

Prayer on the Threshold of Tomorrow

Lord, now is the time
to send your wisdom and kindness
to the tortured who,
although they have forgotten, need you.
Let the trouble of our time be short.
Let it be settled with justice.
Let the fortress of egos,
that huge barricade, crumble.
And let every treasure go to every man.
Let every garden gate be open.
But let no flower be crushed.
No single branch fall.

By Vahan Tekeyan (1878-1945) He survived the Turkish execution of over 2 million Armenians in 1915. He was outside his country at the time. He lived in exile until his death.



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Against Forgetting: The Human Condition **An Exhibit of Painted Images and Verse** **Marcia Cowles Bushnell**

Artist's Statement

The paintings were done in the last 20 years and document the rising flow of refugees worldwide: the Vietnam boat people, the Kurds, the families from Kosovo, Iraq, Rwanda, Chechnya, Central America, and Palestine among others. Many of the paintings show the plight of children who their elders are unable or unwilling to protect and who are sacrificed on the altars of political and holy wars.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu has declared; "We live in a moral world." We must cling to that belief, for our whole humanity is diminished if we become immune to the violence around us or burn-out in resignation. The title of the show is "Against Forgetting: the Human Condition". It is hoped that by facing and sharing together, the pain of others, we may be rededicated to serving peace and the wellbeing of all.

Another way to look at these paintings is from the personal knowledge that we are all on a journey to somewhere else. At times we feel displaced. Perhaps we have become disoriented within our own culture, by technology, changing values, or are far from the place we had envisioned we would be or the person we would become. May these paintings remind us that we live in a world undergoing huge transition and we are often far from home as are these others in our care.

Marcia Bushnell

Juried and Regional Shows

Andover Newton Theological School, Cathedral Church of St. Paul's Boston, Boston University Art Gallery, Depot Square Gallery, Lexington, MA, Violence Transformed, Boston, MA, Vermont Law School, Old South Church Peace Conference.

Howard Zinn quote:

“To be hopeful in bad times is not just foolishly romantic. It is based on the fact that human history is a history not only of cruelty, but also of compassion, sacrifice, courage, kindness.

What we choose to emphasize in this complex history will determine our lives. If we see only the worst, it destroys our capacity to do something. If we remember those times and places – and there are so many – where people have behaved magnificently, this gives us the energy to act, and at least the possibility of sending this spinning top of a world in a different direction. And if we do act, in however small a way, we don’t have to wait for some grand utopian future. The future is an infinite succession of presents, and how to live now as the thinking human beings should live, in defiance of all that is bad around us, is itself a marvelous victory.”

From “You Can’t be Neutral on a Moving Train: A Personal History of Our Time” Howard Zinn

“You and I are created for transcendence, laughter, caring. God deliberately did not make the world perfect, for God is looking for you and me to be fellow workers with God.”

Archbishop Desmond Tutu

“Who told you that you would be successful in your endeavor to solve the challenging problems of this world? Your job is to carry the flag for the next generation.”

Rev. William Sloane Coffin

Activism Suggestions

- Join a Forum or Peace Group
- Keep up to date on Peace events in Boston
<https://actionnetwork.org/groups/massachusetts-peace-action>
- Tell the Government what you think:
White House: (202) 456-1111
State Department: 202 647-6575 #8
House: <http://www.house.gov/representatives/find>
Senate: <http://www.senate.gov/senate/find>
- Boycott goods and divest from companies profiting from or lobbying against your issues.
- Use your feet and demonstrate. The media, by not covering protest rallies, has discouraged citizen participation. Go anyway. Meeting great people will boost your spirits.
- Use media: Facebook, Twitter, or e-mail to spread information. Share your knowledge and caring.
- Follow alternate News Media on-line: C-Span, Common Dreams, Truthout, Democracy Now, DW, Real News Network, BBC, Al Jazeera, Link TV, Free Speech TV, France24
- Protest Media Violence to sources: Movie theaters that show violent previews. Call or write Networks.
- Protest bias in the media. Let new sources know you know their facts are wrong or they are not reporting important news a Democratic Society needs to know.
- Praise where praise is due to lend your supportive opinion.