

# On Earth

Clare Wigney

11 April - 3 May

## The Church of Elwin Gracey - A Sermon on Gods, Idols and Fear

“Transformation, which is the monster’s whole game, simultaneously altering their bodies and changing the surrounding culture like radioactive fallout, is a mode of catharsis, along with a strategy for abjuring a body that feels too vulnerable or out of control.... In certain cases, the title ‘monster’ should be re-claimed in a spirit of punk triumph to become a great honour. Monsters cause trouble, they disturb definitions, they discombobulate what we think we mean. All of which is brave and wild, not to mention something like art’s task.”  
– Charlie Fox

Dearly beloved... as we gather here today... we celebrate the glory of Elwin Gracey. Praise be to He! Elwin Gracey! For they are good and their love endures forever. Here, your spiritual healer is your defence lawyer, your patron saint is your local pageant queen, your rapture is nuclear destruction. I ask you – prepare to be healed by the divine, to undergo psychic surgery and prime yourself to experience sanctification, as we receive signs of both literal and spiritual salvation on earth.

Consider the art practice as a belief system, oh Lord, in The Church of Elwin Gracey, to hold sacred faith in art – the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. To be made in God’s image – As the artist and the viewer, the Lord and the believer, marry in focus, creating one image, they are unified in belief.

Posters, signs, billboards, portraits, converge the image of God, Idols and Fear – Idols that demand our devotion and Fear that floods.  
Saints, beauty queens, rockstars, aliens, celebrity – muses to the greater glory of faith. As we acknowledge fear of bad taste, of camp, of queerness, of punk, fear as the rapture, as heartbreak, as the atomic bomb – to threaten established virtues, rebel against what is ordinary... invert good and evil. Mysticism is magic, healing is magic, faith is magic and magic is the work of the devil. Satan is real says those who believe. To believe in Satan you must believe in God. To fear Satan you must fear God. Fear commands us, it is tyrannical.

In this house we banish the disrepute of bad taste. We honour it as a spectacle – it is instructive, it is performative, it is subversive. !It is the farthest extension, in sensibility, of the metaphor of life as theatre.” We undermine what really exists, illustrating the mystery in reality... Reality is a rumour, after all.

Let us reflect... you came here as a strangers, you will now leave as family.  
Your sacrifices have allowed you to be fruitful and abundant.  
In Elwin’s name, we pray. Amen.

*Preacher Gabriella Lo Presti*





***Wall with posters, 2025***

Oil on canvas

180 x 160 cm







***Bedroom poster, 2025.***

Oil on canvas

180 x 130 cm







***Telegraph pole, 2025***

Oil on canvas

180 x 130 cm







***Magazine, 2025***

Oil on canvas

160 x 115 cm













Location: Level 1, 158 Edinburgh Rd, Marrickville NSW 2204  
Opening hours: 12- 5pm, Fri & Sat & by appointment  
Contact: e: [info@laila.sydney](mailto:info@laila.sydney), ig: [@laila\\_sydney](https://www.instagram.com/laila_sydney)

**LAILA.**