JERUSALEM**

The brief given the artist: This is the central station in the sense that it is number 8 of 15; it is also central in that it suggests a world turned upside down. Luke 23:26-31 is the biblical story. We weep for the difficult things we see happening in our world and their challenge to our personal comfort and these hard words reflect how difficult the mortal journey might be for us.

**Artist: Paul Miller**  
*Daughters of Jerusalem*  
mixed media on board  
102cm x 244 cm



## **STATION 9. JESUS FALLS THE THIRD TIME**

The brief given the artist: Again, our knowledge of our mortality is a heavy burden and we stumble, fall under its weight. The falls in life become cumulative.

Artist: Jeannette Siebols

*Station 9*

oil on canvas

182x151cm



## **STATION 10. JESUS IS STRIPPED**

The brief given the artist: I have often read this as Jesus is stripped bare. As I watched my father and mother in law among many I have known, become fragile and ill in their later years, I was very aware of how our mortality strips us bare, particularly when we are close to death.

**Artist: Jennifer Little**  
ink, acetate, enamel paint, light boxes and digital animation  
courtesy of the artist



## **STATION 11. JESUS IS NAILED TO THE CROSS**

The brief given the artist: The process of dying is not easy. There is often a sense of being nailed to the cross.

Artist: Fan Dongwang  
*Station of the Cross* 2018  
acrylic on canvas  
100cm x 75cm



## STATION 12. JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS

The brief given the artist: We die, as Jesus died. What is death, what is it when 'we are' no more?

Artist: G.W. Bot  
*Crucifixion Glyph* 2018  
bronze and steel  
168 x 28 x 25cm

bronze casting by Nick Stranks, Sculpture Workshop  
School of Art and Design, Australian National University, Canberra



### **STATION 13. JESUS IS TAKEN DOWN FROM THE CROSS**

The brief given the artist: I have been taken with the power of the pieta for a very long time. Sometimes in the Christian and Western community we give so much emphasis to the death on the cross that we forget the people at the foot of the cross who hold that battered and beaten and now, dead, Jesus. Can there be any more painful thing in life than for the mother who gave birth, to hold her tortured and murdered son in his death?

Artist: Saif Almurayati

*OM*

photographed as work in progress

mixed media



## **STATION 14. JESUS IS LAID IN THE TOMB**

The brief given the artist: There is something here of the dignity of the community that lays the bodies of the ones who die in their resting places. They are forced to reflect on all the questions raised by mortality and finitude and often in the process draw on religious rituals to help find the meaning in the death.

**Artist: Kevin McKay and Troy Quinliven**

*Let me hide myself in thee*  
oil, red earth, carbon, ash, white ink and  
binder medium on hessian and paper

107 cm x 86 cm x 3





### **STATION 15. JESUS IS RAISED TO LIFE**

The brief given the artist: This station is not included as one of the traditional stations, though in some situations it has been. It raises the question of how we find hope in the face of our mortality and finitude.

**Artist: John Forrester-Clack**  
*In the presence of the risen Lord*  
charcoal and acrylic  
100cm x 70cm



## **STATION 16. JESUS COMES TO WARMUN TODAY**

The brief given the artist: Jesus comes to Warmun today reflects the idea of Jesus appearance on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24: 13-25.) This story addresses the question of how we live after people who are special to us, have died. And, asks about the presence of the divine mystery in the contemporary world.

Artist: Benita Everett  
ochres on canvas

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Principal: Narelle Vazquez

### **Northmead Uniting Church.**

5-7 Hammers Rd, Northmead

Phone: (02) 8839 5814

Minister: The Rev'd Niall Reid



### **15 Blackall Street, Barton ACT 2600**

Executive Director: Rt Rev'd Professor Stephen Pickard

Organising Committee chaired by Rob Eagleson

### **Curators:**

Douglas Purnell (dougurnell@optusnet.com.au) and

Christopher Auckett (christopherauckett@yahoo.com.au)

### **Narelle Vazquez, Principal Northmead CAPAHS:**

The Stations of the Cross is a wonderful exhibition that has many positive influences on our school community. Through the work of Doug Purnell and our outstanding Visual Arts teacher, Christopher Auckett, this exhibition brings Art alive for our students. It adds to the creative arts focus of the school and creates an environment where students can immerse themselves in Art and have the opportunity to see the works of some of Australia's leading artists. The exhibition brings the real world of Art into the daily life of students and inspires them in their quest for the development of their skills. The exhibition connects with the students love of art and inspires them to pursue Art in their tertiary studies. Eighteen students are currently studying Fine Art or Visual Design since the exhibition's inception. One could say it has been a life changing experience for them. This has been a fabulous experience for our students and school to work in partnership with the Northmead Uniting Church strengthening our partnership in the wider community in promoting Art.

### **Niall Reid, Minister Northmead UCA**

Stations of the Cross has been a very significant part of Northmead Uniting Church's Easter experience for a number of years. It has provided the congregation with a completely different way of engaging with the Easter Story and experiencing God speak, with the Word of God mediated through the response of artists to the events of Jesus' last journey to the cross and beyond. Over the last two years we have moved the Good Friday service from the church building to the Northmead Creative and Performing Arts High School hall with the intent of allowing the artworks to become an integral part, indeed a focus, of the liturgy. As a minister it has provided me with a completely new set of lenses through which to conceptualise and proclaim the Easter story. As I have prepared for that service, held in the midst of the exhibition and shaped by it, I have been challenged and inspired by the artwork and how the events of 2000 years ago are realised, sucked through time, into the 21st century lives of the artists and those who engage with their work. The story of Jesus is no longer simply his story but touches and becomes their story in profound and varied ways. In all this, I am convinced that the Spirit is creatively at work.

### **Stephen Pickard, Executive Director ACCC**

The Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture is delighted to be the Canberra host for the Stations of the Cross Art Exhibition in 2018. The Centre has a special focus on creativity through the arts and culture. And what better way to address this than by holding an art exhibition in the lead up to Easter on the Stations of the Cross. This will be the fourth art exhibition the Centre has hosted in the past 12 months and it has been a great encouragement to many hundreds of people to see the Centre being used to showcase the work of leading Australian artists. The works are inspiring, challenging and engaging. They are a wonderful media through which the important issues and questions are raised about life, faith and meaning in today's world. We are particularly grateful to the Rev'd Dr Doug Purnell who has organised and curated this exhibition.

**“The traditional stations are a lingering expression of medieval devotion. They are existential prayer with a much wider frame. It is a pattern of life shaped by the human journey from the time we become aware of our mortality or finitude through our sufferings and until we face death.”**

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