



Elegy for Bonhoeffer, by Bruce Herman

PART OF A SERIES on witnesses to the faith, Bruce Herman's painting honors the German theologian who risked his life in a conspiracy against Hitler. "He was against violence, but entered into the gray zone of moral ambiguity in order to honor the higher calling of self-sacrifice for others," notes Herman. "As an artist, I am irresistibly drawn to Bonhoeffer's extremism—a costly discipleship indeed. I have painted him nude and upside down, as in Peter's crucifixion. This is an historical anomaly, but artistic license allows it. The gold leaf at the bottom is a reversal of the traditional gold of the icon behind and above. I have it as a pool into which the witness descends, as into an unexpected heaven." Herman is professor of art at Gordon College in Wenham, Massachusetts. His work (see the Web site www.brucehermanonline.com) will be exhibited next spring at Andover Newton Theological School in Newton Centre, Massachusetts.

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