Artists, writers, musicians, theologians and people from different faiths explore the arts and the sacred

You are invited to join the conversation as Australian and international speakers and performers ask where creativity sits in relation to religion and the search for meaning. Are the arts a conduit between the divine and the everyday? To flourish, do we need both a sense of the sacred and the means to express it? Do the arts provide a common ground for people of different faiths – or maybe none – to explore the ineffable?

The conference is preceded by a seminar for postgraduate students and accompanied by an exhibition of paintings by Papunya Tula Artists and the Warlayirti Artists of Balgo. In addition to invited papers, some 70 conference papers will also be presented.

Registration by 8 July is encouraged
Grounding the Sacred through Literature and the Arts Conference

Date: Thursday 23 July to Sunday 26 July, 2015
Where: Australian Catholic University
25A Barker Road, Strathfield, NSW 2135

Program highlights

Thursday 23 July
Postgraduate seminar on Grounding the Sacred.
Conference opening, including presentations by Professor Thaddeus Metz (University of Johannesburg), recorder virtuoso Dr Genevieve Lacey, Indigenous art expert Professor Vivien Johnson, and soprano Joelle Griffith with pianist Bradley Gilchrist. Religious broadcaster and writer Dr Rachael Kohn is the participating chair.

Friday 24 July
Conference paper sessions, interspersed by a Skype presentation from Professor Kathleen Deignan in New York (Director of the Iona Spirituality Institute and the Merton Contemplative Initiative); an address by Imam Afroz Ali on Islam and expression of the sacred; Professor David Jasper (University of Glasgow) and author David Malouf speaking on 'The First Night out of Eden'; and a performed presentation by musician and composer Dr Maeve Louise Heaney VDMF.

Saturday 25 July
Keynote addresses from authors Michael McGirr on Jesuit poet Peter Steele and Carmel Bird on the ways in which fiction draws the reader in towards contemplation of a sacred object. Conference paper sessions.

Sunday 26 July
A meditation with poetry with René and Jane Buhler, conference paper sessions, poet and philosopher of religion Professor Kevin Hart on 'How the Sacred Appears: Some Thoughts on Poetry and the Dark One', and a closing panel of key speakers.

Registration by 8 July is encouraged

Registration, between $65 (unwaged, single day) and $340 (waged, four-day package). Refreshments included.
Program and registration details: www.acu.edu.au/groundingthesacred
Inquiries: Michael.griffith@acu.edu.au, 02 9701 4192 or Elaine.lindsay@acu.edu.au, 02 9739 2898

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