

PRESS INFORMATION
For immediate release

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Sarum College Launches Art Programme

New Venture Opens with Exhibition on The Word on 2 September 2011

Sarum College launches its new initiative in the visual arts on 2 September 2011 with an exhibition entitled, *The Word – A Reflection on the King James Bible*.

The new arts venture will form part of Sarum's academic programme, which offers a range of courses on theological and spiritual aspects of art, aesthetics, imagination and culture. It will include two major exhibitions every year, with plenty of opportunity in between for local schools and local artists to show their work. It will also be linked with that of Salisbury Cathedral, displaying the drawings of sculptors exhibiting their work there.

Sarum College's first exhibition departs from those events celebrating the 400th anniversary of the publication of the King James Bible (KJV) which focus on language. Before widespread literacy and the availability of the Bible either in English or in print, its stories were told through stained glass, sculpture and engravings.

With this precedent for spreading the Word through visual art in mind, Sarum College will be filled with works in sculpture and lettering on stone, glass and fabric by artists including Peter Eugene Ball, Frederic Chevarin ARBS, Zoe Cull and Alex Evans, Robyn Golden-Hann, Elizabeth Herkströter, Giles Macdonald, Mary Noble (calligrapher), Suzanne Redstone ARBS, Tracey Sheppard FGE and Roger Stephens.

Each exhibit is a unique reflection on the cultural importance of the KJV and its contribution to society through Christianity. *The Word* exhibition ends on 19 December 2011.

The next major exhibition is *The Art of Healing*, which begins in January 2012 to coincide with the publication of a history of Western art in hospitals by the critic Richard Cork, who will open the event.

"Good art speaks to everyone," says Maggie Guillebaud, associate chaplain at the College. "As part of the divine process of creativity, reflecting on the Christian message in the context of creativity can be a profoundly spiritual process, as well as one which stretches and challenges our preconceptions about the world."

Guillebaud, a former member of the Arts Council of England and chair of the South West Arts Council, is developing Sarum's new arts programme with Curatorial Consultant Rachel Bebb of The Garden Gallery in Hampshire and Christine Nielsen-Craig, director of communications at Sarum College.

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Photograph

The Messenger, a sculpture by Peter Eugene Ball in driftwood embellished with copper, will feature in Sarum College's exhibition, The Word – A Reflection on the King James Bible, which runs from 2 September to 19 December 2011. (Photo by Ash Mills, www.ashmills.com)

Notes for editors

Contact

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Sarum College is an independent ecumenical centre for Christian study and research based at 19 The Close, Salisbury, SP1 2EE. Sarum College receives no regular funding from churches or other public bodies, and is a registered charity (no. 309501). The college website address is: www.sarum.ac.uk

The Garden Gallery exhibits and sells sculpture, ceramics, glass and furniture for gardens by contemporary artists. Located at Rookery Lane, Broughton, Stockbridge, Hampshire SO20 8AZ, the gallery represents about sixty artists, both well-established and those embarking on their careers. The gallery's website address is: www.gardengallery.uk.com

Dr Richard Cork is an award-winning art critic, author, historian, broadcaster and exhibition organiser. He has written numerous influential books on modernist art and has curated major exhibitions at Tate, the Hayward Gallery, Barbican Art Gallery, the Serpentine Gallery and elsewhere in Europe. Most recently, he curated the exhibition Wild Thing – Jacob Epstein, Henri Gaudier-Brzeska and Eric Gill at the Royal Academy (October 2009-January 2010). His forthcoming book, The Healing Presence of Art: A History of Western Art in Hospitals (2011), is published by Yale University Press.