

STATIONS OF THE CROSS 2016

((CHOSE AN Image for cover from those below))

Northmead Creative and performing Arts High School
Northmead Uniting Church

Introduction

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... to participate in the reflective journey is a discipline that helps us to live an intentional life.

Each year we invite a number of artists to participate in the project; they are randomly allocated a particular station, offered a pastorally informed commentary as a brief for their work, (the particular brief for each artist is placed alongside the image in the catalogue,) and then the artist is given the freedom to use their artistic discipline to address the questions in ways appropriate for them.

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.

For me as curator, each year there is an excitement as the completed works are assembled and fresh ways of viewing old questions come to light. And it continually intrigues me how artists working separately offer works that speak to each other and create a very special environment for engagement and reflection. We thank each of the artists for the gift their contribution is to this exhibition.

The cooperation between the Northmead Creative and Performing Arts High School and the Northmead Uniting Church is an important part of this exhibition. Bringing the works of leading Australian artists into the school enhances the educational possibilities for students through both the technical quality of the artists' works, and, the willingness of the artists to wrestle significant existential questions with integrity.

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 feel, what questions you have, what you think, and any connections you make with life. Choose a couple of paintings to go back and spend more time with. Share your thoughts with a friend.

It is a very special exhibition! Enjoy!

Rev Dr Douglas Purnell OAM (co curator)

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Rev Dr Douglas Purnell OAM

1. Jesus is Condemned to Die.

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 Victoria Peel

Towards surrender 59.5 x 46.5cm acrylic and oil pastel



2. Jesus Carries His Cross.

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: Julie Harris

The Dark Stations, Station Number 2.

Print on canvas



3. Jesus Falls the First Time.

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: Jenny Little

Video still (plus drawing and painting)



4. *Jesus Meets His Mother.*

How differently we relate to the person who gave us birth when we realize that she and we are mortal.

Artist: Euan Macleod

Station 4 (Artist's Mother) acrylic on polyester



5. Simon Helps Jesus Carry His Cross

We can't carry the knowledge of our mortality alone. We need others who will help us carry the burden.

Artist: Orest Keywan

size 93 x 133 x 50 cm.

footprint 121 x 50 cm.

materials steel, stainless steel, wood, polymer



6. Veronica Wipes Jesus' Face.

On the journey there are often intimate others who help us by attending to our intimate needs

Artist: Chris Wyatt (116cm x 267cm oil on cardboard.)

