

## **How Can Churches Use Art as a Way to Impact Their Communities?**

Historically, art has played an important role in churches. Worship music and paintings which were created for God and used in churches hundreds of years ago can still impact us, raising us higher up and further in, opening and purifying our hearts.

What has shifted so that the arts do not have this role in churches anymore? Is the cause related to contemporary arts, or to contemporary churches? What can we do to bring an understanding of the holiness of the arts back to churches? Or, does it need it nowadays?

I would like to share my thoughts about art in churches, telling you some true-life stories about how art can impact communities in churches.

**Külli Hansen** is the coordinator of the Artists Network of the Estonian Evangelical Alliance. She has studied the arts and entrepreneurship; and has been active on these frontiers for more than 25 years. She started as an art curator and gallery-owner in Tartu, Estonia; and followed her career as a cultural coordinator of the city of Tartu, and as a business coach for creative start-ups in a regional business incubator. She is now active in business consultancy working mostly with creative industries, companies and start-ups. She currently works at Estonian Business School as a lecturer of business planning, business models, student enterprises and management of creative processes. In 2015, she initiated an annual international Christian Artists Festival “ImagiNATIONS“ in Tartu, Estonia and is responsible for curating art exhibitions at Tartu Salem Church. The topic she will present at ELF connects business and the arts will feature discussions about the value of art.

### **I. Music, musicians and the church**

### **II. Painting, painters and church**

### **III. Generations, Arts and church**

### **IV. Value of Arts for churches**