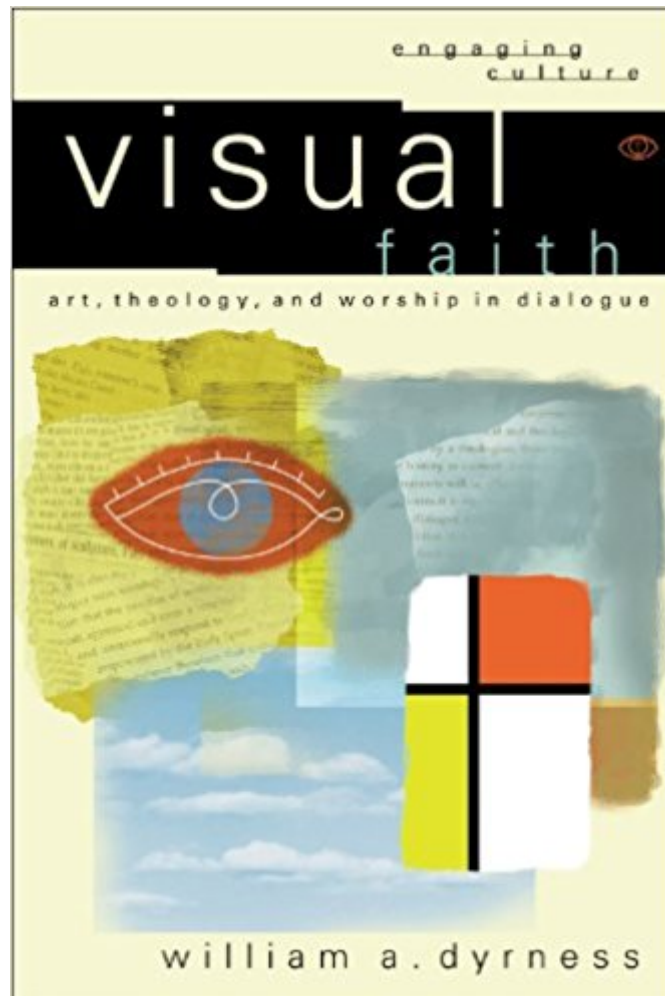




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Visual Faith (Engaging Culture): Art, Theology, And Worship In Dialogue



Synopsis

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.

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Customer Reviews

Dyrness 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's book is in Baker's 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/artsbooks

For 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.

Good 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!

Even though there is a technical aspect to the book. The only regret is the e-book is not allowed to show the pictures it is referencing as they are copyright material.

Awesome deal and MEGA fast shipping!

William A Dyrness, *Visual Faith: Art, Theology and Worship in Dialogue* (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2001) This book critiques the traditional Protestant prejudice against visual arts and aesthetics, and invites Christians to have new vision for the arts and a recovery of visual imagination. Until the Renaissance, art was made almost purely for devotional purposes, but Calvin and the Reformation distrusted images and elevated the word as primary. Recently, society's resurging interest in the visual arts (and the images of popular culture) has been paralleled by a renaissance of interest in the arts among Christians. Theologians like Paul Tillich and Francis Schaeffer paved the way, and Dyrness expounds the wealth of theological justification for celebrating the beauty, creativity and imagery of art. The art world can be confusing with its proliferation of forms and styles. It is a context that does not suit modern Christians who like convincing, rational presentations. Yet it is a rich context for exploring meaning, spirituality, and

worship in interactive, collaborative and visual ways. Dyrness is Professor of Theology and Culture at Fuller Seminary and his love of art and its interaction with theology is contagious. Emerging churches that are seeking to enjoy and worship with beauty and creative arts will find helpful background here. Originally reviewed in Darren Cronshaw 'The Emerging Church: Spirituality and Worship Reading Guide.' Zadok Papers S159 (Autumn 2008).

I bought the Kindle version of this book. All the photo's that are found in the paper copy are not in the kindle version due to "right restrictions." The book talks about these images, so it is difficult to learn when the photos are not included in the book. I would not get the kindle version. Overall it is a good book (so far) I haven't read through the entire book yet, but I like they talk about christian tradition. It is a good book for my theology and the arts class.

I really enjoyed how this book looked very practically at the arts and the evolution of them within the church. It gives not only a historical requirement to continue to press for more artistic use and involvement in the modern movement of the church, but also gives practical ways in which to do so. If you're involved in creative arts ministry in any capacity, you probably should read this book in order to get your bearings.

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