

17 January – 1 February 2011, Southwark Cathedral

Monday 17 January 2011, 3.00 – 4.00 pm

This will mark the official launch of the Tour. If you are able to join us, you would be very welcome.

There will be a brief introduction to the Poverty Over tour from Loretta Minghella, the Director of Christian Aid. Mel Howse, the artist, will speak of the inspiration behind the sculpture.

This touring exhibition highlights some of the issues prioritised by Christian Aid in its work to eradicate poverty.



Golbibi Kohsani, Afghanistan

A photographic exhibition demonstrates that through the work of Christian Aid relationships can be repaired, structural failure can be exposed and fought, and rights and dignity restored.

As the psalmist said, 'Give justice to the weak and the orphan; maintain the right of the lowly and the destitute. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.' (Psalm 82:3-4)



Mel Howse at work

The Poverty Over sculpture reminds us that poverty is a failure of relationships. The prophet Amos wrote of broken relationships between the rich and powerful and the oppressed poor, 'they... trample the head of the poor into the dust of the earth, and push the afflicted out of the way.' (Amos 2:7)

Artist: Mel Howse (2010 - Enamel on steel)

Poverty: lack of money, food, shelter – but ultimately about inequality and lack of power. This piece explores the gap between those who are living in poverty and those who are not. There are two circular vessels. The most conspicuous of these, a vertically oriented shallow lens, represents the human eye. It stares challengingly at us.

This eye is society's conscience. Beneath sits a deep bowl, its interior hidden from us. If we come closer we see another eye looking up from its base. This is the eye of the poor – unseen from a distance and lost as we walk away. This eye requires more from

us to get our attention. The juxtaposition of the two vessels implies that one has power over the other, but also that one vessel brings attention to the other. In essence they are the same. Poverty is staring at us and can be uncomfortable to witness.

But once we have seen, the challenge is to act.

**Please join us for the launch if you are free, confirm by email [gdaintree@christian-aid.org](mailto:gdaintree@christian-aid.org)**

**If you cannot come on Monday, please do visit the Exhibition while it is in Southwark Cathedral.**

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