

Press release

Romanian sculptor contributes to Calvin Jubilee celebrations

A number of individuals from the international community of Geneva have sponsored a monumental sculpture as part of the Calvin anniversary celebrations. Entitled "invitation/decalogue", the fibreglass monument is inspired by the Ten Commandments in the bible, and the central place they took in Calvin's understanding of a healthy society.

The work, by Romanian artist Liviu Mocan, consists of a circle of ten columns, 4.5m high, and 7.5m diameter, and will be exhibited in the Parc des Bastions for the month of July. The inside face of each column resembles a giant finger, which narrows to a sharp, vertical blade facing away from the centre.

The striking contrast between the inner and outer faces of the columns reflects the importance of the rule of law in creating a peaceful and just society. And the sculpture, resembling a giant pair of hands, suggests that God's law is also an invitation to relationship.

"I want this sculpture to create a positive feeling for people who come inside the circle, to enjoy nature, to enjoy art, to enjoy one another," explains Mocan. "The circle of columns also suggests a kind of limitation because real freedom is only found in the midst of clear borders - moral, spiritual, economic; outside these borders we will finish in tragedy."

A small seat is cut into the base of each column, inviting people to sit inside the circle and reflect on the sculpture and its inspiration. Jonathan Tame of the patronage committee elaborates: "I love the way this sculpture is rich in metaphors; it depicts the Ten Commandments as an invitation to relationship, and a freedom charter too. It underscores the influence of the bible in shaping western civilisation, and portrays graphically how the law can make or break institutions in society."

The vernisage takes place in the Parc des Bastions at 17h on Thursday July 2nd. Following this, the sculpture will be exhibited at the World Council of Churches until September 15th, and at the Reformed Church in Plan-les-Ouates till Easter 2010. More details of the project can be found at www.invitationsculpture.com; contact Jonathan Tame on 076 213 5992.