

PRESS RELEASE

Ghislaine Howard

The Stations of The Cross: The Captive Figure @ Liverpool Anglican Cathedral

Featuring the unveiling of **The Empty Tomb** a new work for

Liverpool Anglican Cathedral's Capital of Culture celebrations.

The Stations will be on view from Monday 11th February until 30th March 2008

The Empty Tomb will play a central role in the Cathedral's Easter celebrations

and will remain on view until the end of 2008.

Last Easter artist Ghislaine Howard spent a number of early mornings walking the city streets of Liverpool sketching and photographing the spaces vacated by rough sleepers. These empty doorways, tousled blankets, and damp cardboard boxes the only evidence that someone had found shelter there. Her purpose was to situate her painting of The Empty Tomb in the reality of the lived experience and to bring to this spiritual subject a simple human dimension. The resulting painting, 4 x 8 feet, is set within a spectacular steel reliquary and is the culminating piece of her series Stations of the Cross: the Captive Figure. The series has toured various British Cathedrals to great acclaim. When shown at Gloucester Cathedral, Her Majesty the Queen was presented with a study for The Women of Jerusalem for the Royal collection.

It is fitting that this powerful and thought-provoking exhibition should follow the Cathedral's recent Anne Frank exhibition for they speak of the disappeared, the dispossessed and the homeless; those undergoing unfair captivity and worse - above all they speak of the strength of the human spirit to transcend oppression.

"These significant and powerful works open up opportunities to highlight and explore the issue of torture and the plight of victims of oppression all over the world." And as one of many visitors seeing the paintings wrote in response to the works, "it hurt my heart. I pray that we learn from this suffering."

Dan Jones Head of Education for Amnesty International

"Ghislaine Howard's images are compelling, powerful, and emphatic. They are unusual in that they communicate man's inhumanity to man to the art lover and lay person alike. These are very important paintings that transcend the limitations of the gallery space to speak to us all."

Dr. Helen Bamber, (former director of the Medical Foundation for the care of Victims of Torture)

"Ghislaine Howard's Stations have a passionate roughness that calls out to the viewer the meaning of Christ's suffering. They seem sublimely right for the pain and confusion of Christ's Passion."

Sister Wendy Beckett

"Howard is well on her way to becoming one of the great humanist artists of our time."

Zaria Shreef, The Big Issue

The Stations have been featured a number of times on television, most recently in BBC 1 documentary, 'Who Do You Say I Am?' and were the setting for a major new production of Sir Peter Maxwell Davis's 'Vesalii Icones', to celebrate his seventieth birthday.

Ghislaine Howard's 365 Series; a sequence of daily paintings relating to news media images will be shown at Imperial War Museum North in February 2009 and may be seen on her blog link from website.

Further information: ghislainehoward.com

T: 01457 852368 **M:** 07969723708

E: ghislaine.howard@btinternet.com

Press contact: Diane Tremarco

T: 0151 249 2347 **M:** 07803 593 372

E: diane@dianetremarco.com



The Lamentation of the Woman of Jerusalem
by Ghislaine Howard



Jesus is Condemned to Death
by Ghislaine Howard



Jesus Dies on the Cross
by Ghislaine Howard

The Empty Tomb

by Ghislaine Howard

