“The Least of These” Art Exhibit

Capturing God’s Heart for the Vulnerable

June 12, 2005–August 31, 2025

Christ Community Leawood Campus invites visual and literary artists from all campuses, age 14 and up, to submit work that wrestles with God’s passionate concern for the vulnerable and our human failure to fully reflect his character in this way.

> *“And the King will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’”*
>
> Matthew 25:40

Exhibit Vision

All over the globe, in every city, village, farm, and unreached jungle, the forces of poverty, disability, and injustice show their faces. They swallow up the vulnerable of God’s creation.

Our world is filled with refugees of war, ethnic cleansing, and racial animus and our streets are filled with those who have fallen prey to misfortune, illness, and addiction. These images of God live just around the corner from us, suffering, often in ways unknown to their neighbors.

Do we believe that injustice can be subdued and beauty can come from ashes? Who are the vulnerable—the “least of these”? What does it mean to care for them? Whose responsibility is it—God’s or ours? How shall we put flesh on the gospel in a broken world?

We invite artists to help us comprehend God’s concern for the “least of these” in fresh ways, impelling us to believe and act.

Submissions

Want help with ideas or support for submission? Our workshops on December 8, 2024, January 11, and February 22, 2025, will explore the theme, FAQs, and advocacy statements.

To submit artwork, please fill out the submission form.

As part of each submission, each artist will highlight an advocacy group for the marginalized that is affinity-related to their artwork. We ask that artists highlight advocacy groups that align with the mission and values of Christ Community, avoiding advocacy initiatives that may conflict with these principles.

Online submission deadline: Monday, March 3, 2025, 11:59 PM
Works may still be in process at this deadline. Artist statements and advocacy group highlights must be complete.

Exhibit booklet picture/text deadline: Friday, March 14, 2025
For all accepted submissions, including still in-process works, we must have a picture or text pdf file by this date that the artist is willing to have printed in our exhibit booklet.

Physical delivery deadline: Sunday, June 1, 2025, 12:30 PM

Display dates: June 12–August 31, 2025. Artwork may be sold. The sale of artwork is the responsibility of the artist.

Opening Reception: Thursday, June 12, 2025

Submission Guidelines

1. Multiple submissions are welcome, whether a grouped collection or individual works. Artist statements are required for each individual work or group. Advocacy group statements can apply to more than one submission.

2. Submissions may take the form of poetry, short essays, flash fiction, or any 2D or 3D art (including installations) that can be displayed safely in the exhibit space.

3. Requirements for Presentation:
    - 2D works on canvas must have finished edges or be framed.
    - Works on paper must be framed behind glass.
    - Photography must either be framed or printed on a finished-edge canvas.
    - All works to be hung should have two D-rings mounted on each side of the back of the frame or finished piece, four inches down (unless a small work). Include a wire for pieces 18 inches or less. Fabric pieces may use pins.
    - Poetry, flash fiction, and essays must be printed on foam core with one of the provided backgrounds. The recommended minimum size is 18x24 inches (about $26 per panel when ordered from Staples.com). The font must be at least 20 points or larger. The curating team will provide Velcro or D-rings for hanging, as needed.

      Kelli Sallman will provide layout and ordering assistance for all literary submissions. Please email her at sallmanediting@gmail.com if you wish to discuss alternative layout options or need to spread a longer essay or poetry collection across several panels.

      If panel cost is prohibitive, please email Randy Bonifield at randyb@cckc.church to request a scholarship.

4. Dimensions
    - Poetry: 35 lines or less, printed on 18x24 inch (or larger, if needed) foam core with one of the provided backgrounds. Minimum 20-point font. (Short poems that fit on 12x18 or 10x20 inch panels with no less than 20-point font will be considered.)

    - Essay and flash fiction: 600 words or less, printed on 18x24 inch (or larger) foam core with one of our provided backgrounds. Minimum 20-point font. It may cover two panels.

- 3D: Restricted by available display space and entry door width. (Feel free to suggest a location, especially for installations.) Must be self-supporting and stable on a flat surface. If meant to be hung on the wall, it must have a depth of less than 12 inches and weigh less than 10 pounds. If you have a large work, consider submitting early!
- 2D: Most dimensions are welcome, depending on the availability of space to display. If you have a large work, consider submitting early!

5. This exhibition will be displayed in a place of worship. Please refrain from using provocative or detailed nudity, foul language or slurs, or expressions of hate toward any people group. Submissions will be rejected if they do not adhere to these guidelines. If you have any questions about whether your theme/work will be acceptable, please email Randy Bonifield as early as possible or attend one of the workshops.

6. Stance on Artificial Intelligence (AI) generated work. Only original works made by human hands and words will be accepted for this exhibit. While we acknowledge some beneficial generative capabilities and applications of AI, we see deep value in the distinct, slow practices and crafts of making. We are open to accepting art that involves digital and technological processes, but we will not accept work that involves AI in any part of that process.

Details Necessary to Complete Submission Form

- Creator's name
- Title of the work
- Year created
- Dimensions (both of artwork itself and size of frame, if framed)
- Medium or genre
- Artist's statement about the work (≤200 words)
- Artist bio (≤75 words) and website or social media handles
- Advocacy statement highlighting the work of a group that aids the marginalized (≤300 words)
- If work is for sale and the price
- JPG or PNG picture of visual art or PDF of written work