

Persuasive Art

Picasso once said that ‘art is the lie which leads us to the truth’. Human beings are artists, because we are made in the image of the great artist. By taking a broad sweep of modern European art (with particular reference to Picasso, Van Gogh, Kandinsky and Chagall) we will show how art sometime reflects the culture and sometimes creates the culture. Because it asks questions, pictures emotions and attempts to deal with the deepest spiritual questions, contemporary European art gives us a window into the modern and post-modern European mindset and culture. Can we use it to give Europeans a window into the Gospel?

David Robertson is the minister of St Peter’s Free Church in Dundee, Scotland (a church that is best known for being the church of Robert Murray McCheyne) and the Director of the Solas Centre for Public Christianity. He is the author of *Awakening* (a contemporary account of McCheyne’s life) and *The Dawkins Letters*. The latter has resulted in him being invited to debate and discuss all over the UK and elsewhere in Europe. This has been done in cafes, bars, libraries, universities, pubs, restaurants, village halls, and even occasionally in churches! David is a chaplain at the University of Dundee, columnist, broadcaster and debater. His interests include history, reading, music, politics, theology and football – he supports Dundee FC although his other team is Barcelona! David is married to Annabel and they have three children; Andrew (26), Becky (24) and Emma Jane (15).

I. Introduction

1. What is Art?
2. Is there such a thing as Christian Art?

II. Understanding Contemporary European Art

1. Picasso
2. Van Gogh
3. Kandinsky
4. Chagall

III. How do we use art in evangelism?

1. The Apologetic of Beauty
2. The Apologetic of Suffering
3. The Apologetic of Creativity

IV. Questions?

Suggested Reading

H.R. Rookmaaker: *Modern Art and the Death of a Culture*, Crossway, 1994
F Schaeffer : *Triology*, Crossway, 1990.
Vishal Mangalwadi: *The Book that Made Your World*, Nelson – 2011
Roger Scruton :*Beauty* – Oxford University Press, 2009

