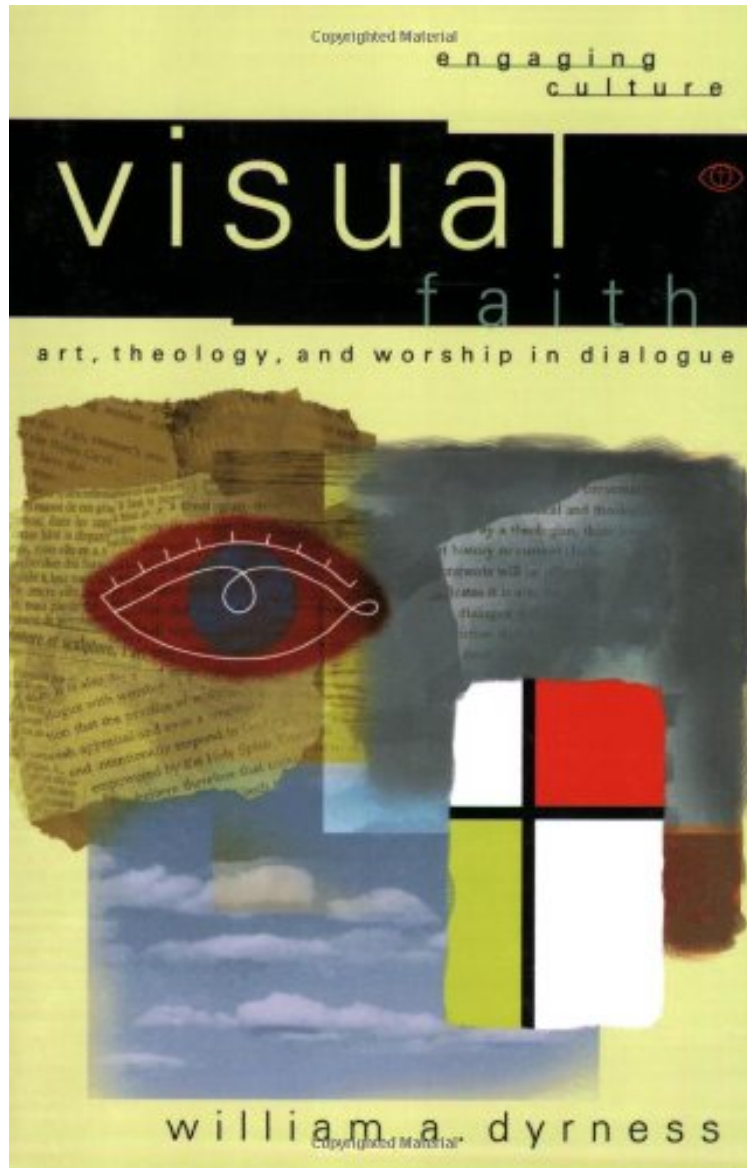


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Visual Faith: Art, Theology, and Worship in Dialogue (Engaging Culture)

William A. Dyrness

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William A. Dyrness : Visual Faith: Art, Theology, and Worship in Dialogue (Engaging Culture) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Visual Faith: Art, Theology, and Worship in Dialogue (Engaging Culture):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A Helpful Book on Visual Art from a Christian Perspective By Mark

BeuvingDyrness focuses on visual art. The book offers a history of the visual arts, an exploration of what the Bible says about art, and an overview of the contemporary art scene. Dyrness book is in Bakers Engaging Culture series, which means it is a scholarly work and therefore more heavily nuanced and technical than most readers will want. Nevertheless, the book would be very helpful for those hoping to understand the visual arts better, particularly in conjunction with a Christian worldview. For my brief review on this book and most of the books out there on Christianity and the arts, see: theologyforreallife.com/artsbooks0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. but due to the poor picture qualityBy ConnieEFor a book whose title and focus is on "visual faith and art," it was extremely disappointing to find every illustration printed only in black and white, and most of those are dark and fuzzy, not clear pictures. Sometimes the author would comment on details in a particular illustration, but due to the poor picture quality, I had a very hard time even seeing what he was referring to! I'm sure it costs more to reproduce illustrations in color, but for an art book, I do think it's a given necessity.4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Ok, not great.By Grady A. CoxGood content on a topic seldom treated well by Christian authors. It was occasionally "dry" and difficult for the reader to stay interested. I strongly recommend Saving Leonardo by Pearcey instead!

How can art enhance and enrich the Christian faith? What is the basis for a relationship between the church and visual imagery? Can the art world and the Protestant church be reconciled? Is art idolatry and vanity, or can it be used to strengthen the church? Grounded in historical and biblical research, William Dyrness offers students and scholars an intriguing, substantive look into the relationship between the church and the world of art.Faith and art were not always discordant. According to Dyrness, Israel understood imagery and beauty as reflections of God's perfect order; likewise, early Christians used art to teach and inspire. However, the Protestant church abandoned visual arts and imagery during the Reformation in favor of the written word and has only recently begun to reexamine art's role in Christianity and worship. Dyrness affirms this renewal and argues that art, if reflecting the order and wholeness of the world God created, can and should play an important role in modern Christianity.

From the Back Cover"Both theological and practical, this wide-ranging study will be of special interest to all who want to get beyond the sterile prejudices that have so often marred the relationship between visual art and Protestantism."-Jeremy Begbie, Cambridge University and University of St. Andrews"Dyrness advocates 'careful historical and theological reflection' and puts this into practice in ways that satisfy the academic mind. Most of all, however, he emerges as a theologian of the arts with a message for the churches. He offers a well-founded critique of traditional Protestant prejudice against matters visual and artistic, and he issues an inspiring challenge to follow the Spirit into richer modes of praise and worship."-Graham Birtwistle, Free University, Amsterdam"A refreshing and welcome addition to the growing discourse on a Protestant recovery of visual imagination and the need for Christians of all stripes to engage and exploit the visual arts-both in the secular marketplace and within the worshiping life of the church."-E. John Walford, Wheaton College"The image-oriented insularity found in certain sectors of the Protestant church is sensitively and thoughtfully challenged by Bill Dyrness in this insightful guide. Visual Faith weaves together a compelling case for the collaboration between art and Christianity. Placing the complex world of contemporary art making within historical, theological, and cultural contexts, Dyrness affirms the necessity of images in the ongoing vitality of the church and her mission."-Barry Krammes, Biola University; publications editor, Christians in the Visual Arts"With economy, grace, and passion, Visual Faith provides a compelling case for a deeper engagement on the part of Reformed Christians with visual art and aesthetics. Without apologizing for the past, Dyrness chronicles the astonishing renaissance of Christian involvement in contemporary art that is taking place in the present. And by placing art in the context of worship and the rich variety of other Christian traditions of spirituality and theology, he is helping to shape the future."-Gregory Wolfe, editor, Image: A Journal of the Arts Religion"This is a book that church leaders, artists, and worshipers all need to read and discuss together. It contributes insights that are vital to understanding and shaping (both critically and constructively) major changes in culture and worship today."-Frank Burch Brown, Christian TheologicalAbout the AuthorWilliam A. Dyrness (D.Theol., University of Strasbourg; Doctorandus, Free University) is professor of theology and culture at Fuller Theological Seminary. He is the author of many books, including The Earth Is God's: A Theology of American Culture.