As a lover of art, it is often the visual depiction of the steps of Jesus along the way of the cross (rather than the actual words of the prayers which accompany them) which draws me into the experience of Jesus’ last moments. Below I have collected a number of different artist’s depictions of the Stations of the Cross. For the most part, I have shied away from artwork that is familiar and common and looked for stations which adopt a different perspective. Literally “seeing” the stations in a different way, might prompt us to a “see” things differently in our own lives. I hope that looking at the work of these artists and poets helps you to ‘open up the experience of the Way of the Cross for you as it has done for me.

**Stations of the Cross**
*by Gabriel Popa*
Roman Catholic Church Orsova, Romania
[www.oocities.org/soho/3884/station1.html](http://www.oocities.org/soho/3884/station1.html)

These are emotionally moving watercolour paintings with very interesting limited use of colour.

**The Norwalk Stations of the Cross**
*by Gwyneth Leech*
(Saint Paul's Episcopal Church in Norwalk, Connecticut, 2004)
[http://local-artists.org/node/45188](http://local-artists.org/node/45188)

In these stations, the artist attempts to marry the traditional stations of the cross with images of the modern world. Here you will see Christ as a prisoner of war. New York City artist Gwyneth Leech was commissioned to do the paintings by Saint Paul's Episcopal Church in March 2004. The paintings combine Christian imagery with references to a year of turmoil in the Middle East and beyond, including the war in Iraq, the abuse of prisoners at Abu Ghraib prison, and genocide in Darfur, Sudan. In the artist's words, the paintings are, “also my response to the seeming deluge of images of grief in the press - the grief of families around the world, as well as in the United States, who have lost loved ones to war and to terrorist attacks. I decided to reference these contemporary expressions of suffering and grief that come in the form of newspaper imagery, underlining the enduring message of the road to Calvary and the universal nature of its emotional force.”
Stations of the Cross
by David O'Connell (1898-1976)
(St. Richard's Parish, Chichester, UK, 1960s)
www.strichardschichester.co.uk/strichards/oconnollart.shtml

Father Jonathan Martin, while at St Richard's, wrote this description:

"It has to be said that this particular set of the Stations of the Cross is not everyone's "cup of tea". The style of these paintings is quite different from the style of the Stations that usually adorn the walls of our churches. There is an apparent inaccessibility about that demands a certain amount of time and energy on the part of the onlooker. But time spent lingering over each painting will be repaid.

"The distinctive style of O'Connell's work, the "scored canvas", if you like, powerfully conveys the brutality and violence associated with the last journey of Christ. It peaks at the Crucifixion, and then, as Christ alone hangs on the cross, the freneticism subsides and a kind of exhausted tranquility takes over."

(Taken with permission from The Stations of the Cross a booklet by Fr. Jonathan Martin, 1999.)

Stations of the Cross
by Linda Sallnow
http://www.linsallnow.co.uk/stations.html

British artist Linda Sallow's stations have no accompanying text but are very compelling.

The Stations of the Cross
by Karel Stadnik, 1973-5
Church of the Virgin Mary in Lhotka, Prague

Using synthetic resin, Stadnik depicts a different episode of human suffering at each station which is connected to the suffering of Christ by the titles of the stations. According to the web site, “The work was the idea of the local priest Vladimir Rudolf, during the difficult period after Soviet tanks had crushed the 'Prague Spring'."

Stations of the Cross
by Ken Cooke
St. George the Martyr Anglican Church, Newbury, England
http://st-george-newbury.org.uk/?page_id=149
The Forest Stations
by William Fairbank
Lincoln Cathedral, 2006
http://www.williamfairbank.com/stations/stationindex.htm

A series of beautiful wooden sculptures that evoke rather than represent the events commemorated by the fourteen steps of the stations of the cross. If you appreciate the texture, colour and shape of natural wood, you will love this artist’s rendering of the Way of the Cross.

A Walk with Jesus
by Lynn Kircher
http://www.kirchersculpture.com/pdfs/A_Walk_with_Jesus_Detail.pdf  (Images with Prayer text)

This is a more traditional way of the cross in bronze relief created by Colorado liturgical sculptor Lynn Kircher.

Via Crucis
by Michael Freeman
South Wales, 1976-78.
http://www.thisischurch.com/christian_teaching/freemanstations/introductionstation.htm

According to the author, he has painted these stations “to focus contemplation on the subjects referred to, not to illustrate those subjects”. They are beautiful and moving.

Stations of the Cross
by Carolyn Gates
St. Bede’s Episcopal Church in Forest Grove, Oregon, February 2005.
http://www.cmgates.com/stay/ (Images only)
http://www.iccpenang.com/st%20of%20cross/st%20of%20cross%2001.htm (With prayer text)

Gentle, evocative watercolour paintings of the Stations of the Cross.

