

DREAMING TOGETHER – LOVE IN ACTION

THE MISEREOUR LENTEN VEIL 2025/2026



The Misereour Lenten Veil 2025 “Dreaming Together – Love in Action” by Konstanze Trommer © Misereour

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‘Overcoming poverty requires cooperation and strategic thinking. But that’s not enough. It takes more than all that. It takes love!’

Felix Wilfred, India

Development needs cooperation, strategies, dedicated people on the ground, and funding. This makes perfect sense. This is how Misereour works, and this is how you get involved within your parishes, schools and groups. This is how, together, you use the Lenten Veil creatively and stand up for a society based on solidarity. But you also need one more thing: You need love!

Love seems far away. Or does it? Daily news on topics ranging from war to climate disaster makes the future seem like a place without hope. What gives us strength to see a different tomorrow – one that inspires us and fills us with confidence?

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ALLY FOR A JUST WORLD

Children of humankind

This question points right at the heart of the scene depicted on the new Lenten Veil. The artist – Konstanze Trommer, from Erfurt – designed the image as a photo collage on a PC and had it printed on canvas. She painted over the photos with acrylic colours and edited them. Here and there she added gold leaf. Konstanze Trommer chose some of the photos from Misereor’s archive.

These show people from Misereor projects in Africa, Latin America and Asia. Others were taken by the artist herself – the girls in the boat are her granddaughters. Children are at the heart of the Lenten Veil: a diverse group living on a sandbank surrounded by the sea. A sky-blue horizon meets a dark storm as it approaches.



On the move

A white tent, framed in gold, forms the vibrant centre of the image. The tent and the gold are reminiscent of the Biblical story of God leading the people of Israel through the desert in a tent and assuring them: I am here. The Israelites called this temporary dwelling God’s “Tent of Meeting” with humankind – in the belief that God remains in our midst even in dark times (see Exodus 29).



The future is us

This bare strip of sand is not an ideal place for children that people would long to visit. It is an island in the middle of nowhere – uncharted territory. As if looking through a magnifying glass, we see a microcosm of paradise and apocalypse. Yet the image traces a path of hope: the children are actively taking their survival into their own hands and trying out ways of living together in fellowship. The picture tells many small stories of defiant confidence that refuses to accept indifference and despair. There is the girl from Afghanistan with the heavy baby in her arms – like a modern image of the Virgin Mary, an expression of motherly or sisterly love; the boy laughing and enjoying playing with the lemur; the helicopter pilot sent by someone who might not be indifferent to the fate of the children. The question is not: Where do you come from? It’s: Where are we going together?

Love in action

The artist emphasises that only love which turns into action – rather than just words – will help us to overcome crises. The top of the tent rises into the sky like a “love antenna” that picks up every cry of distress and helps us to also tune into other people’s afflictions. The Lenten Veil is thus an invitation to dream together as a single human family (Fratelli Tutti, 8), to intervene on behalf of children, women and men so that ‘love can become the island of salvation in the ocean of words’, the only word that sustains us and allows us to survive. Love is an action word!

Dr Claudia Kolletzki, Misereor

‘As an artist, I can only portray love through the actions which arise from it. As the New Testament says, “Let all that you do be done in love” (1 Cor 16.14). However, a “display of love” is often deceptive. A kiss, glamourised as an expression of supreme affection and LOVE, can also be used to manipulate. For me, real LOVE is demonstrated by actions rather than words. (...)

‘We are deserting most of the world’s children. When we consume more than we need, when we produce too many consumer goods and consume too many earths, when we destroy entire habitats, pollute the air we all breathe and poison the water we all drink. We are leaving them to fend for themselves on “childhood” island. (...)

‘We occasionally break our bread, give away used clothes, and some of us donate money for the poor. Yet none of this is enough to create a world worth living in for everyone. Those of us

who are wealthy should actually be collapsing under the weight of our own conscience.

‘But we aren’t. We are hoping that we won’t be affected. We are hoping that the world is not in such a bad state as the reports and factual accounts tell us. But for the afflicted, the drowning, those dying of thirst, those fleeing, the victims of bombing ... the others ... it’s in a disastrous state. ‘Everything we leave behind, and everything we fail to do, will catch up with us.

‘Like the movement of refugees. This is a result of the greed of all of us who exploit the earth and exploit people who are poorer and needier than ourselves. We need to act in LOVE, we need to change society from the bottom up. By peaceful means, with all our strength, through education, a willingness to help, solidarity and justice!’

Konstanze Trommer



The artist

Konstanze Trommer was born in Erfurt in 1953. She gained a diploma in surface design in Halle, and is also a trained multimedia specialist. For many years she worked as a surface print designer at VEB Modedruck Gera. Since 1977 she has been working as a freelance artist in Erfurt. Combining computer art with graphic work and painting, she has created a convincing oeuvre in the style of photorealism and magical realism. Her mostly large-format pictures are at once both an indictment and an appeal. They address socio-political and environmental issues, sometimes as critique and sometimes satirically. However, they also direct our attention to the prospect of a happier future, provided we take action and change things. As numerous purchases, contributions to exhibitions and awards in Germany and abroad demonstrate, Konstanze Trommer is both appreciated and understood. She has now designed the 25th Lenten Veil for Misereor.

Click here to read more about the artist:
www.konstanze-Trommer.de.

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