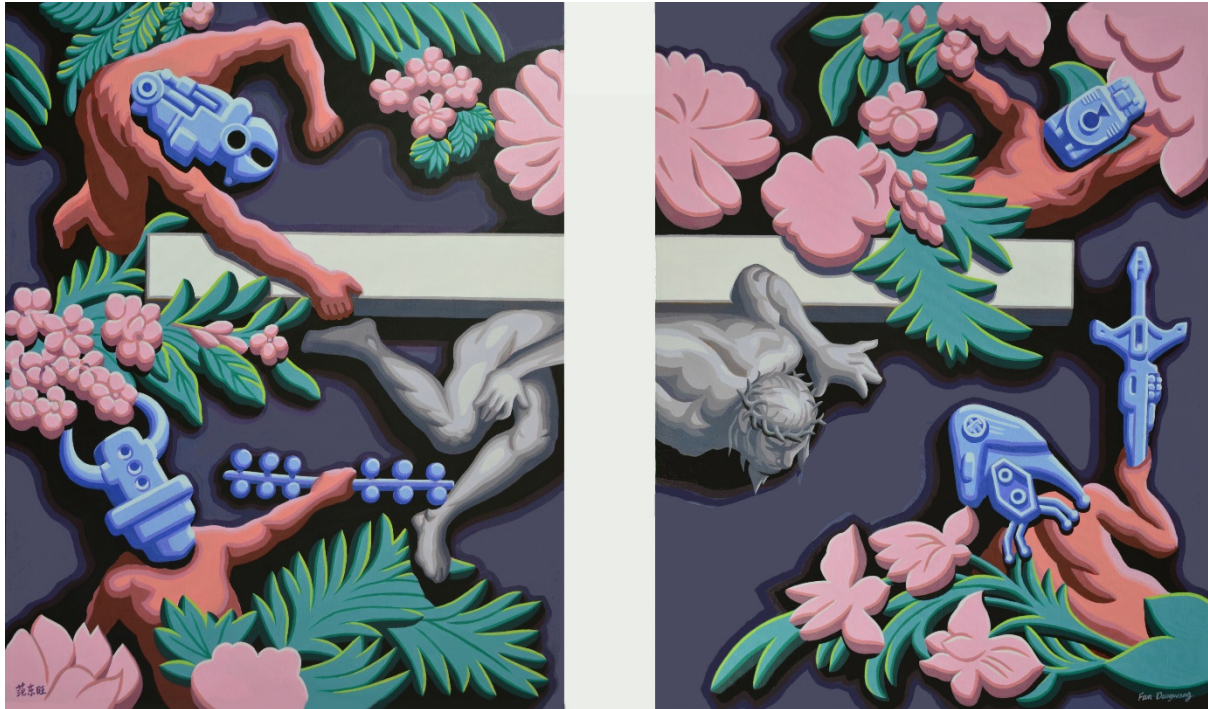


7. Jesus Falls the Second Time.

Our mortality continues to be a heavy burden to carry and we fall many times under its weight.

Artist: Fan Dongwang

76 x 132 acrylic on canvas



8. Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem

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: Peter Gardiner

diameter 600 mm, oil on board.



9. Jesus Falls the Third Time.

Again, our knowledge of our mortality is a heavy burden and we stumble, fall under its weight, even in those moments when we are able to say 'I AM'

Artist: Douglas Purnell

Acrylic and graphite on paper, 101 x 70cm



10. Jesus is Stripped.

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: John Reid

122cm x 122 cm
Acrylic on board



11. Jesus is Nailed to the Cross.

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

Artist: Troy Quinliven



12. Jesus Dies on the Cross.

We die, as Jesus died. What is death, what is it when 'we are' no more?

Jesus dies on the cross

Artist: Garry Foye

The Death of Jesus on the Cross, multi media



13. Jesus is Taken Down from the Cross.

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?

Jesus is taken down from the cross
Artist: Greg O'Brien



14. Jesus is Laid in the Tomb

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: Chris Auckett

Preliminary drawing for sculpture



15. Jesus is raised to life.

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.

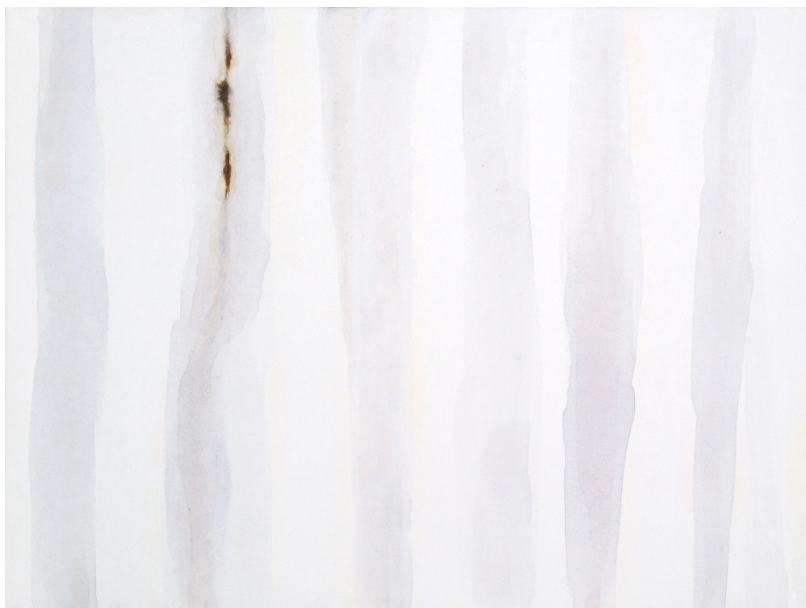
Artist: Marilyn Fairsky White on White video (still)



Station Number 16 "Jesus comes to Warmun," 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: Dell Walker

Acrylic on canvas
125.5cm x 94.5cm



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“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.”