

CVAN NEWS

CHRISTIAN VISUAL ARTS NETWORK

ISSUE #2 November-December 2006

This month CVAN news is looking to the future—and not just because issue #2 stealthily became the 'November-December' issue, disregarding the month of October entirely!

After an inspiring prayer time in the 'Louver Gallery' at *Blackstump*, the CVAN team is all fired up to bring glory to God in the visual arts so get excited! Check out p2 for thoughts on future Stump exhibitions.

The *Create to Advocate* exhibition is currently on show at Parliament House in Canberra addressing the future of global poverty. See the write-up on page 3.

We're kicking off a series of CVAN events in Sydney this month starting with a "Meet, Greet & Create" in the Botanic Gardens (see back page for details) and in the works for early December is a gathering at the fabulous *Art Sanctuary* in Fairlight (see website www.theartsanctuary.com.au)

Looking to Melbourne in 2007, the *Christian Artists' Factory* (check out their website at www.christianartists.com.au) will be holding *Ignition* in early 2007—a gathering of creatives from all around Australia providing "an opportunity to sharpen skills, collaborate across disciplines and examine what it is to be truly human and truly spiritual." Details are still to come, but it would be excellent for CVANers to get involved, and the scoop from Sue Marks is that there will be a gallery and the theme will be 'Abandonment and Adoption.'

Please check out the upcoming exhibitions, events and opportunities that are listed on p4 and get involved!

Thanks to all who expressed interest in contributing articles/reviews etc to CVAN News... keep them coming! CVAN News will be published bi-monthly. The deadline for inclusion for the January issue will be December 15, 2006.

GOOD TIMES



October CVAN Canberra Meeting—at the *Create to Advocate* Exhibition

INTRODUCING...

COLIN WHITE



How did you hook up with CVAN?

In 2003 I felt that God was asking me to set up a Christian Artist Network so we could strengthen each other in our relationship with Jesus (iron sharpens iron proverbs 27:17) and develop as artists. I would often hear Christian artists say that they felt very disconnected and isolated, and that they struggled with both the art world and also not being understood within the church. In 2004 I heard that there was an existing network called CVAN, and that Sue Marks had felt the same call from God to start up a network years before! Then at the beginning of 2005 we joined the two and kept the CVAN name for both groups.

Where do you see CVAN in ten years?

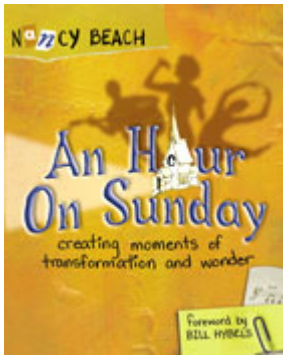
To be honest I don't really know. I think we're still trying to grapple with where we are now and with all that Jesus has done so far! But it's going to be really exciting wherever Jesus takes us!

Where will you be in ten years?

Don't think I can answer that! I couldn't have picked the amazing things that God has led me on personally this year! I'm excited to find out though! I just keep thinking of Ephesians 3:20 "Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine..."

Where are you now?

I feel very much that Jesus is taking me on a life time adventure, to follow him where ever he leads and to 'rest' in him. On a more practical note: I live in Canberra, am doing an internship with my Church amongst other things in youth and prayer, am working at the School of Art Library @ ANU and am relief teaching within the ACT government schools.



An Hour On Sunday,
Beach Nancy
Hardback
Koorang's Price: \$37.95

To be honest, when this book was first placed into my hands by the youth minister at my church—I rolled my eyes... and not because it appeared to be another publication that confuses creativity with reckless disregard for graphic design. I thought it would simply be another confirmation of my fears about churches that try to treat art as a utility—something that can be used and contained by the Sunday service—as if that is the only way that it can serve a 'Godly' purpose.

But Nancy Beach, surprised me. She is a woman with a passion to see church services transformed from lifeless "entropy" to life-changing experiences through creative means. Sure I have my hang-ups about mixing art and liturgy, but Nancy argues—why shouldn't church services be creative? It was actually a bit of a wake-up call for me.

