

"CONFESS" | TRINA MCKILLEN



For a decade, TRINA MCKILLEN has been making artwork addressing sexual abuse and its cover-up within the Catholic Church. Seeing that, yet again, the current global debate has lost sight of the child victims of this violence, the goal of her work is to give voice and visibility to those children. She does this through the immediacy

of the experience of art: a confessional booth that positions the priests to ask for forgiveness, communion dresses and altar boy vestments that make visible the hidden scars. Although artists such as Banksy have created individual works about this topic, we believe that this is the first exhibition devoted to this international tragedy.

"CONFESS" is a multi-part art installation. There are three main bodies of work that comprise the installation.

MCKILLEN is open to collaborating with art venues on showing "CONFESS" in its entirety or as individual installations.



1) BLESS ME CHILD FOR I HAVE SINNED, 2010 – 2013
glass, marble, wood, nails, nickel-plated composite, linen
and plexiglass, 102 x 94 x 58 inches



Each garment boldly displays the serpent obstructing the keyhole symbol, designed to represent the sexual abuse of children by priests in the Catholic Church. Made of linen

and hand-sewn onto the garment, each is painted with a unique pattern in gold leaf to symbolize the unique pattern of abuse that each child suffered.



2) THE CHILDREN, 2015 – 2018

Installation of 20 communion dresses and 20 altar boy vestments:

Irish linen, thread and gold leaf, dimensions variable.



3) STATIONS OF HOPE, 2008 – 2013

14 framed assemblages of embroidered, linen squares and rectangles,
lit from within: linen, thread, nails, velvet, metallic ecclesiastic ribbon,
lights, dice, plastic sheep and wood. Frame sizes vary from 13 x 15.5 x 3
inches to 16 x 20 x 3 inches

“CONFESS” has been recognized by International media during each exhibition: Château LaCoste 2019-2021 The Laband Gallery, Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, CA – 2019 and The Lisa Sette Gallery, Phoenix, AZ – 2018

America

THE JESUIT REVIEW OF FAITH AND CULTURE

“Confess”: The Profoundly Spiritual Art Exhibit Tackling The Abuse Crisis
by JIM MCDERMOTT | FEB 07, 2019

The Business Post

Breaking Open A Confessional Seal
by MARION MCKEONE | FEB 3, 2019

PHOENIX New Times

Cardinal Sins: 'Confess' Exhibit Confronts Sexual Abuse by Catholic Priests
by LYNN TRIMBLE | OCT 23, 2018

FEATURED IN THE LOS ANGELES TIMES

Why I Am Still A Catholic — And Why That Becomes More Difficult Every Day
by RUBÉN MARTÍNEZ | MAR 3, 2019

Los Angeles

MAGAZINE

A Catholic University Is Hosting an Art Show That Confronts the Church's Sex Abuse Scandal
by CATHERINE WOMACK | JAN 17, 2019

NATIONAL CATHOLIC REPORTER

THE INDEPENDENT NEWS SOURCE

'Confess': Irish Artist's Exhibit Reflects On Clergy Sex Abuse Of Children
by SR. ROSE PACATTE | FEB 16, 2019

LMU | LA

Loyola Marymount University

Confess, An Installation By Trina Mckillen
by CECILIA GONZÁLEZ-ANDRIEU, PHD. ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF THEOLOGY AND THEOLOGICAL AESTHETICS, LMU | FEB 13, 2019

The Argonaut

Local News & Culture

With An Inverted Confessional, A Bed Of Nails And Children's Garments, “Confess” Calls On The Catholic Church To Atone For Predatory Priests
by TYGRE PATCHELL-EVANS | MAR 13, 2019

THE TIMES

McKillen Makes A Holy Point In City Of Angels
by JOHN BURNS | FEB 10, 2019

La Provence

Une mise en scène où les rôles sont inversés: l'Église doit s'agenouiller et demander pardon
VENDREDI 21 FÉVRIER 2020

EL CORREO

La artista norirlandesa Trina McKillen expone por primera vez en Europa su obra denuncia de abusos infantiles en el entorno eclesiástico
by ABRAHAM De AMÉZAGA | MARCH 7, 2020

La Marseillaise

Les infâmes secrets de l'Église dévoilés au Château La Coste
DU 14 AU 15 AOUT 2020

The body of work consists of a series of pieces that evoke the grief and horror that surround the sexual abuse crisis.

