

Norwegian artists draw inspiration from the Bible

Carl Frode Tiller, Håkon Bleken, and Åge Aleksandersen all draw inspiration from the same book.

(Oslo, November 1) As most people probably know, several of the Bible's stories have inspired artists throughout history. Norwegian artists such as Ibsen, Munch, Undset, and Weidemann have drawn inspiration from our shared cultural heritage, which is reflected in the Bible's many fascinating stories.

In our own time, writers, visual artists, and musicians are also inspired by these stories. Three current artists from Trøndelag have drawn inspiration from the Bible.

Author **Carl Frode Tiller** is currently promoting a new novel, *Flukt*, which draws inspiration from Luke's Gospel. It has been well-received by reviewers. *Dagens Næringsliv* describes it as the best Norwegian novel of the year. The author actively engages with the Gospel of Luke. The novel revolves around the story of Zechariah and Elizabeth, both of whose names are drawn from the same text.

One of Norway's leading artists, **Håkon Bleken**, who is 93 years old and has recently exhibited new works at Galleri Brandstrup in Oslo, also draws on biblical references. Among his many works are the beautiful ornaments in the Spjelkavik church in Ålesund, where he depicts the biblical story of The Creation through 96 stained-glass windows. The result is like a modern-day comic book. Bleken emphasizes that it is not necessary to be a Christian in order to create biblical motifs.

The "trønder rocker" **Åge Aleksandersen** is still one of Norway's most beloved artists, as he recently demonstrated when he performed for 8,000 listeners in Trondheim. He is currently preparing the release of his new album "Ingen nåde" ("No Mercy"). Aleksandersen has stated that he is critical of many aspects of the Church as an institution, but he regards Jesus as a good, beautiful, and pure image of the best that he can imagine. He has carried this image with him since he was in primary school. One of his most famous songs is "Va det du Jesus?" ("Was it you, Jesus?") from the album "Levva Livet" ("Live Life") in 1984.

The Nordic Bible Museum in Oslo is committed to communicating the Bible's significance for our shared cultural heritage. In one part of the museum visitors can learn more about several Norwegian and international artists who have been inspired by the Bible.

Rune Arnhoff, the museum's executive director, welcomes all to take a cultural and historical journey through the museum, with several surprises for the art enthusiast.

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Photo caption:

1. The cover of Carl Frode Tiller's new novel
2. Åge Aleksandersen
3. Excerpt from Håkon Bleken's glass painting in the Spjelkavik church

