The JD Northey Lecture

12 March 2015, 7:00 pm

The Splendor and Power of Images

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Art and Religion are closely intertwined. Images express the glory of Gods and Goddesses and sometimes are believed to contain religious power themselves. Images have been venerated as well as destroyed for religious reasons throughout the ages.

The lecture is a further step in the development of an interreligious aesthetic which has been a long term research project of Prof. Küster. With the help of five generative themes; aniconism, representation and illustration, iconoclasm, syncretism and de/secularization; rich material from different religions will be systematized and compared.

Entry by donation.
Please RSVP info@ctm.cuca.edu.au by 6 March 2015.

Pilgrim Theological College

Intensive Course 16-20 March 2015

Christian Art - an Intercultural Perspective
- Rev. Prof. Volker Küster

Intercultural Theology engages not only the written text but also visual arts, literature, film etc. which are seen as significant texts and sources of theology.

This course will introduce the student to Christian art from Africa, Asia and Latin America and its interpretations as sources for intercultural theology. It will reconstruct historical developments in art and introduce artists from these regions and their works. In doing so, the unit seeks to equip students with the ability to understand how Christian faith interacts with the cultural-religious dimension of a particular context and then reproduced in art form. It is an attempt to decipher the exchange between at least two iconographic systems, including the glimpses it provides into the socio economic and political realities of the country to which the artist belongs, and issues of justice and liberation of the poor and oppressed.

Contact study@pilgrim.edu.au; 03 9340 800 to enrol

Rev. Prof. Volker Küster
Professor of Missiology and Comparative Religion, Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz, Germany studied theology in Heidelberg and Seoul, South Korea (1982-1990). He has a PhD (1994) and Habilitation (1998) from the University of Heidelberg.

Before joining the faculty at Mainz, Prof Küster was a Research Fellow at the Theological University, Kampen (1999-2001) and researcher IIMO, University of Utrecht (2001-2002). From 2002 to 2012 he was Professor of Cross-cultural Theology at the Protestant Theological University, Kampen, Netherlands. Prof Küster explores the inter-confessional, intercultural and interreligious dimensions of Christian faith by employing aesthetics, communication theory, postcolonial criticism and globalization theory. Perspectives of culture, religion, race, class and gender are included in this multi-axial approach.

His research in contextual and intercultural theology evolves along two lines: dialogue, conflict and reconciliation, and visual art and religion. Among his many books are The Many Faces of Jesus Christ, (2001) A Protestant Theology of Passion (2010). He is also the Series Editor of Explorations in Intercultural Theology. He will be in Australia as JD Northey Lecturer at the Centre for Theology and Ministry 8 - 22 March 2015.