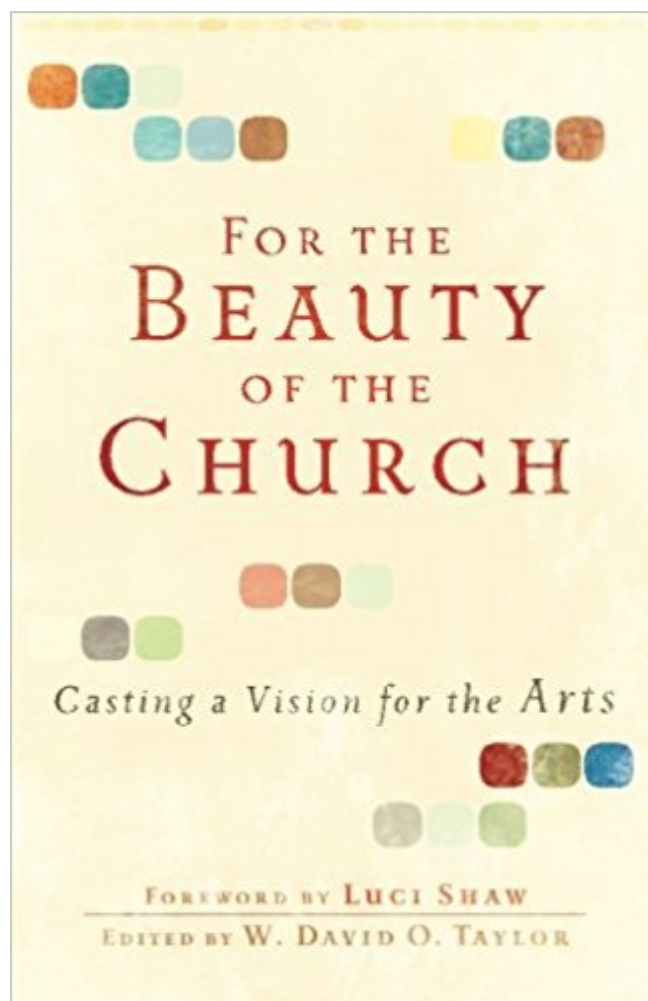


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# For The Beauty Of The Church: Casting A Vision For The Arts



## Synopsis

This unique book contributes to a robust, expansive vision for the church and the arts, with insights from Eugene Peterson, Lauren Winner, Jeremy Begbie, Andy Crouch, and John Witvliet.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Once upon a time, the church was deeply involved in the arts, leading the way in beauty, technical ability, and even funding. In many churches today the arts are an afterthought at best and forbidden at worst. This insightful book takes you beyond "how we've always done it," beyond fads, beyond mere imitation of the culture, and beyond utilitarianism to develop a robust, dynamic, and substantive vision for the place of the arts--and artists--in our churches. "The church ought to be synonymous with all good gifts and stewardship of the earth. And it most certainly ought to be synonymous with the stewardship of the arts. For the Beauty of the Church reminds us of this essential truth and many more."--Charlie Peacock, codirector, Art House America; author of *New Way to Be Human*"Pragmatic and theologically astute at the same time, For the Beauty of the Church is a gem-packed collection for those navigating between the realms of the arts and the church."--Makoto Fujimura, artist; founder and creative director, International Arts Movement"One reason the church exists is that our hunger for beauty will not go away. These essays remind us why."--John Ortberg, author of *God Is Closer Than You Think* and *Love Beyond Reason*; pastor, Menlo Park Presbyterian Church"This book is an urgently needed wake-up call for the church! I pray that it will encourage more artists and churches to offer each other their respective gifts."--Marva J.

Dawn, author of *In the Beginning, God and A Royal "Waste" of Time*; teaching fellow in spiritual theology, Regent College "This book is encouraging, celebrative, and hopeful, but it is also explosive. This conversation is critical not only for its practical suggestions about the arts but also for its bracing theological framework that will help make artistic and spiritual worship the transforming experience God intends it to be."--William Dyrness, professor of theology and culture, Fuller Theological Seminary Contributors include: Eugene Peterson W. David O. Taylor Lauren Winner John Witvliet Jeremy Begbie Andy Crouch Barbara Nicolosi Joshua Banner W. David O. Taylor is an artist, author, and advocate for the arts. He is a graduate of Regent College and served for eight years as the arts pastor of Hope Chapel in Austin, Texas. He is currently pursuing doctoral studies at Duke Divinity School.