Stations of the Cross: Kenya
Lodwar Cathedra, Kenya
http://www.wischik.com/irene/cross/ (images only)

These stations reflect the life and environment of the Turkana people of Kenya.
**African Stations of the Cross**
by Father Angelbert M. Vang, SJ
Hekima College, Nairobi, Kenya, 1984-5.
http://www.sjweb.info/world/stations/index.cfm

These African stations were designed by Jesuit artist, theologian and historian - Angelbert Vang for the chapel at Hekima College in Nairobi. According to the website, he “was murdered a few years after he expressed his own understanding of Christ's Passion in the African idiom he valued.” Not only are the stations a beautiful and challenging rendition which reminds us of the importance of seeing Christ in all cultures, but the stories about the artist and the meaning of his work are well worth reading.

**Tributes for Kings: The Stations of the Cross**
by Kevin Rolly
Ashbury Theological Seminary, Ashbury Kentucky, 2005
http://www.kevissimo.com/series/tributes-for-kings

These powerful, emotional and strong images are accompanied by poetry that is equally powerful. The book of poetry can be purchased at the website. Kelly, C.Ss.R. and Fr. Kevin O’Shea, C.Ss.R. There is no artwork apart from a simple cross with these texts but the texts are very good.

**The Soul's Journey – A Mystical Approach to the Stations of the Cross**
by Kathrin Burleson
Christ Church Parish, Chapel of Our Merciful Savior, Eureka, California
http://www.ecva.org/wordimage/visual_essay/burleson_stations/burleson_stations.htm

Both the prayers and the watercolour paintings of Kathrin Burleson are excellent. These stations follow the contemporary biblical based set of stations rather than the At the Episcopal Church and the Visual Arts website which features her version of the stations, you will also find much more wonderful contemporary Christian art.

**Way of the Cross**
by Luc Freymanc

This website allows you to set up a self-running slide show mediation using the artists strong and evocative pen and ink images.
Stations of the Cross: El Salvador
University of Central America Chapel
http://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/UCAstations2.html

The university at which these stations are housed is where six Jesuits priests were murdered along with their housekeeper and her fifteen year old daughter in 1989. These are graphic stations which “portray in unflinching detail, the torture visited upon Salvadorans by right wing death squads and the U. S. backed government during that country's civil war in the 1980s. These stations serve as a reminder that many people walk the way of the cross every day, denied justice and dignity as Christ was, by powerful political forces.”

Chemin de Croix
by Grazyna Tarkowska
Diocèse of Belfort-Montbéliard, France
http://catholique-belfort-montbe.cef.fr/actualites/2006/septembre/chemin_croi x.htm

The commentary here is in French. The images are haunting and emotional. You may love or hate them, but they are worth a look.

Bitter Journey:
The Way of the Cross Meditation
http://www.beliefnet.com/religion/christianity/holyweek/easter/cross_lite2.html

A multi-media presentation of the Way of the Cross. I found the accompanying music unappealing and distracting but biblical text and images are good.

Kruisegstaties
www.kruiswegstaties.nl

This website hosts a collection of about thirty contemporary stations from the Netherlands and Belgium compiled by Reina Folkerts. The website is Dutch, but the images speak in any language.

Jerusalem the Way of the Cross
http://servus.christusrex.org/www1/jsc/TVCmenu.html

The visuals here are photographs of the sites in Jerusalem at which the events of the passion are commemorated. There are prayers and artwork to accompany the stations as well.
The Way of the Cross
by John Abela, OFM and Michael Olteanu

This is another way of the cross using photographs of the sites of commemoration in Jerusalem with concise accompanying reflections.

The Stations of the Cross of a Person with Aids
Art by William Hart McNichols, S.J.
Prayers by Cissy Theresa Grace, Louise Hay & Sr. Patrick Murphy
Catholic Aids Ministries, Archdiocese of Seattle
http://puffin.creighton.edu/jesuit/andre/stations.html

A series of line drawings in which Fr. McNichols expresses the insights that his experience in A.I.D.S. ministry has given him.

Stations of the Cross
by Chris Gollon
Church of St. John on Bethnal, UK
http://www.chrisgollon.com/collections/stations-of-the-cross/

The artist used his own son as a model for Christ and his daughter as a model for Mary. The imagery is strong, evocative and the commentary of the artist and the critics is very interesting.

The Stations of the Cross
by Peter Howson
http://peterhowson.co.uk/the-stations-of-the-cross/

This Scottish painter has created arresting images which communicate the horror of the crucifixion.

