**Faith and Identity in Our Creative Commission**

Called to live life on the edge of what’s known, as creatives, we push into spaces that are often unwritten. Facing blank scores, studios, and canvases we, ‘dip our brush into our own soul’ (Beecher) and our faith and identity tremble. Join us as we celebrate and consider the tensions of our commission.

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**The place of Identity: Who am I?**

He was passionate, an innovator

He took steps to implement change, to create a new future

He looked for forward movement, to find a new order in things

He valued the artist, the craftsman, the musician

He wrote poetry, felt deeply

He did not conform to acceptable norms

He was unexpected

Misunderstood

He was a threat to convention, to ideas of orthodoxy

He did not fit in

He left

He began working for another man’s dream

He recorded his first conversation with the Divine. It began, ‘Who am I?’

*Grant Lord that I may know myself that I may know Thee.*

*Augustine*

*There is no deep knowing of God without a deep knowing of self. And no deep knowing of self without a deep knowing of God.*

*John Calvin*

*Drawing makes you see things clearer, and clearer and clearer still, until your eyes ache.
David Hockney*

*Painting is self-discovery. Every good artist paints what he is.
Jackson Pollock*

**The object of Faith: Who are You?**

God breathed and he was formed

With passions and innovation

With drive and vision

With understanding of those pressing into the unknown

To write with vulnerability

To commission images to strengthen faith

He was designed to stand out.

His dialogue with the Divine continued with, ‘Who are You?’

*But the human being doesn’t have to be afraid; we should not be afraid! ... In the midst of every situation where there is no way out, where nothing is clear, where it is our fault, we know that there is hope, and this hope is called: Thy will be done, yes, thy will is being done.*

*Dietrich Bonhoeffer*

*What comes into your mind when you think of God is the most important thing about your life.*

*A W Tozer*

*And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. John 17 3*

*OT Jeremiah 9 23-24  Daniel 11 32 Hosea 6 3*

*NT John 17 3 Ephesians 1 17 Ephesians 3 17-19 2 Peter 3 18*

*The private images held of God have a powerful effect on our behaviour, profoundly impact our spiritual wellbeing, are related to images of ourselves*

*J Ryan*

*Every artist dips his brush in his own soul, and paints his own nature into his pictures.
Henry Ward Beecher*