



AN INTERACTIVE EXHIBIT TO PROMOTE POSITIVITY

# INTRODUCING ICONOCLASM

## DRIN STOCKS



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# INTRODUCTION



Iconoclasm means “Image breaking” and refers to a recurring historical impulse to break or destroy images for religious or political reasons.” A well known topic was the Iconoclastic discussion between The Byzantine church and the state. The use of figural images because of the idea that there were different depictions of holy figures.

Numerous pieces of art and religious imagery was destroyed during this conflict because of different views in one religion. By creating art inspired by numerous religious movements, the exhibit aimed to unite iconoclasm and religion using an interactive exhibit where the pieces can be destroyed for fun by the audience creating a movement of positivity.

# BECOMING AN ICONOCLAST



Throughout her life Orin Stocks has had an estranged relationship with religion and felt no connection to the it. It did not mean she did not support people with religious beliefs it just felt like it wasn't a lifestyle she wanted. She stayed away from designing and painting anything to relate her to religion as she felt like there is too much control surrounding the topic.

After finding iconoclasm she realised that there does not need to be negativity because you don't follow a certain religion so she began this project as a way of accepting that you should not ignore things because you don't understand or relate to them, you should try and learn and gain knowledge as that is how you grow as an individual.

# WHAT IS ICONOCLASM?



‘To break or destroy images for religious or political reasons’

# WHY ICONOCLASM?



When viewing art at galleries or exhibitions the popular etiquette is to refrain from touching and walk around quietly observing each piece due to their delicate nature.

By creating an exhibit where the audience feel included and can explore their own inner artist a new collective can be created inspiring more people to be involved in art.

By choosing iconoclasm this project aimed to replace the negative connotations and create a new movement where iconoclasm can be a positive experience instead of the past where iconoclasm has destroyed art, architecture and even places of worship.

# DUALITY

Duality is a piece depicting two woman standing by a stain glass window looking out in opposite directions. When creating this piece I was considering the different lives people lead within religion. Many children grow up and are encouraged to follow the same religion as their parents but as they grow up they do not always follow the path asked of them. This piece represents the double lives people lead when they are from extreme religious backgrounds.

*Media: Acrylic, resin and 3-d paint on canvas (40x40)*





# LIGHT

This redesigned jigsaw is called Light. A main memory I retain from my childhood is the christingle and using candy and candles to decorate an orange. The christingle represents hope and light and that is what I have designed in this piece.

*Media: Acrylic Paint pen, Acrylic paint on Jigsaw primed with gesso*



# ART NOUVEAU

This piece is inspired by the Art Nouveau movement. It is characterised by organic lines, intricate patterns and earthy colours. I chose to create a piece inspired by the art nouveau movement since it was about uniting and collectivity. During the art movement there were collectives showing that art was for everyone no matter the status so by creating a piece full of intricate and conjoining patterns it reflected the unity surrounding Art Nouveau.

*Media: Acrylic paint on canvas (60x40).*





# TEMPTATION

A story I can remember being taught about in school is the story of Adam and Eve and being cast out from the garden of Eden. I created this sculpture to represent the temptations people with religion face. The imagery is apples, roots and snakes to tell the story. The base of the sculpture is a faceless person to represent the idea that anyone can give in to temptation.

*Media: Paint pen, Acrylic paint on Jigsaw.*



# TREE OF LIFE

This piece is called the tree of life due to the fact god is a creator of life and another creator of life is a tree. They age, growing leaves and fruit and then as time passes they lose their leaves and the process begins again. By creating this piece as a mosaic the idea of creation continues as glass is man made and can be re purposed throughout its use.