JIM MCDERMOTT, JESUIT PRIEST – AMERICA MAGAZINE

Now, we appreciate “Confess”, a much-needed and monumental piece. It is respectful of the place of the Sacrament of Reconciliation within the Catholic Church. It reflects a real understanding of confession that we have not yet seen from the Catholic Church. The hope is that this installation will promote communication, a vindication, a search for therapy and healing and a source of hope for survivors and their families.

WALTER WATSON, MD. – LOUISIANA SURVIVOR OF CATHOLIC CLERGY ABUSE

Thank you!! We emerge (from the exhibit) different confronted with such cruel beauty. Remarkable [extraordinary] courage. Thank you! Thank you!

08/12/2020 – VISITOR TO CONFESS EXHIBITION CHÂTEAU LA COSTE

Very touching exhibit and such an important topic!!! Thank you! It's great to see contemporary art making tributes to important social/political topics, that is how art is so relevant.

PAULA PAROLE, GERMANY – VISITOR TO CONFESS EXHIBITION CHÂTEAU LA COSTE

The exhibit sings a multitude of emotions and is deeply needed for these times.

ANONYMOUS

Very beautiful and moving exhibition. Thank you for expressing this issue. Seeing the Children filled me with an indescribable sadness. God Bless.

JAY 01/16/2020 – VISITOR TO CONFESS EXHIBITION CHÂTEAU LA COSTE

Haunting, beautiful, transparent. I want to cry.

SISTER ROSE PICATTE fsp

That's why this exhibition is so timely. We live in an age when clergy abuse survivors around the world are finding their voices. They are pulling themselves free of guilt and shame, breaking their silence, and bravely calling for transparency about their childhood experiences. That transparency, of course, is also the path to putting a stop to this abuse. It is what all of us survivors are yearning for. And now . . . as for the Catholic Church?

PHIL SAVIANO – BOSTON SURVIVOR OF CATHOLIC CLERGY ABUSE AND ACTIVIST. HIS CHARACTER IS FEATURED IN THE OSCAR-WINNING FILM, “SPOTLIGHT”

Thank you Trina! As a visitor from Ireland whose brother was a victim I was very moved.

08/19/2020 – VISITOR TO CONFESS EXHIBITION CHÂTEAU LA COSTE

The artist's word that reverberates (resonates)... and materializes it changes the world. Bravo Trina!

ALFREDO VEGA – ALFREDO VEGA-CARDENAS, DIRECTEUR DE L'ÉCOLE SUPÉRIEURE D'ART D'AVIGNON – VISITOR TO CONFESS EXHIBITION CHÂTEAU LA COSTE

I find it courageous on the part of Madame Trina (artist) to denounce abuses against children; I myself am one of them. Thank you.

LOUIS GANADA – VISITOR TO CONFESS EXHIBITION CHÂTEAU LA COSTE

EXHIBITION DETAIL:

Number of Works in the Exhibition:

Two large installations and fourteen framed works and an archive room.

1. BLESS ME CHILD FOR I HAVE SINNED
Life size glass confessional 102" x 94" x 58"
2. THE CHILDREN
Forty children's garments
3. STATIONS OF HOPE
Fourteen framed assemblage pieces
4. ARCHIVE ROOM

Newspaper articles Trina Collected on the subject of Catholic clergy sexual abuse before and during the making of CONFESS. Display of components of the confessional in various stages of development.



Transportation and Shipping Needs:

All artwork is ready for transportation. Eleven custom cases have been built to safely ship all components of "CONFESS".

