



Crossing Borders – Yarrawonga

Word and Image

Some of the artists who contributed their work to the Crossing Borders photography challenge provide us with a series of images which can provide inspiration, lead us in prayer and aid reflection on issues in contemporary life.

During Wisdom's Feast I offered a participatory afternoon workshop where we drew together expertise in the use of imagery and text in worship. Many of us use data projection for some or all of the liturgy in worship. We acknowledged both the benefits and pitfalls of this practice.

The group identified a few helpful guidelines for using projected images in worship:

1. Less is More – the old adage is true when selecting images to project. Choose one to five images at most, and allow time for each to be seen.
2. Some images with a lot of detail are best not to have text placed over. In this case project the image, then create a new slide to follow with just text, liturgy, or reflection prompt. You can repeat the image slide again.
3. Choose images that have an area of space for text, e.g. quiet, unbroken water, or cloudless sky.
4. When placing words in a text box over the image consider placement:
 - a. Will the words work best in the foreground, or in the sky?
 - b. Text at the bottom draws your eye into the image, whereas text at the top forms a stop, or a block.
 - c. Respect the composition – avoid covering two elements (e.g. sea and sky).
 - d. Use more slides and repeat image - don't crowd the image with too much text.
5. Test the timing of transitions against the spoken word, and be aware that even though you know the image well, others are seeing it for the first time and may need longer to 'read' the image.
6. The Crossing Borders photographers have also provided a short statement. You may choose to use this, with the name of the photographer quoted. You don't have to use the statement, just don't change their words!
7. Please always attribute photographer's name, title, location (if provided), date.

Good luck as you explore the challenge of working with word and image. Consider taking your own photographs, or commission a photographer in your congregation to respond to a liturgical season or event.

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