

SIGNS OF OUR TIMES

Theological Essays on Art
in the Twentieth Century

GEORGE S. HEYER, JNR.

There runs through Christianity, at least in its Protestant variety, a deep strain of suspicion towards visual art. In some measure this springs from our Hebrew heritage. The Old Testament is relentless in its fidelity to the Second Commandment, and the making of a graven image equals the construction of an idol. Professor Heyer examines idolatry and reassesses the true value of art as the expression of a God-given gift whose exercise can immeasurably enrich human life.

Apart from the numerous illustrations in the book, the text allows artists to speak for themselves, through their words as well as through their works. Thus the theological response addresses the vision that these people—the artists—have of their task and avoids distortion of that vision.

George S. Heyer, Jnr., is Associate Professor of Theology at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Texas. This book comprises the Gunning Lectures, which the author delivered at the University of Edinburgh in 1975.

ISBN 0 905312 04 X [Illustrated] Hardback £7.50

THE HANDSEL PRESS

33 Montgomery Street, Edinburgh EH7 5JX

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SCOTTISH JOURNAL OF THEOLOGY
VOLUME 34 No. 3

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Printed in Great Britain by Clark Constable Ltd., Edinburgh