

Christianity and Renewal—Interdisciplinary Studies

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Christianity and Renewal—Interdisciplinary Studies provides a forum for scholars from a variety of disciplinary perspectives, various global locations, and a range of Christian ecumenical and religious traditions to explore issues at the intersection of the pentecostal, charismatic, and other renewal movements and related phenomena, including: the transforming and renewing work of the Holy Spirit in Christian traditions, cultures, and creation; the traditions, beliefs, interpretation of sacred texts, and scholarship of the renewal movements; the religious life, including the spirituality, ethics, history, and liturgical and other practices, and spirituality of the renewal movements; the social, economic, political, transnational, and global implications of renewal movements; methodological, analytical, and theoretical concerns at the intersection of Christianity and renewal; intra-Christian and interreligious comparative studies of renewal and revitalization movements; other topics connecting to the theme of Christianity and renewal. Authors are encouraged to examine the broad scope of religious phenomena and their interpretation through the methodological, hermeneutical, and historiographical lens of renewal in contemporary Christianity. Under the general topic of thoughtful reflection on Christianity and renewal, the series includes two different kinds of books: (1) monographs that allow for in-depth pursuit, carefully argued, and meticulously documented research on a particular topic that explores issues in Christianity and renewal; and (2) edited collections that allow scholars from a variety of disciplines to interact under a broad theme related to Christianity and renewal. In both kinds, the series encourages discussion of traditional pentecostal and charismatic studies, reexamination of established religious doctrine and practice, and explorations into new fields of study related to renewal movements. Interdisciplinarity will feature in the series both in terms of two or more disciplinary approaches deployed in any single volume and in terms of a wide range of disciplinary perspectives found cumulatively in the series.

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Steven Félix-Jäger

Spirit of the Arts

Towards a Pneumatological Aesthetics of Renewal

palgrave
macmillan

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Christianity and Renewal—Interdisciplinary Studies
ISBN 978-3-319-67918-1 ISBN 978-3-319-67919-8 (eBook)
DOI 10.1007/978-3-319-67919-8

Library of Congress Control Number: 2017955379

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Cover illustration: *Speaking in Tongues*, 2014. 244 x 366 cm. Oil and Resin on Board. Paul Benney.

Printed on acid-free paper

This Palgrave Macmillan imprint is published by Springer Nature
The registered company is Springer International Publishing AG
The registered company address is: Gewerbestrasse 11, 6330 Cham, Switzerland

“Steven Félix-Jäger’s *Spirit of the Arts* is surprising in a number of ways. First, it’s remarkable that the book exists at all, given that pentecostals and charismatics historically have given such little attention to aesthetics. Even when we have done so, we’ve failed to take seriously arts like dancing or architecture; music and orality have been much more our style. Thankfully, Félix-Jäger’s thinking runs as broadly as it does deeply. Second, only the rarest theological/philosophical texts in any tradition actually have the power to move the conversation forward. But this work should prove to be an exception. Equal parts learned and creative, irenic and curious, it is a book Pentecostals and charismatics need to read. Who knows where the conversation might go?”

—Chris Green, *Associate Professor of Theology,
Pentecostal Theological Seminary, USA*

“Pentecostals have been comfortable to engage applied art but not engage the world of fine art. Now, a pathway has been forged. This volume provides for Pentecostals, and those located in contexts of charismatic renewal, a pneumatological model to engage the public artworld. But it doesn’t end with description, it envisions a creative future for the Pentecostal community. For those desiring to explore both a theological and phenomenological study of the arts in the renewal tradition, I heartily commend this book.”

—Jacqueline Grey, *Associate Professor of Biblical Studies,
Alphacrucis College, Australia*

“In this theologically informed interdisciplinary study Félix-Jäger constructs a ‘pneumatological aesthetics’ that reflects the character and values of Pentecostal and charismatic communities. At the same time, he calls those same communities to a finer appreciation and experience of the arts, beyond their mere usefulness for worship, confident this will result in more imaginative and visionary appropriations of various art forms that will significantly enrich the embodied and communal dimension of renewal movements.”

—Blaine Charette, *Professor of New Testament, Northwest University, USA*

“Faithful to his tradition and imminently open to fresh discoveries, Félix-Jäger performs a great service for the broader conversation regarding theology and the arts with his creative proposal toward a ‘renewal aesthetics.’ In this remarkable project, he manages to balance the potentially disparate concerns of maintaining a distinct ecclesial tradition and demonstrating generous and generative engagement with a multiplicity of art forms. Few scholars have attempted such endeavors, and even fewer have demonstrated such astounding fidelity to both concerns. Félix-Jäger provides a theological model for understanding and stewarding the arts that will both encourage and inspire.”

—Taylor Worley, *Associate Professor of Faith and Culture,
Trinity International University, USA*

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

In the same way that it “takes a village” to raise a child, it takes many perspectives, observations, and conversations to form a scholarly discourse. In like fashion, this book came about by stringing together many voices that have shared the common interest of theology and the arts. Some of these voices came from the giants who have written on these matters before, but many voices came from friends, pastors, students, and teachers who, through conversation, purposely or inadvertently helped to shape the contents of this book.

I’d first thank the series editors Amos Yong and Wolfgang Vondey whose initial invite into the series was both humbling and much appreciated. They also offered a wealth of insight and support along the way. I also extend my gratitude to the whole excellent team at Palgrave. I thank William K. Kay and Peter Althouse, who have been my greatest mentors in my endeavor as a young scholar. Chris Green and Robby Waddell have encouraged me tremendously in my pursuits in aesthetics and Pentecostal studies. I also thank Wilfredo Felix, Jeff del Nero, Terry Tripp, Guy Kinnear, Bill Catling, and Brent Dickinson for giving me much to think about throughout the writing of this book, and also the great people at SPS (Society for Pentecostal Studies) and CIVA (Christian in the Visual Arts). Most importantly, I thank God for providing the clarity and strength that was needed to write this book, and my family, especially my wife Connie and daughter Mila, for their continual support of me as I pursue the life of an artist and scholar.

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