

# ART AND RELIGION TODAY

An On-Going Doctoral Research in Design Culture Studies

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## In the Beginning

### A Vague Idea and Bold Interest

Perhaps a misunderstanding?

Or the lack of dialogue?

Or maybe the lack of trust?

I wanted to dig deeper, for myself,  
for my communities, for my contemporaries.

## Terms & Discourses

- Belief / Faith / Experience
- Liturgy / Practice
- Holy / Sacred / Numinous
- Space / Place
- Anthropocene / Capitalocene
- Design Capitalism
- Modern / Contemporary / Postmodern /  
Metamodern / Post-Contemporary
- BPSS-model
- Disenchantment / Re-Enchantment
- Secularism / Post-Secularism
- Post-Human / Post-Truth
- Sublime / De-Sublimation
- Theological / Liturgical / Somaesthetics

## Readings (selected)

BERGER, Peter L. 2014. *The Many Altars of Modernity*. Boston/Berlin: De Gruyter.  
ELKINS, James. 2004. *On the Strange Place of Religion in Contemporary Art*. New York: Routledge.  
FRY, Tony. 2010. "Returning: Sacred Design III." *Design Philosophy Papers* 8:1, 25–34.  
WILLIS, Anne-Marie. 2010. "Sacred Design Now." *Design Philosophy Papers* 8:1, 1–6.

## Unchangeable separation? Reverse roles? No commonalities?



*Ceci n'est pas un musée.*

„Sooner or later, if you love art, you will come across a strange fact: there is almost no modern religious art in museums or in books of art history.” – Elkins 2004, ix.



*Ceci n'est pas une église.*

„It is impossible to talk sensibly about religion and at the same time address art in an informed and intelligent manner: but it is also irresponsible not to keep trying.” – Elkins 2004, 116.



## Contributions (selected)

(2019) "From Design in Religion to Sacred in Design." (conference presentation) *Ninth International Conference on Religion & Spirituality in Society*. Universidad de Granada, Spain; (2018) "Sacred Design." (exhibition/presentation/debate) *Design Week Budapest 2018*. MOME; (2018) "Forest Chapel" (project) Pannonhalma. KÖRÖSVÖLGYI, Z. (2017) "Kortárs szakrális? Kit érdekel?" (Contemporary Sacred? Who Cares?) *A reformáció aktualitásai, Egyetemi füzetek*, Vol 38, 115–127; KÖRÖSVÖLGYI, Z. (2017) "The Sustainable Church: A New Way to Look at the Place of Worship." *Periodica Polytechnica Architecture*, Vol 48 2017:2, 93–100.

## Learnings

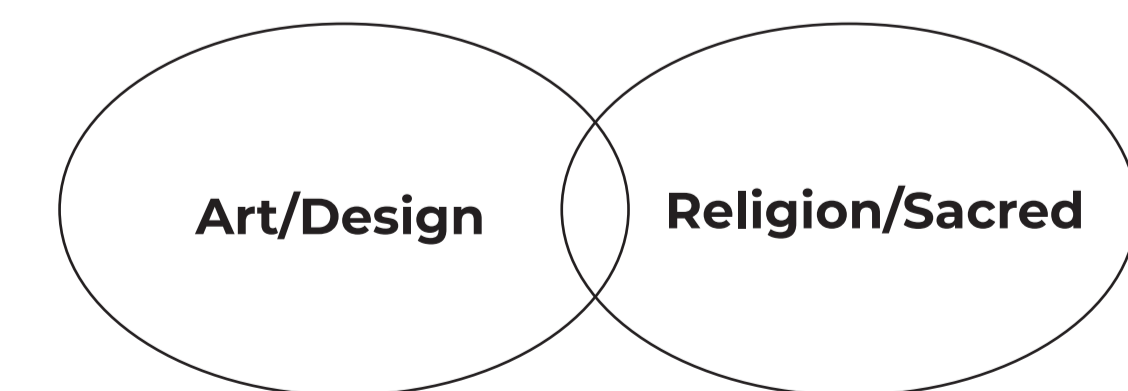
- Communal
- Inclusive
- Participative
- Structuring
- Connecting
- Sustaining
- Futuring
- Caring
- Generating
- Mobilising

Religion and art/design have many commonalities.  
A properly applicable concept to explain this shared territory  
is *sacred design* coined by Tony Fry (1995)  
to develop an inclusive approach for design practice,  
theory, and education.

## Understandings (current)

- *Dialogue*
- *Learning*
- *Understanding and accepting* the commonalities
- *Discovering* the potential of collaboration

Art/design can learn ethics, and a renewed focus on the  
potential of common creation. Religion/sacred can learn how to  
be approachable and appear likeable again.



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