

## CROSS/PURPOSE

### AN EXHIBITION OF ART AND ARTIFACTS WITH A THEMATIC FOCUS ON THE CROSS OF CHRISTIANITY

**Sr. Theresa Couture, M.F.A., D.Min.,\***  
**Director, Rivier College Art Gallery**

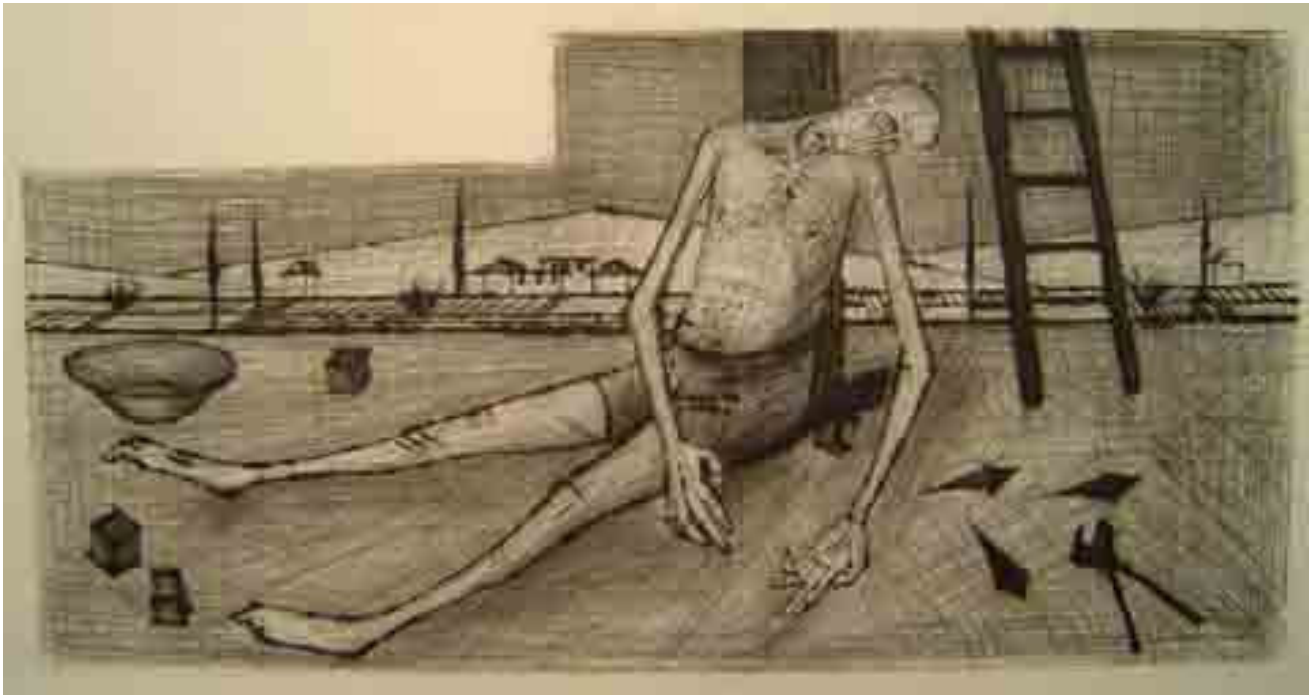
Rivier College Art Gallery  
October 22 – November 30, 2007  
(closed Wednesday through Friday, November 21–23)

**T**his exhibition is a sampling of some of the many forms the Christian Cross has taken over the centuries and the purposes for which it has been used. Historically the materials from which crosses have been made, as well as their actual applications, have ranged widely. For example, crude sticks tied together with coarse twine have long been common objects of personal devotion; more closely tied to liturgical practice are elaborately tooled leather designs embellished with jewels and sculpted ivory inlays and functioning as covers for precious scriptural manuscripts and prayer books. Whether simple or ornate, crosses have been carried and worn as symbols of commitment to Christian values and as talismans against perceived evils. Governments have displayed the cross on coinage and on banners leading armies into the battles of "holy wars." The cross, understood as the ultimate expression of belief in the redeeming act of Jesus Christ, has been used repeatedly by the Church itself in architecture; sculpture; the design of liturgical vessels; painting, mosaic, and other two-dimensional media; and ritual gesture.

