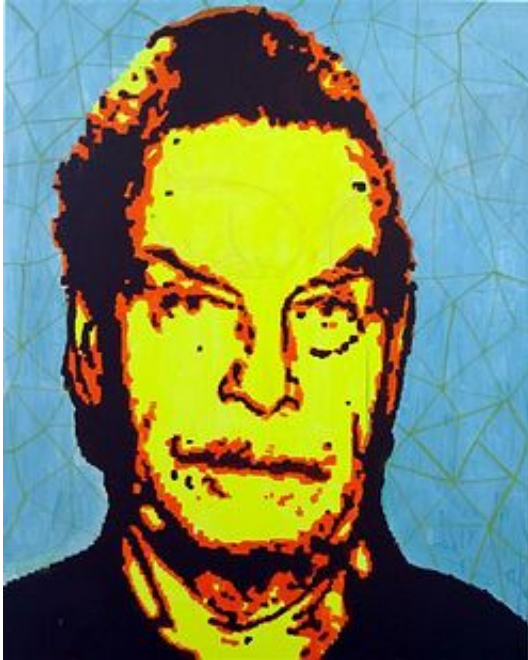


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22. 07. 08. - 17:00

Theologist creates painting to show God loves Fritzl

An Austrian artist and theologian has sparked outrage after putting a picture in a local cafe of Josef Fritzl to show that "God sees good in every person".

Florian Nährer, 32, has put the the 150 x 120 cm acrylic on display in the cafe of a book store in Sankt Pölten - the place where Josef Fritzl is currently imprisoned and awaiting trial.

The painting entitled "Torture - cellar - child - molester - incest - beast of Amstetten or the man Josef Fritzl loved by God" (original title: "Die Folterkammer - Kellerkinder - Schänder - Inzestbestie von Amstetten oder der von Gott geliebte Mensch Josef Fritzl" can be bought for 1,200 pounds.

But locals have not been impressed, and one person even took the painting off the wall and turned it around, leaving a note behind saying "This painting has to go".

But artist Nährer says: "I am neither a fan of Josed Fritzl nor do I want to euphemise his deeds, but I would like to share the following thoughts about this painting.


"God's promise that every person will be forgiven if they repent from the bottom of their heart - no matter how severe their sins

are - shows us in the face of the incomprehensible happenings in Amstetten an incomprehensible Christian truth - the irrational and eternal love of God for us humans."

Nährer was personal assistant of Austrian artist Hermann Nitsch who is famous for his paintings with animal blood, pulls out their entrails and uses them to cover naked women in entrails after hanging them from crucifixes.

The 32-year-old that has studied art and theology at the University of Vienna says he is aware that the picture is "provocative", but added that "provocation is good if you want to provoke thoughts".

Austrian Times

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