



CULTURAL PRECINCT



STAN HOPEWELL: GOD IS LOVE

LAWRENCE WILSON ART GALLERY
12 OCTOBER - 14 DECEMBER 2013

MEDIA RELEASE

Stan Hopewell: God Is Love is an exhibition exploring the work of an extraordinary Western Australian artist. As a companion exhibition to Ted Snell's monograph of the artist, *Facing the Stars*, *Stan Hopewell: God Is Love* brings into vivid focus the uncommon story of a remarkable artist.

When his wife Joyce became seriously ill in 2003, having never put brush to canvas before and at age 80, Stan began to paint. His urge toward creative expression was so surprising - and the results so remarkable - that he assumed the intervention of an 'unseen power' directing his brush. And so Stan made a pact with God to keep Joyce alive through artworks that gave visual form to his ineffable presence: he would act as a conduit and paint so that Joyce might recover.

Stan's extraordinary achievement has been to find a way to make sense of the world around him, to answer the important questions of life and to commune with his God in the process.

So when this image of Christ emerged from the paint, an extraordinary figure with arms raised, smiling faces on each finger and light gushing out in torrents from the stigmata in his palms, it confirmed Stan's belief that unseen forces directed his hand.

Such a strong figure - yet with the aura of gentleness, fingers alive with angelic faces, the symmetrical 'butterfly' composition, the five o'clock shadow and decorative spoons attached to his arms - he is exactly the powerful figure Stan needed at this time in his life when his wife was so ill and divine intervention seemed like the only hope.

Stan's optimism and his certainty in the existence of a benevolent power that assists and guides him has been the bedrock of his life and his faith. It was also the catalyst for the remarkable paintings featured in this unique exhibition.

For further information, interviews and images, please contact Ted Snell, Director, Cultural Precinct, The University of Western Australia, on 08 6488 3627 or at ted.snell@uwa.edu.au

Image: Stan Hopewell, *Christ* (detail), oil and collage on board, 60 x 90 cm, c2003, University of Western Australia Art Collection.

