

BETHANY ARTS

Fruits and Failures: Considering the Reformation

The Reformation did not happen in a vacuum and neither does art. Even when we create alone, we create in a community that helps to shape who we are and what we make. This gallery exhibition, 'Fruits and Failure' is a result of this kind of communal dialog and meditation. Writer and Presbyterian pastor Dani Forbess created weekly blogs reflecting on the Reformation's place in our lives today, while artist Sarah Sawers participated in the conversation by creating collages that contemplate these writings and her own experiences. As you look and read, I encourage you to imagine how the church is being called to be renewed, yet again.

- Kyle Turver, Worship Director

"The old and the new rarely have the tight boundaries around them that we imagine. We think in terms of before the re-formation. And then after the re-formation. In reality, human progress doesn't seem to work like that. It's much blurrier and messier. It offers some the luxury of kings, and others it grips by the throat. Of course, there really is no going back. That much is true. When something comes onto the scene of history, we cannot un-know it. We cannot pull all of the iPhones out of the world no sooner that we can replace all the fossil fuels deep within the earth. The cats are continually let out of the bag, and we have to regroup and adjust."

From "The Cost of Human Progress" by Dani Forbess
Read more at www.daniforbess.squarespace.com/blog

What happened 500 years ago seems like it wouldn't have much to do with my current day to day and yet, it is impossible for what happened then to not affect now. I am continuing a practice I began last year as I make collage on a daily basis as a form of ritual, an act of contemplation in processing the events and stories around me. As I created these works, I reflected on the symbols of the Reformation, considering how this event far in our past looked and felt when it was happening and how we receive it here today. This new body of work is about reflecting on the past, seeing it now in our current place and looking towards what will be in the future. What happened in the past plays a role in our future but it does not need to define it. These pieces question what change is, how we react to it and wonder how we can look both backwards and forwards at the same time.

Artist statement and collages by Sarah Sawers
See more at www.serrahrussell.com















