

GOD IS THERE

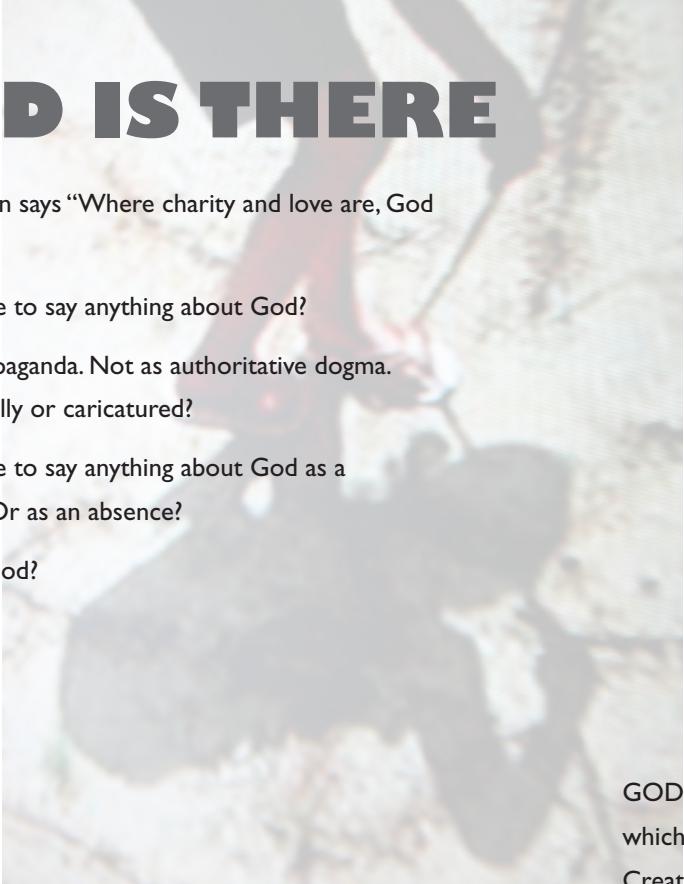
An old hymn says "Where charity and love are, God is there."

Is it possible to say anything about God?

Not as propaganda. Not as authoritative dogma.
Nor ironically or caricatured?

Is it possible to say anything about God as a presence? Or as an absence?

Where is God?



GOD IS THERE is the title of an Art Exhibition which explores themes such as the Word, Prayer, Creation and the Least Amongst Us. Different media like installations, texts and images are used. An extended version of the exhibition will be shown in Rundetaarn in Copenhagen 15.03 – 27.04 2008 and we hope in Oslo the following year. However the first exhibition will be in the Trygve Lie Gallery in New York 29.03 – 29.04 2007.

www.trygveliegallery.com

GOD IS THERE

grete refsum
marianne rønnow
barbro raen thomassen

Trygve Lie Gallery, New York
317 East 52nd Street, NY 10022
March 29 – April 29, 2007

grete refsum

Grete Refsum (Norway) is a research artist, Associate Professor at Oslo National Academy of the Arts.

Her education spans from science (MA 1977) to art (Diploma 1985, Hovedfag 1991) and PhD (2000).

Artistically, Refsum works on central Christian themes and religious issues. Her artwork is regularly exhibited and used liturgically in ecclesial spaces.

Scientifically, Refsum contributes to the international discourse on research within art and design.

www.refsum.no



Rosary, detail (glass and wire) - Photo: Mark Cabot

Artist's Statement

In Trygve Lie Gallery I am showing experimental rosaries and a text in glass cuts written on the floor.

The rosary is a material object and a set of prayers that serves as an aid to contemplation. Rosaries are used in all the higher world religions.

The underlying idea of my work is to highlight this shared element within religious practices. New interpretations of the rosary may open new perspectives within Christian contexts and invite dialogue with other kinds of belief.

