

Singing the Marrow Bone

Benedict Tutty OSB (1924-96)

An exhibition of metalwork, ceramics, sculpture, drawings and paintings.



An exhibition of the metalwork, ceramics, sculpture, drawings and paintings of Benedictine monk Benedict Tutty will take place at Glenstal Abbey Gallery from July 7th to August 29th. The exhibition celebrates the creativity and rich artistic legacy of this monk who created both liturgical and personal work from his workshop in Glenstal Abbey for over 30 years.

The exhibition provides the first opportunity since Brother Benedict's death in 1996 to view his artistry in a dedicated gallery space that was recently refurbished at Glenstal Abbey. Metalsmith and curator Kevin O'Dwyer and Benedictine monk Ciarán Forbes have documented over 120 pieces of his artwork and have selected items from both his liturgical and personal work for

the exhibition. Benedict's workshop has also been re-instated and will be open to the public during gallery hours.

Monk and artist of Glenstal Abbey, Benedict was born in County Wicklow and entered the Benedictines in 1949. After studying metal-work and sculpture in Belgium, France and Germany he returned to Glenstal Abbey to set up his own workshop. He was best known for his church commissions, which included processional crosses, tabernacles, Stations of the Cross, crucifixes and Madonna's. Using this framework, he injected his own particular feelings and original spirit into the work by surprising and suggestive patterns, colours and uses of material. The source of his inspiration was always a bodily feeling, which dictated the shape and the essential gesture of the form, which emerged.

Richard Hurley, architect and personal friend, stated at the time of his death:

The passing of Benedict Tutty heralds the end of a rich period of Sacred Art in Ireland, to which he contributed much. The Post Vatican II years, when the Irish Church slowly began to accept modern art as a valid image of worship, provided artists with a platform of renewal of sacred objects and images. Benedict was at the forefront of this movement and he established himself quickly not only as a master craftsman but an artist of vision who had a clear understanding of what was required in a time of change.

Patrick Hederman, Abbot of Glenstal Abbey and friend states:

He never did any work for commercial reasons, for pious propaganda or to please the critics. He obeyed only one law: the artistic impulse that was his gift and that came from he knew not where. But he recognised it, glorified in it and rarely betrayed it.

He became father and teacher to many, including myself. But his influence extended way beyond the monastery. He was artistic guide and foster parent to students in the Limerick School of Art and to many who lived around us.

The works of Brother Benedict can be seen literally throughout the world, from Glenstal Abbey itself to locations in Ireland, Britain, Australia and the United States. Benedict's artwork was exhibited at the Irish Exhibition of Living Art, the RHA, in London, New York and the Salzburg Biennale.

He who sings a lasting song, sings in the marrow bone.
W.B. Yeats



Glenstal Abbey Gallery

July 7 to August 29th

Open Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday 2-5pm

Additional exhibition information: www.glenstal.org

High resolution images for publication: kodwyerdesign@eircom.net