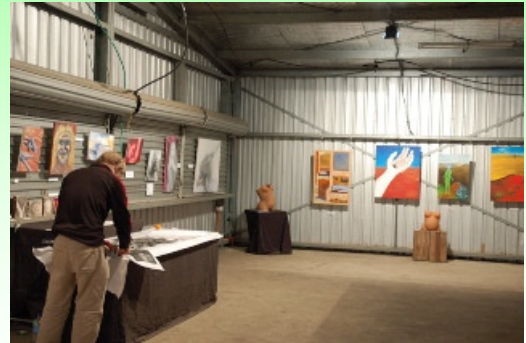
She's really on the ball about the value and power of art, the importance of authenticity, the potential of every human being to be creative as they are made in the image of God. The cynical part of my brain didn't like that her concept of church seems to be limited to the church *service*—I believe that if you're a Christian, and you make art, then you're already making art in the *church* since we are a people not a place—but my good conscience reminded me that this is a book about *church services* not a book specifically about art or theology. She outlines some excellent strategies for leading a church creative team and working towards inspirational and engaging Sunday services.

I recommend it to anyone involved in a creative team at church. It's a good read but I must warn: the constant font-changing may cause head explosion!

- Sarah Woods

STUMP

Sue Marks reflects on Black Stump's first art gallery— The Louver



Gabby Wilmott and myself had a great time setting up the Louver Gallery exhibition space at [Black Stump](#) back at the beginning of October. After a successful exhibition, it looks like the Louver will be a permanent fixture at Stump from now on.

As it was the first year of the Louver's existence, the artists were exhibiting by invitation. But next year we are hoping to open it up a bit so that work can be submitted for selection to the Louver exhibition. We will keep you informed about the submission dates and where to get the application forms from.

There was a large amount of dust flying around the place and it was noticeable on the pottery in particular, which was easily cleaned, but I do have to wonder how much of it settled on the canvases. We are hoping that we can perhaps have the building hosed out before we set up next year if possible (depending on water restrictions etc.)

There will be opportunities for artists to help man the gallery over the Stump weekend if you're interested. We are also hoping to have more visual art workshops available over the three days so keep your eyes open for the list of those as well.

All in all we are hoping that from little things big things will grow!

-Sue Marks

COMIC CORNA



CREATE TO ADVOCATE

Parliament House, Canberra
Monday 9th October—Tuesday 7th November
Monday-Friday 9am-5pm

This month in Parliament House, Canberra hangs a small but inspired exhibition of artworks based on the theme of 'global poverty.'

The *Create to Advocate* exhibition is championed by two women—Nadia Turner and Carlyn Chen. After meeting through Tear Australia they decided to collaborate on an artistic project for the Micah Challenge campaign to halve global poverty. The first *Create to Advocate* exhibition was held at the William St Studios in Sydney in September. Workshops were also held in Sydney and Melbourne to provide information about the Micah Challenge and Make Poverty History campaigns to artists from a range of creative mediums and to encourage them to speak up about what they believe and to realise the power of art for advocacy.

***Create to Advocate* is about engaging people's imaginations to raise awareness about injustice, as well as expressing your dreams and visions of a world where poverty is history.**

The idea of staging an exhibition in Canberra at Parliament House came out of a meeting with Tanya Plibersek, MP for Sydney, who suggested the venue. After many phone calls and plenty of administration the exhibition was secured.

Create to Advocate coincided with the 'Voices for Justice' Micah Challenge National Gathering, being officially opened on the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty on October 17. The major activity of the national gathering was to lobby politicians for the Micah Challenge cause. Significantly, the opening was attended by Tanya Plibersek, MP and Kerry Bartlett, MP—members from opposing parties.