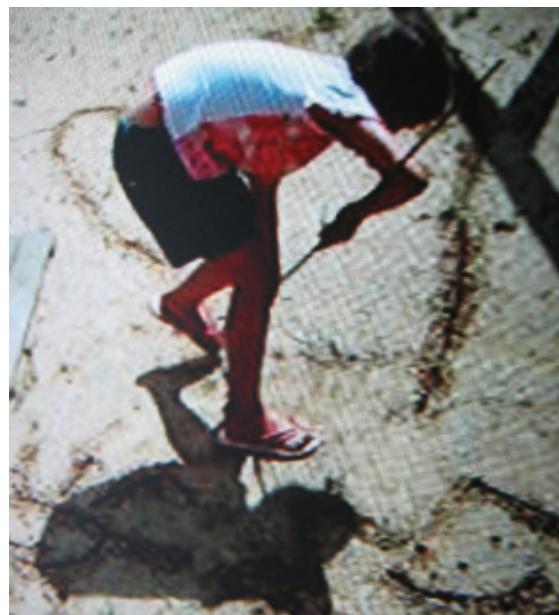
In the work exhibited meditation is explored through form. Simple elements are meticulously bound together by hand into transparent webs. By choosing natural and waste materials I connect environmental concern and religion. Visual and textual expressions are interwoven in a subtle way that challenges our understanding of prayer, language and interpretation in today's world.

marianne rønnow

Marianne Rønnow (Denmark) is a visual artist working with multimedia and conceptual art. She understands art as research and play. Rønnow is a frequent exhibitor and well experienced with artistic commissions. Her principal themes are: Peace - Communications - Nature - Christian Spirituality - Humour. For the exhibition in Trygve Lie Gallery she has made a series of prints.

Educated at The Danish School of Design in Copenhagen. Group Exhibitions (a selection): The Academy of Fine Arts, Amsterdam. Peace Park, Hiroshima. Kunstverein/Kunsthaus, Hamburg. "Aplaceofnextcentury" Athens. Convent des Carmes, Bruxelles. The Conference of Environment, Rio de Janeiro. Göteborg Museum of Art, Sweden. Hjørring Museum of Art, Denmark. University of Bruxelles.

mariannronnow@gmail.com



My Lord is a child, this I know (print) Photo: Marianne Rønnow

Artist's Statement

Our little blue planet is swimming in the gigantic, black, sparkling sea of the universe. A little fish is swimming in the ocean asking all the other fish passing by: Excuse me, could you tell me where the ocean is? Where is God? A child is playing in the sun. She makes drawings in the sand with a bamboo. Her shadow seems to tell a story about light and life on earth. Her name is Veronica. God is there.

barbro raen thomassen

Barbro Raen Thomassen (Norway) expresses her art through various media. She has participated in international exhibitions like Toyamura Sculpture Biennale in Japan, Small Sculpture Triennial of Budapest, Nordic Drawing Triennial in Sweden, the land art projects Bunker-95 and Genius Loci in Norway. She has made installations with the poet Paal-Helge Haugen for Bomuldsfabriken Kunsthall, Arendal, and Inselgalerie, Berlin. Her last project "As for man, his days are as grass" was made for Sørlandets Kunstmuseum, Kristiansand 2006.

www.raenthomassen.no



Torstein, detail (embroidery) - Photo: Mirjam Raen Thomassen

Artist's Statement

For the exhibition in New York I have chosen to write a story about my hero, Torstein, and to embroider it.

Torstein was my neighbour most of his short life. He was multi-handicapped and could not speak. Torstein had, however, a special gift to touch people by his mere presence. And he loved music. The embroidered story tells what happened when Torstein went to a concert with Ann Sinclair, who visited Norway summer 2004.

Why embroider the story? Why not choose an easier way? Embroidering takes a lot of time. And yet the months of stitching are not enough to finish the story mentally. When I have completed the English version I will start all over again and embroider a Norwegian one. Because I have been touched.