Stations of the Cross
by Beverley Carpenter
St. Andrew’s the Apostle, Holt, Norfolk
http://www.holtchurch.org/stations.html

Simple, stark and beautiful stations made of plaster casts.
**Jesus and the Way of the Cross**  
*Art and the Bible*  

This site provides classic fine art illustrations (Tintoretto, Dore, Breugel) along with some explanations of each individual station.

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**Stations of the Cross**  
*by Chris Woods*  
*St. David’s Anglican Church, Vancouver, B.C., 1996.*  
[http://chriswoodsartist.com/id46.html](http://chriswoodsartist.com/id46.html)

In these very interesting paintings, the way of the cross is set in a contemporary city, with Roman soldiers wearing business suits. A provocative way to remind us that this is a prayer not about a time past but about our lives today.

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**Stations of the Cross and the Struggle for LGBT Equality**  
*by Mary Button*  

Whenever a person is treated with anything less than the dignity they deserve as a child of God, Christ is again spit upon and derided. Christ is there, crucified. These stations represent the artist’s vision of Jesus’ presence in the struggle for LGBT equality.

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**Grieshaber’s Polish Stations of the Cross**  
*by Hap Grieshaber*  
[http://campus.udayton.edu/mary/meditations/lent.html](http://campus.udayton.edu/mary/meditations/lent.html)

Both the expressionist artwork and the explanations of the artwork are very interesting.

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**Stations of the Cross**  
*by Cardinal Josef Ratziner, Good Friday, 2005*  

Here you will find traditional Venetian artwork to accompany Pope Emeritus Benedict’s (then Cardinal Ratzinger) meditations and prayers.
Stations of the Cross

Artist Unknown. 2003
http://www.ststephenuni.org/external/stationofthecross.html

Simple but compelling graphics accompany this Stations of the Cross written for the St. Stephen the Witness Catholic Student Centre in Indiana. According to the website “The text is adapted from several sources and was used in the celebration of outdoor stations on Good Friday in Spring of 2003.” The design of the website is lacking, however, and the text is too small to read comfortably.

Walk with Me

Meditations on the Way of the Cross

Text by Chris McDonnell
Art by Chris Shawcross.
www.mccrimmons.com/walk-with-me

I have not read the meditations but I find the woodcarvings by Chris Shawcross to be wonderful.

Biblical Way of the Cross

by Michael O’Brien
http://www.studiobrien.com
http://www.gatescatholiccommunity.org/stations_of_the_cross
www.reformworship.com/search/label/Way%20of%20the%20Cross

Canadian artist, Michael O’Brien, beautifully illustrates Saint John Paul II’s biblical way of the cross in his book. The images remind me somewhat of Georges Rouault though they are less primal and more softer. The first link is to Michael O’Brien’s home page and the second and third are to sites which use his images of the Stations.

Stations of the Cross

Time to Celebrate the Folly of God

by Sieger Köder
St. Luke’s Anglican Church, Gondola Point, Diocese of Fredericton
http://www.msgr.ca/msgr-7/stations_koder_main.htm

What I love the most about Koder’s art is that the point of view is always unusual. This can really help us see the story of Jesus passion in a new way if we allow it to do so. The prayers at this site are also excellent.
Way of the Cross Prayers

Way of the Cross
by the Redemptorists of Australia and New Zealand

Two different texts which can be downloaded in pdf format
by Fr. Anthony Kelly, C.Ss.R., STD
by Fr. Kevin O'Shea, C.Ss.R., STD

Stations of the Cross
by Saint John Paul II, Good Friday, 1991

Pope John Paul II wrote these alternative stations in an attempt to be more scriptural and thus make this devotion more appealing to non-Catholic Christians. There are no visuals to accompany the text.

The Way of the Cross on your Block
by Harry Langdon
http://www.americancatholic.org/Messenger/mar2001/feature2.asp#F1

This rendering of the prayers from the folks at St. Anthony’s Messenger, helps us to see Christ in the midst of their neighbourhood.

Way of the Cross
by Jean Debruyn
Order of Saint Benedict - Lectio Devina
http://www.osb.org/lectio/chemin.html

A beautiful, poetic and prayerful version of the Way of the Cross.

Salesian Way of the Cross
by Lewis Fiorelli, OSFS
http://www.yenra.com/catholic/prayers/salesianwayofthecross.html

A brief but good treatment of the devotion for times when you would like to pray the way of the cross but have only a little time.
History and Explanation of the Way of the Cross Devotion
by Piero Marini, Titular Archbishop of Martirano and Master of the Liturgical Celebrations of the Supreme Pontiff

If you want to know more about the history and meaning of this devotion, it just doesn’t get any more official than the Vatican website.

And if you still need more...

... check out my ever growing Pinterest Board.

**Faith Embodied - Stations of the Cross**