*Media: Glass petals, squares, grout on Canvas 40x40*

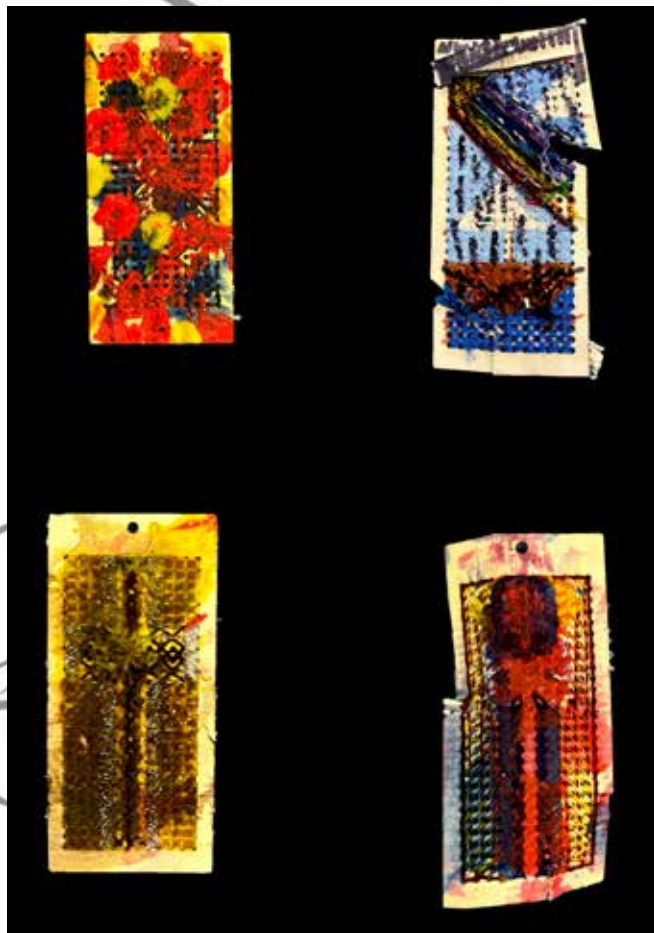
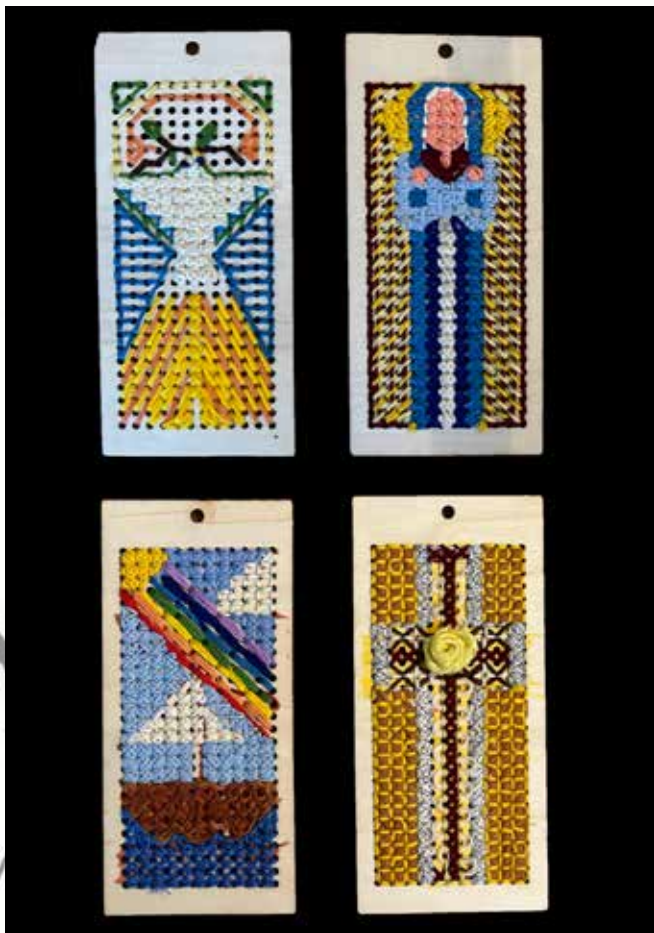




# BIBLE FICTION

The piece called Bible Fiction depicts numerous stories from the bible and is one of the only pieces in this project that contains more than one image. Each piece was hand stitched over hours and told a different story from the bible. Noah's ark, the resurrection, The virgin Mary and the dove that brought the ark to land.

*Media: Coloured thread on wood (10x5)*



# THE REVIEWS



The aim of this exhibit was to create a positive environment where people could destroy or change the work to relieve stress or just for fun. The most important part of the exhibit isn't what the pieces looked like after they were destroyed it was how the audience involved felt afterwards.

I made sure to talk to a few individuals that were involved to see how this exhibit has changed their view on iconoclasm and if they would use it in the future for their own work.



"I wish I could have kept going I was having too much fun."

"I wish there was a blank page I could just throw paint at."

"I wish I could go into a room full of stuff to destroy."

"I felt a little bad as you spent so much time on them."

"I know exactly what piece I want to destroy."

"I don't feel bad at all this is so satisfying."



# NOTE FROM AUTHOR

As an artist, I have always felt the need to erase mistakes and if I didn't like the work I produced I would bin it or stop working on it.

After the exhibit I realised that by letting others edit and destroy my art it makes me less afraid to make mistakes and actually encouraged me to become more relaxed when creating art as it is not the end of the world if I make a mistake. Making mistakes during art can be productive and actually give you a new perspective that you didn't realise you needed and if people end up loving the work, even better. Having people destroy my work it gave them a new view too.

After the exhibit I spoke with a few of the participants and they stated that participating gave them stress relief and they wish they could have continued. Not all of them knew what iconoclasm was and wanted to know more and found it interesting how I would spend a lot of time creating work to destroy. Others felt bad for destroying my work and kept apologising but by the end they were laughing and throwing paint around.

The outcome of this exhibit will only encourage more to use iconoclasm in the future and inspire more positivity with art. A few people even spoke about how they wish there were blank pages so they could throw paint and create something themselves as they wanted to see what they could create.





