

ICONS IN TRANSFORMATION

St. Stephen's is hosting an important exhibit of expressionist art this autumn!

Icons in Transformation is Ludmila Pawlowska's artistic rendering, through paint and sculpture, of her experience of prayer and connection with eternity. Raised in exile in Khazakstan, Ms. Pawlowska was immersed in the Orthodox tradition of Christianity. As an artist, she has been inspired by the power of icons, and their ability to radiate love and eternal light.

This exhibit includes both traditional icons and contemporary art inspired by traditional icon-painting techniques. Ms. Pawlowa's style is well known in Sweden. She uses techniques similar to traditional iconography, with many layers of paint on wooden panels. The exhibition is very unusual since the icon tradition is very strict, prohibiting any "transformation." So this is not an exhibition about icons. It is instead an exhibition about the icon as an inspirational source for contemporary artistic work.

Ms. Pawlowa prefers to show her work in churches. She says "Churches and cathedrals are holy spaces; in a way this enables people to understand the contemporary approach of spirituality, thus our exhibition Icons in Transformation."

We will host Icons in Transformation at St Stephen's from September 1 through November 3. The exhibit will be open on Sundays from 12 noon until 3 pm, and on two Friday evenings September 20 and October 18 from 7 until 9. There can be private tours (for a small donation) by appointment.

I hope you will take part in this exhibit, which has been received enthusiastically in Europe and North America.

