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Spaces For Spirit: Adorning The Church



Synopsis

Accompany printer and textile artist Nancy Chinn in a wide-ranging and vigorous discussion about the use of visual arts in the worship environment. How have visual arts been used in Christian tradition? What are some of the hesitations and fears that artists and the church have about each other? How might an artist at the dawn of a new century create new art for the church? What does art have to do with social change? In addition to exploring these profound questions, *Spaces for Spirit* will help parish artists find new insight in the basic elements of design: light/dark, transparency/opacity, color, pattern, texture, scale and movement. Numerous case studies of actual parish art projects for study and critique are provided. You also will learn how to organize the work of artists in the church and how to use the exemplary medium of paper lace to create visual art for your worship space. With dozens of beautiful photographs (over 64 in full color), this book will challenge any community to appreciate the important role that visual arts play in the worship environment and encourage all of us to make our offerings of praise and thanksgiving to the Creator in places that have spaces for spirit.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book will inspire you to really think about liturgical art in terms of spiritual reflection and growth, not just decoration. Ms. Chinn's work is inspiring and awesome. My only complaint was that there aren't many examples of projects in small worship spaces.

A wonderful approach to making art for sanctuaries, not the "bumper sticker on fabric" approach favored by so many church banner books. Some of the designs are dated, but the text will give you something to chew on. For example, she doesn't look favorably on the idea of lavish floral arrangements for altars every Sunday, saying that the altar is supposed to be a sacred space, not a florist's display window. At my church, I adapted one of her ideas using origami cranes as pieces to form a much bigger design suspended over the altar. It was hugely appreciated by the congregants of my liberal church.

Ms. Chinn's book is the seminal work on liturgical art and is a 'must have' by anyone either engaging in art for worship or aspiring to create it. While the art shown in the book is for larger scale spaces her writing and the examples of her work will inspire others who are working with small churches. How do I know? I'm the pastor of a small country church and we've learned much from Ms. Chinn's wonderful resource..

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