W. David O. Taylor is a pastor, artist, and author. He is a graduate of Regent College and served for eight years as the arts pastor of Hope Chapel in Austin, Texas. He's currently pursuing doctoral studies at Duke Divinity School.

I just finished *For the Beauty of the Church*. Dang it, it is going to be an expensive book. I have already ordered two more copies. As a woman, a working artist and a believer my relationship with the church has been a love/hate relationship. So often I have been unable to articulate the struggle. David Taylor has brought together a varied group to give voice to the struggle. Not just a group talking theory, but individuals in the trenches. I was registered to attend the conference in Austin where these ideas were first presented, but I was unable to attend (a new baby and allergy season in Texas took me out!) I am thrilled to have this resource in my hot little hand. I read. I cried. I underlined vigorously. I wrote comments in the margins. I read more. I ordered another two books and when my budget recovers I will order more. (Merry Christmas friends and family.) For the first reading Barbara Nicolosi's chapter was my favorite as it brought healing to my heart. As the seasons change other chapters will rise to the forefront. I know that I will go back to this book to remind myself that the battle is worth fighting, and that the struggle, as Jeremy Begbie so eloquently reminds us, has an end and that it might behoove us to think from the end to the present. I am so PROUD of Eugene Peterson for not only admitting he has artist friends, but that artist friends are worth having, YOU GO EUGENE! Barbara Nicolosi's chapter reminded me that what is done is not a waste of time, energy or emotion. Joshua Banner's description of a pastor involved in one's arts career, in a positive way, blew my mind. I can not even imagine, but wow, what a concept. Hope stirred. And David Taylor did a delightful wrap up. Context, context, context! David is a master

encourager. It is a good book. It was an easy read. "For the Beauty of the Church" will bring understanding into the Body of Christ. I have art in 54 nations yet at any moment I question whether or not I am "really" an artist. There is so much pain in the world, at any moment I can question the value of arts. It is difficult, at least for me, to balance the truth of it all, that what I do is worth doing. In the church environment where results and numbers are held in such esteem, it is hard to quantify beauty. I am very thankful for this collection of essays and their pointing to a truth beyond statistics. I am gonna go paint now.

This is the kind of book I will be thinking about, talking about, recommending, giving to friends, and re-reading regularly for many, many years. The essays collected and edited in this volume each stand alone as relevant, helpful, well-crafted works around the topic of art and the church. Taken together, they form both a manifesto on the beautiful kinship between the arts and the church, and a manual for how to best foster that kinship. One of my favorite things about the book was the rich diversity in the ideas presented. Taylor has gathered a blend of voices, each speaking thoughtfully from their varied perspectives on topics for which they are perfectly suited. And yet, even though the authors are diverse in age, experience, and background, the book maintains a sense of continuity and flow throughout its entirety. I would highly recommend this book to anyone, but especially to a few specific folks: -all those in pastoral or worship ministry -artists of all kinds -believers who feel no connection to the arts, and wonder why churches should bother with them at all Whether you are a pastor, an artist, or someone who has serious doubts about the connection between church and art, this book is an absolute must-read.

This was recommended to me by an artist friend after several conversations on the topic. A helpful little book for those who might be unfamiliar with the conversation but are concerned with learning. Unfortunately, the book's greatest strength is also its weakness. I appreciated the variety of perspectives from across the spectrum evangelicalism and valued the inclusion of a Roman Catholic voice. However, this causes the quality of the chapters to be a bit uneven, some are more engaging than others. With that being said, all of them are worthy of your time and consideration. Especially if you're looking to understand the basics of the intersection between the life of the church and the work of the artist

A valuable contribution to the use and function of art in the religious setting. I wish I had been present at the conference that brought these authors together so as to hear them first hand,

although reading their words is a wonderful experience as well.

awesome read for christian artists. I was inspired by this book as a artist, to keep pressing in and going forward in my calling, regardless of what culture might be saying around me.

As a worship/creative arts director for a church, I greatly appreciated this book. The chapters are all written by different authors with different perspectives on the arts. I found all of them to be helpful in painting a picture of the need, call, theory, and implementation of arts in the local church. It's an easy but satisfying read, I'll be using this with my arts teams!

The richest things in life are free. Well, Taylor's book does cost some \$\$, but the its value is beyond all price because it advances of the awareness of our need to affirm art in the functions church.

This book is a wonderful collection of essays arising from a symposium held to focus on the place of the arts in the worship and life of the Church. The opening essay by Andy Crouch is simply brilliant

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