was Jesus an artist or an advertising guru?
Once we’ve heard the story, we’re suddenly part of it. Whether we like it or hate, we must respond to it.

Anna McGahan is an actor and author. She has worked professionally in film and television for a decade, in projects such as Underbelly, Anzac Girls, House Husbands, and Picnic at Hanging Rock, and her first book ‘Metanoia’, was published by Acorn Press/The Bible Society in 2019.

As an artist whose trajectory was suddenly interrupted by God when she was in her early twenties, Anna will explore the provocative nature of the Christian narrative, and question some of the assumptions we have about this well-worn story: is it trying to sell us a truth we can subscribe to/like/follow/buy? Or is it – like a piece of public art – intending to provoke a unique response?

Anna McGahan

The death of Bruce Smith of leukemia in 2001 deprived Australia of one of its most erudite and inspiring theologians, public speakers and teachers. A prominent Anglican spokesman on ethics and religion during the late 1960s and early ’70s, Smith was active in the public media, taught classics, philosophy and theology, and had a lifelong interest in poetry, painting and music.

Bruce Smith left a legacy of engagement with society in its political, ethical and cultural dimensions. He believed in the broad significance of the Christian message of reconciliation with God through the person and work of Jesus Christ. The Smith Lecture programme intends to develop further this work of engagement. It provides an opportunity for an eminent Christian public figure to present his or her perspective on a subject relevant to the life of our nation.