The exhibition, says Carlyn, played an important role in supporting the Micah Challenge cause by engaging people on a different level—not just purely intellectual. Though not an artist herself, she believes the creative arts are a powerful way to reach out to people. She counts the exhibition a success, saying that the politicians were moved by the artwork and the passion of the artists who spoke about their pieces at the opening. During the Senate sitting on October 19, Senator Guy Barnett personally congratulated the Make Poverty History and Micah Challenge campaigns and said:

"I note that there is an exhibition currently in Parliament House... called the Create to Advocate 2006 art exhibition ... I toured it this afternoon, and it is quite impactive and moving"

CVAN would like to add it's congratulations to Nadia and Carlyn for arranging such a meaningful and powerful exhibition and for embracing the visual arts as a catalyst for change.

Carlyn hopes that the exhibition will tour around the country in the near future, and that further exhibitions might result from the momentum gathered.

For more information contact voices@micahchallenge.org.au

The Micah Challenge is based on Micah 6:8

*He has showed you, O man, what is good.
And what does the Lord require of you?
To act justly and to love mercy
And to walk humbly with your God*



Exhibited work by Wendy Manzo



Exhibited work by Joel McKerraw

CLASSIFIEDS

EVENTS

CVAN Sydney— Meet, Greet & Create! Sat 11 Nov, from 11am, Botanic Gardens, Sydney, bring picnic lunch and your art materials for an afternoon of meeting fellow CVANers and making art! Contact Sarah 0414 874 948 for details.

EXHIBITIONS

Create to Advocate—Mon 9 Oct - Tues 7 Nov at Parliament House, Canberra. An exhibition supporting the Micah Challenge and Make Poverty History. Info at www.takethechallenge.org.au

Moving History - Newtown, Sydney. Live and original dance theatre, music, poetry and visual art inspired by the Newtown Mission Chapel and its history. This is the final showing for Hannah Cooper's Master of Visual & Performing Arts, presented by RockSalt Arts. See ad below

Clare Thackway—Darlinghurst, Sydney. 2 Nov—9 Nov; Opening 2 Nov 6pm; Honours graduating exhibition at the National Art School, Forbes St, Darlinghurst (Syd) Open 11.00am - 4.00pm Monday - Friday

OPPORTUNITIES

Stations of the Cross— each year at Easter *Small Boat Big Sea* (Sydney) puts on an exhibition of contemporary art based on the Stations of the Cross (an ancient form of pilgrimage through places designed to mark each of the events of the last week of Jesus' life). Applications for inclusion in the 2007 exhibition will be accepted early next year so keep it in mind!

Open Air Art Markets—Surry Hills Sydney. These markets, just launched on Oct 29, happen twice a month and you can sell your work there for a fee of \$100. The Piazza at 417-435 Bourke St, 12-5pm. See www.artmoment.com.au for details.

Avant Card— you know... those free postcards that us hoarders like to hoard... are "calling all artists" for new material. If you want to get your artwork onto an Avant Card postcard then download an info sheet at: <http://www.avantcard.com.au/GeneralPage.php?id=9>

If you have an exhibition or an opportunity to report—send it to: cvannews@gmail.com

CVAN CONTACTS

EVENTS AND GENERAL ENQUIRIES

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Ron Blanchard—Co-leader

Summer Faith & the Arts SCHOOL

Sunday January 7th—Saturday January 13th, 2007
Resort Village, Poatina, Tasmania

The Faith and the Arts Summer School is an energising and inspiring week-long residential program offered by Fusion Australia. The summer school offers the chance to focus on one of a range of disciplines such as Dance, Painting/Drawing, Music, Glass, Sculpture, Festival/Circus Arts, Drama, Clowning/Mime, Photography, Living Statue and Animation. It also explores the artist's relationship with God, themselves, and others through teaching, worship and sharing in the unique and picturesque setting of the Poatina Christian community in Tasmania's heartland.

For more info visit: www.fusion.org.au/poatina

/ 8 pm
/ thurs 30 nov / fri 1 dec / sat 2 dec
/ thurs 7 dec / fri 8 dec / sat 9 dec
/ newtown mission chapel / 280 king st / newtown

free entry / donations welcome
audience numbers very limited / bookings essential
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