

IN THE BODY OF A PRAYER

A camera obscura installation 11:June - 20:June Chewelah UCC chapel

“In the Body of a Prayer” is a 17 by 17 foot camera obscura. The work is constructed from recycled cardboard, a donated opticians lens, an old film canister, four old sheets freshly washed and dried in the sun, a roll of gaffers tape and a roll of heavy duty black plastic. When you enter the Chewelah chapel this week you are entering the inside of a camera! The camera projects a continuous “picture” of Chewelah Creek and corridor. The lens is a 1 1/4” .25 converging diopter letting in light from the creek; upside down and reversed it is projected 17’ (the focal length) onto the four large sheets on the opposing wall (the film) with an equivalent F stop of 160. The work will remain up for one week and two Sundays and is inspired as a part of Pentecost Sunday’s celebration of the Holy Spirit in the arts and in each of us. Stop by during the week and spend some time in prayer or meditation in our beautiful chapel. It is best experienced on a bright mid-day.



Pentecost has to do with the Holy Spirit and so do the arts. For me art is a verb not an object. Art has to do with the presence of an energy moving through me, expressing itSelf, thrusting itSelf into the world, making conscious and aware something that was sleeping. A gift. Art in this way is unsettling and disturbing for it upsets the paradigm, and brings motion to that which was still and sleeping. Great art brings manifest the beauty of the Holy Spirit within us. Working as an artist is not a choice but a response to a pressure inside of me that wants expression, wants manifest, wants to dance and sing.

The camera obscura in the Chewelah UCC chapel works within the power of prayer but, just as we are invited to enter into the body of the camera, we are also invited to enter into the body of a prayer; the physical body of a prayer. It takes a full five minutes for the image to become visible . . . awakened we enter the prayer-body. In this time we have stopped and taken the opportunity to be a part of a living prayer of light. We are being asked to let the Holy Spirit move through us and awaken us from our sleeping. The body of light, the dance of light, is the unsettling but joyous Body of the Prayer. We are not praying in the chapel in this moment of grace, rather the gift of the prayer-body is singing its Beauty through us. In our silence we are witness within a prayer-body to the dancing light and love of the Holy Spirit.

For more information about Steven R Holloway's work as an artist at toMake Press see his web page or blog at www.tomake.com or www.kiote.blogspot.com