These cases are on casters and can be easily moved.

Space Requirements:

Variable but minimum of 1,100 sq feet



BLESS ME CHILD FOR I HAVE SINNED

In the Renzo Piano Pavilion at Château La Coste, Provence, France – December 2019



BLESS ME CHILD FOR I HAVE SINNED and THE CHILDREN

In the Lisa Sette Gallery, Phoenix, Arizona, USA – September 2018



ARCHIVE ROOM

For many years, Trina collected newspaper and magazine articles about the sexual abuse of children in the Catholic Church.



A GLIMPSE INTO THE PROCESS

Starting in April 2010, the confessional took three years to complete.

Every component underwent many design modifications until Trina was satisfied with the esthetic and finish. This display case in the archive room offers a glimpse into her creative process.

TRINA MCKILLEN is an artist and photographer, living and working in Los Angeles. She spent her childhood in Belfast and Dublin, before studying art at the National College of Art and Design, in Dublin from 1984-1989.

For more information about Trina's work visit TrinaMcKillen.com



Trina and her mother Peggy on the day of Trina's First Holy Communion, May 1972, outside their parish church, St Teresa's, in Belfast.

TRINA'S mother PEGGY, a devout Catholic, at 84 years old, revealed to her that she didn't want to go to Mass anymore. She couldn't look at the priest in the face after she had heard about the sexual abuse of children by Catholic priests. Trina was heart-broken by her mother's revelation. The loss of trust that caused her to walk away from her spiritual home at her most vulnerable age was a profound betrayal. Trina decided that she had to do something. Feeling the need for transparency and accountability, she had the idea of building a glass confessional, reversing the traditional roles. Trina's confessional would have the priest kneel down and say sorry to the child.

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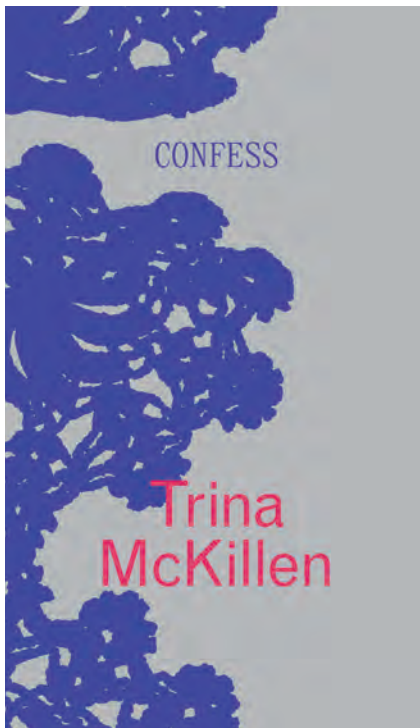
Exhibition Schedule:

Chateau La Coste, Aix-en-Provence (December 20, 2019 – March, 2021)

Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles (January – March, 2019)

Lisa Sette Gallery, Phoenix (September 15 – October 25, 2018)

FOR ENQUIRIES ABOUT CONFESS: trinamckillenstudio@gmail.com



THIS FULL-COLOR, 56-PAGE PUBLICATION includes essays by Dr. Cecilia González-Andrieu and Karen Rapp, as well as contributions by clerical sexual abuse survivors, and advocates for survivors Terence McKiernan, Phil Saviano, Richard Sipe and others. Produced in conjunction with the exhibition "CONFESS": An Installation by TRINA MCKILLEN held at the Laband Art Gallery, Loyola Marymount University, from January 19 to March 30, 2019. Graphic design by Becca Lofchie.

Please contact Karen Rapp, director and curator of the Laband Gallery to request a copy of the CONFESS publication. karen.rapp@lmu.edu



THIS FULL-COLOR BOOK was published by Château La Coste, Provence, France, on the occasion of the "CONFESS" Exhibition December 2019- March 2021. The text is in both English and French. It is available from the Château La Coste Art Centre book store. <https://chateau-la-coste.com/en/art-architecture/bookshop.html>