Beginning with a sixth century AD coin from Constantinople, CROSS/PURPOSE winds through history to present such works as a 15th century anonymous woodcut, prints from the period of the Catholic Counter-Reformation, a 19th century Ethiopian processional cross, outsider art of the 20th century, and contemporary pieces by living artists. The presentation spans figurative, abstract, expressionist, realist, and conceptual art, including work by such masters as Jacques Callot, Marc Chagall, Georges Rouault, Bernard Buffet, Alfred Manessier, Jacques Villon, and Otto Dix.

Works in the exhibition have been selected by Edward Knippers, art collector, painter, and professor of art at Messiah College in Pennsylvania. Made available through CIVA (Christians in the Visual Arts), they are from the extensive private collection that Knippers and his late wife, Diane, acquired over a span of many years.

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Bernard Buffet (1928-1999) French  
*Christ at the Foot of the Cross*  
9 3/8" × 18 5/8"  
Drypoint

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Marc Chagall (1887-1985) Russian/French  
*Christ in the Clock*  
9" x 7 7/8"  
Lithograph

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Otto Dix (1891-1969) German  
*Crucifixion*  
11 ½" × 9"  
Lithograph

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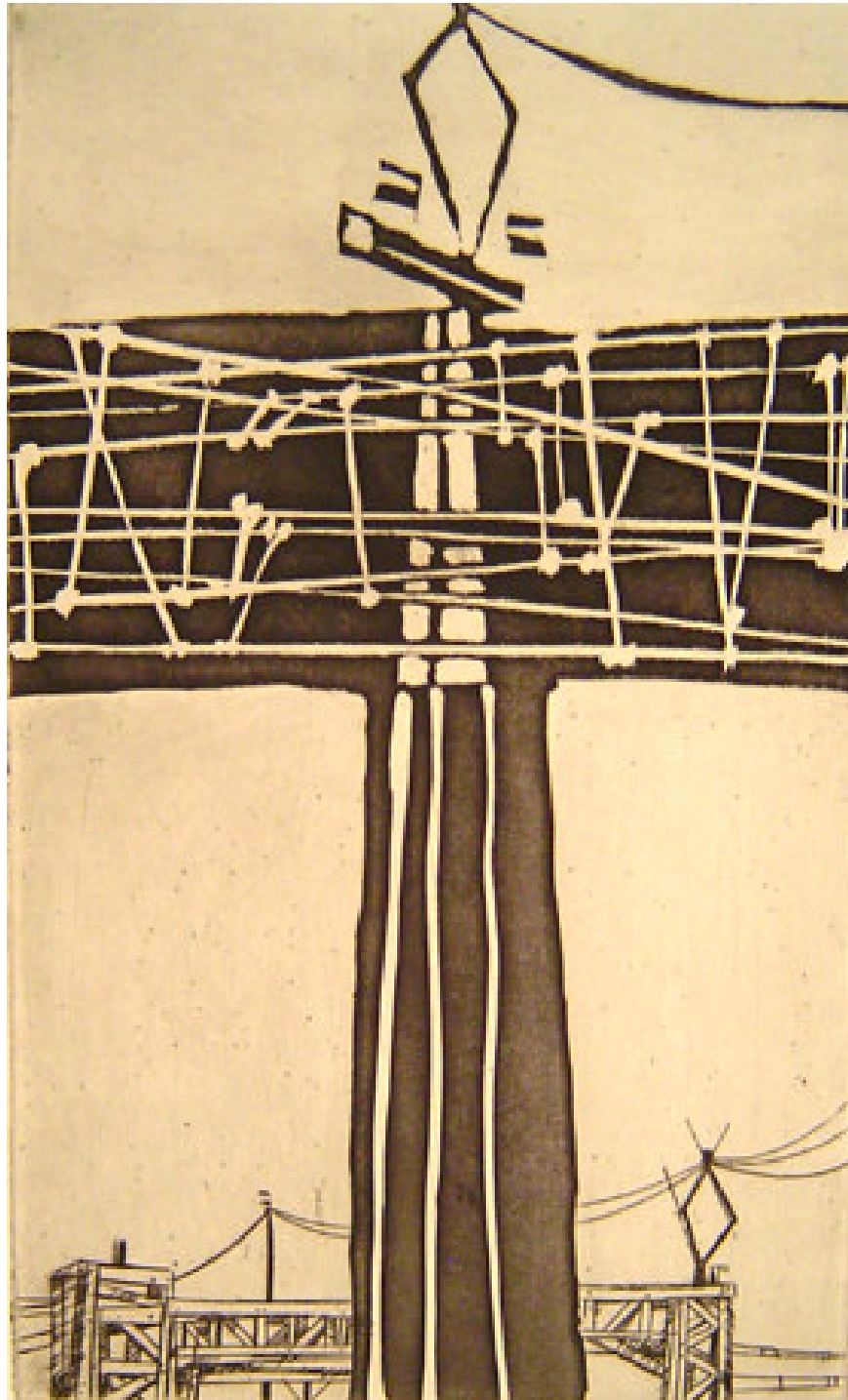
Ethiopian Processional Cross (19<sup>th</sup> century)  
Bronze w/silver  
24" x 18"

