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PRESS RELEASE

Artist Ali Thistlethwaite returns to Bradford Cathedral with new exhibition for Lent, Easter and Pentecost



Artist Ali Thistlethwaite, who presents 'Encounters with Jesus' at Bradford Cathedral.

Artist Ali Thistlethwaite's second exhibition at Bradford Cathedral launches on Ash Wednesday. 'Encounters with Jesus', the cathedral's exhibition for Lent, Easter and Pentecost, runs until Friday 12th June 2020.

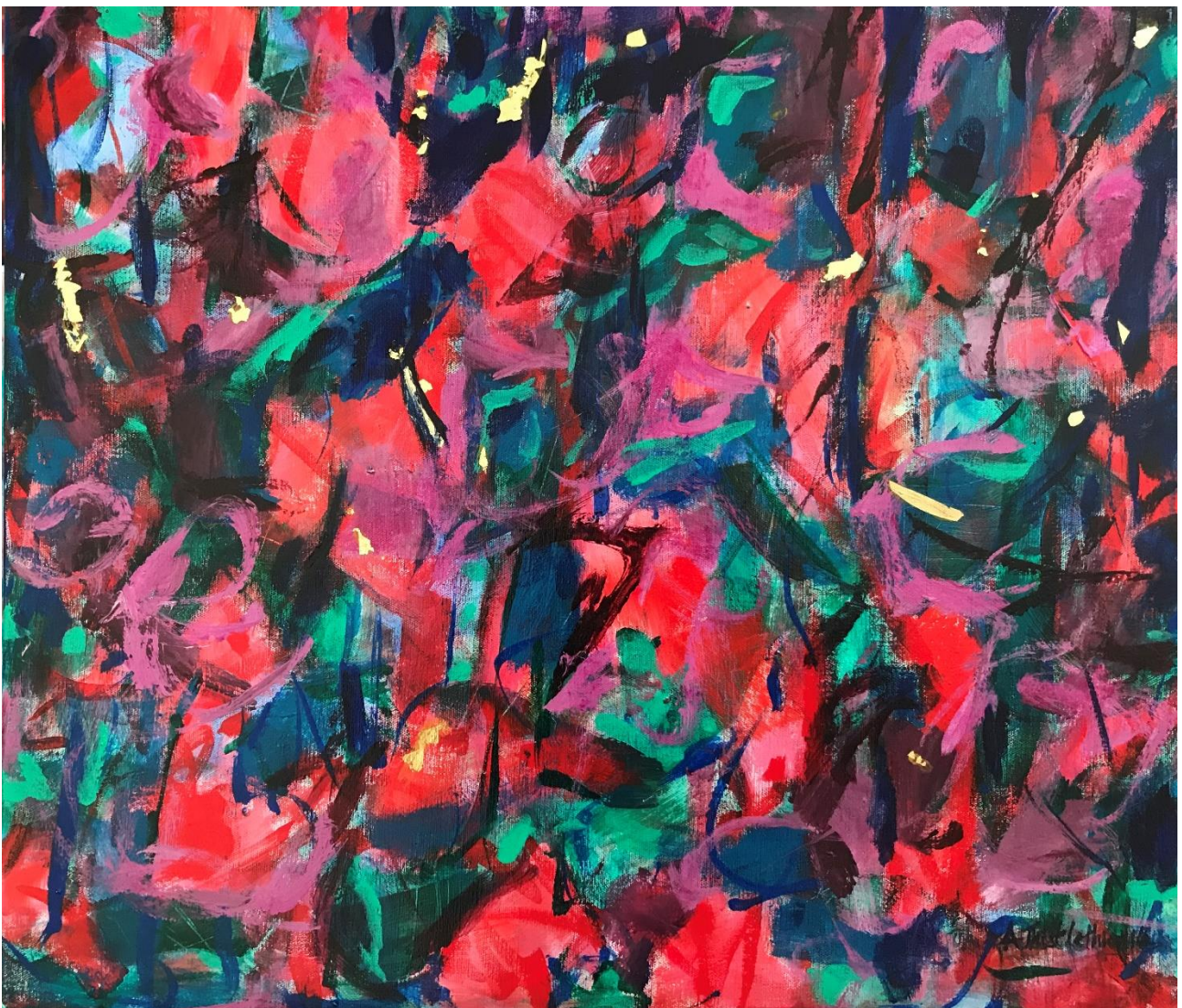
Secret transactions with God in prayer have life-changing consequences. Within worship and prayer, sorrow can be turned to joy, worry to peace. Alison Thistlethwaite's paintings aim to capture some

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of this process in paint. Her paintings are not just depictions, or recollections, of encounters with God through the Spirit. They are themselves painted in encounter with God, much like the prayers of any one of us, but in physical form.

Alison comes from both an art and music background. Her art training specialised in colour, and her music training (for voice and music therapy) had a strong emphasis on improvisation. Sung worship is also very important to her. With abstract paintings these different streams combine. She hopes that these paintings for Lent, Easter and Pentecost will encourage personal encounters with Christ.



Detail from 'My Daughter', one of the pieces from the artist's exhibition.

Ali Thistlethwaite on her new exhibition:

“Every painting I’ve done is something to do with my walk with God. Encounters with Jesus is how I’ve encountered him, either through the Bible or in other ways, and the ways other people encounter him; alongside the stories in the Bible and how the people there have encountered him. It’s kind of personal, but it’s also about how God’s word speaks to us.

“The aspect of moving forward has always been something important and so I guess walking with Jesus, and encounters with Jesus, spark my imagination of events and places as I read. I picture myself in some of the Bible stories with Jesus speaking to me.

“That can all go into a painting, and I start off the process, which then develops in unexpected ways.

“I hope people will be really cheered up if they need to be cheered up! Looking at paintings is such a personal thing but I hope one or two or more of the paintings will speak to them in a way that they can respond to. I’d love to hear that people have felt really encouraged and are inspired to move forward in different ways.”

The artworks, of which most are acrylic on canvas with others in oil, will be on display at Bradford Cathedral each day from 8:30am – 5:30pm. The artist will be speaking about them as part of the Ash Wednesday service on Wednesday 26th February at 7pm.

You can find out more about the exhibition and the artist by visiting our website and blog at bradfordcathedral.org/whats-on/artspace.

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Notes for Editors

About Bradford Cathedral

Bradford Cathedral has been a place of worship in Bradford since the first millennium. It is the oldest building in the city and, alongside being a place of worship, hosts events, arts projects and much more.

For further information please contact:

Philip Lickley

Communications, Marketing and Events Officer

t: 01274 777720

e: commsandevents@bradfordcathedral.org