

Eco-Feminist Icons of Justice

Workshop

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AIM

Collage using found images to make 'icons' addressing contemporary contexts or justice issues – like the “East End Magnificat”.

“Justice cannot be done until the marginal and vulnerable are named in our images of God.”

In full:

“Justice cannot be done to the immanence of God in creation when justice is not done to that which is exploited in creation - whether human or otherwise. And justice cannot be done until the marginal and vulnerable are named in our images of God.”

Melissa Raphael, “Doing Green Justice to God: Immanentism in Contemporary Feminist Spirituality” in Theology in Green, issue 5, January 1993, p 38.

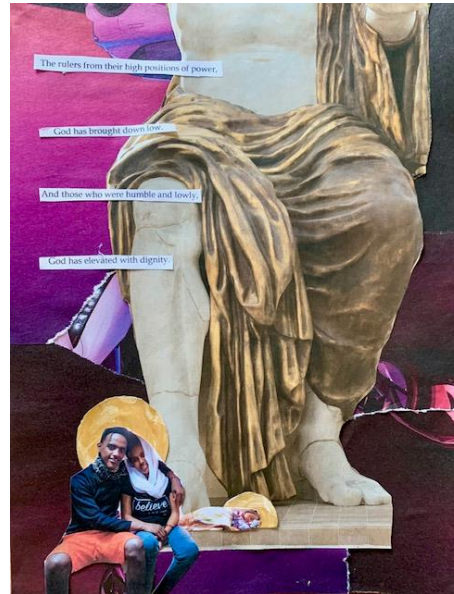
So we are making images of God (icons) that name “the marginal and vulnerable”.

This all creatures, human and otherwise, who are included in the Kin-dom but excluded from or hurt (even made extinct) by the systems that dominate.

We will make icons of The Magnificat, which is Mary’s song of justice.

MATERIALS

- Plain paper (A4 size is fine)
- Card to mount (optional)
- Selection of prepared paper cut outs for participants to use, adapt or be inspired by (I will prepare and bring)
- Selection of old newspaper pictures for backgrounds/collage (I will bring)
- Other scrap paper/reused artwork
- Gold acrylic paint (I will bring)
- Fine paint brushes and palettes
- Glue sticks
- Examples of what we are going to make (I will bring).



- Scissors
- Pencils (maybe rubbers) for drafting.
- Coloured pens and paints (watercolour and/or acrylic)

WORKSHOP PLAN

Before:

I will bring old newspapers and cut out newspaper pictures with background 'scenes'

I will bring printed out images of traditional non-white icons of Mary, contemporary images of pregnant teenage girls, or teenage mothers and partners, young men, and other people. Some will be complete, others will be outline.

I will print out and bring lines from the Magnificat.

Begin:

I will show the East Ham Magnificat pictures made locally, and explain the thinking that led to that workshop. Use the old religious painting of Madonna and child on an Italian hillside, dressed in velvet.

And how the idea has been expanded from one local context to wider injustice by eco-feminist theology. Just mother=nature and the quote.

NB no need to be religious; can use other quotes that express the desire for justice

I will take my Judy Chicago book for some eco-feminist related quotes

Introduce the materials:

Explain the process:

I will use the District Line not Donkey icon as an example. (I chose the words because they were the ones I'd printed in the same typeface as the tube uses. And cut up the background to fit the people rather than the other way round. Separate paper for the halo)

Instructions:

I will encourage people to look through the materials, choose a background and characters that mean something to them, experiment – try different characters, then words. Play until they were happy.

Plenty of time for people to get creative:

Participants might want to draw or paint or cut out their own characters or backgrounds, write their own words. Could put in some symbolic lilies for Mary, draw an angel, make one of the people into an angel by adding wings.

I will go round and help, discuss ideas, explain, share tips

If people want different words or images, there is the option of printing off phone pictures on a mini printer.

Haloos can be painted on afterwards, or made by painting circles of paper gold to put behind.

When happy, stick everything down, add haloos, add anything else you want.

Finish:

Show each other what we have made, explain what it means to us (if time)

RISKS

Scissors injury (low, sensible number of adults and tables)

Paint on clothes (low, as above and paint is washable)

People get upset by having conflicting ideas of justice? (give examples at the start and highlight need to respect other people's causes/not judge)