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Auguste-Jean Gaudin (b. 1914) French  
*Crucifixion/Russian Prison Camp*  
19 ¼" × 24 ½"  
Intaglio

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Gerson Leiber (b. 1921) American  
*Mainline*  
17" × 11" (paper)  
Intaglio

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Fra Antonio Lorenzini (1665-1740) Italian  
*Descent from the Cross*  
23 1/8" × 14 1/4" (paper)  
Engraving



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Alfred Manessier (1911-1993) French  
*"IX" (Three Crosses)*  
22" x 30"  
Color lithograph

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Patrick Pye (b. 1929) Irish  
*The Journey*  
11" x 14 1/4"  
Intaglio

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Jacques Villon (1875-1963) French  
*Crucifixion*  
18" 1/4" × 16 1/4"  
Lithograph on gold leaf

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**Gallery Hours:**

Monday–Thursday 11:00 AM – 3:45 PM, 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM

Friday 10:45 AM – 12:45 PM

Saturdays and Sundays by arrangement

Admission is free and open to the public.

For further information call the Office of the Department of Art and Music at 603.897.8276.

The Rivier College Art Gallery is located on the 2nd floor of Memorial Hall (entrance at back, elevator access to 2nd floor, six low steps in gallery foyer).

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\* **Sr. THERESA COUTURE** is an artist in digital and combined media. She received her M.F.A. from Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, Rhode Island; D.Min. in Theology and the Arts from Graduate Theological Foundation, South Bend, Indiana (partially coordinated with studies at the Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, California and the Andover Newton Theological School, Newton, MA); and M.A. and B.A. in English from Rivier College. Theresa Couture combines an active studio life with a full professorship in art at Rivier College, a Catholic liberal arts institution sponsored by the Sisters of the Presentation of Mary of which she is a member. She has served as Co-chair of the Department of Art and Music and Director of the Design Program. She is currently Director of the Rivier College Art Gallery. Her work on paper has been exhibited throughout the United States. Many of her pieces are in private and university collections as well as in the collections of the Armand Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, California, and the National Museum of Women in the Arts, Washington, D.C. Her work has appeared in *Art New England*, *Christianity and the Arts*, *Insight*, *Face of the Deep*, and publications of *Christians in the Visual Arts (CIVA)*.