

75/70 The Coventry Dresden Towers

75/70 is a series of prints about the twinned cities of Coventry and Dresden and the wider destruction of the cities of Britain and Germany during World War II. Conceived to reflect the scale and significance of the cathedral, it addresses the historical background of the cities: the bombing and destruction; reconstruction; and contemporary life in both cities.

The installation in the North Choir Aisle adjacent to the High Altar is at 90 degrees to the magnificent window by Lawrence Lee, its text the building of the New Jerusalem from the New Testament Book of Revelation, Chapter 21. *'and the city was pure gold, like unto clear glass.'*

Flanking the printed images, with the names of Coventry and Dresden uppermost, are other place names. These are some of the 32 other most bombed towns and cities in Great Britain and Germany during World War II.

These names are in no specific order and do not relate to the images, which are solely about Coventry and Dresden.

In general, within each print the images about Coventry are on the left and those about Dresden on the right

Tower 1: Aspects of life before the bombing in both cities.

1A Top left, the replica Coventry Cross, the original erected in 1541. Centre, the Coventry Coat of Arms with its elephant and castle. Below, the statue of Henry VI in the Herbert Museum. Right, the 14th C Sophienkirche in Dresden where J.S. Bach composed many of his famous works.

1B Left, a reminder of the importance of Coventry's watch making industry. Below, Old Ford Hospital, a 16th C almshouse. Right, a map of old Dresden; below, the famous gilded statue of August the Strong, known as the 'Golden Rider'. In the centre, the 19th C Blue Wonder iron bridge.

1C Left, the statue of Lady Godiva from the Herbert Museum superimposed on an old map of Coventry. Right, the Semper Synagogue in Dresden and an Ideal Typewriter manufactured by Seidel & Naumann of Dresden.

1D Left, Bablake School & Bond's Hospital, on Hill Street.

Below, a lion from a mediaeval fragment of stained glass, from the original St Michael's cathedral. Right, the head of Peeping Tom who according to legend was struck blind after spying on Godiva. Centre, a 19th C Dresden Meissen porcelain chandelier; right, a view of Dresden Roman Catholic cathedral and the castle from the river Elbe, which winds through the centre of the city.

1E Left, a wooden effigy of St George slaying the Dragon from the Herbert Museum. Below, a Triumph motorbike, symbolic of Coventry's important motor industry. Right, the view through the locked gates of the old Jewish cemetery in Dresden; superimposed, a film camera. Dresden was the centre of the German camera industry from the mid-19th century.

Life Before	The War in the Air	Destruction	Rebuilding and Reconciliation
Tower 1A	Tower 2A	Tower 3A	Tower 4A
Tower 1B	Tower 2B	Tower 3B	Tower 4B
Tower 1C	Tower 2C	Tower 3C	Tower 4C
Tower 1D	Tower 2D	Tower 3D	Tower 4D
Tower 1E	Tower 2E	Tower 3E	Tower 4E



Tower 2: The War in the Air

The destruction of Coventry and Dresden was carried out from the air. There were 17 small raids on Coventry between August and October 1940, during which 198 tons of bombs fell, killing 176 people. The raid, code-named Operation Mondscheinsonate (Moonlight Sonata), which began on the evening of 14 November 1940 was the most severe to hit Coventry during the war. It was carried out by 515 German bombers and aimed to destroy Coventry's factories and industrial infrastructure; although it was evident it would damage the rest of the city, including monuments and homes, and kill civilians. In one night more than 4,300 homes in Coventry were destroyed, and around two-thirds of the city's buildings were damaged. An estimated 568 people were killed in the raid.

Dresden was virtually unscathed until close to the end of the war, possibly protected by its iconic cultural status and its lack of visible war industries. The Bombing of Dresden was in effect four raids between 13 and 15 February 1945. 722 heavy bombers of the British Royal Air Force and 527 of the United States Army Air Forces dropped more than 3,900 tons of high-explosive bombs and incendiary devices on the city. The resulting firestorm destroyed square 39 square kilometres of the city centre and killed about 25,000 people.

All the images in these prints are taken from contemporary British and German sources, with British on the left and German on the right. The aircraft, parachutes, artillery, radar towers, maps and other imagery are intended to convey an atmosphere and a mood rather than depict specific events.

Tower 3: Destruction

3A Left, Prime Minister Winston Churchill accompanied by the cathedral Provost Richard Howard visiting the ruins of the cathedral in September 1941. Below, a view of the destruction from Little Park Street. Right, two images of the damage in Dresden, one including the River Elbe.

3B Left, Provost Howard holding the cross of nail made from three nails from the roof truss of the old cathedral. Below, the destruction to the Coventry Old Market Tower and two spires. Right; the iconic view of Dresden destroyed, including the statue of Goodness, photographed from the city's Town Hall tower by Richard Peter. Centre, a fireman removing the Star of David from the burning Semper Synagogue in Dresden on Kristallnacht, the 9th November 1938.

3C Left, the ruins of the St Michael's cathedral; below, citizens of Coventry walking along Jordan Well the day after the bombing. Right, the ruins of the Sophienkirche on the Postplatz, which was never rebuilt.

3D Left, Broadgate and the department shop Owen Owen, the day after the bombing. Below, the hastily erected stone to commemorate the impromptu visit by King George VI on the 16th November 1940. Right, a tram on the destroyed Prager Strasse in Dresden, which had been the main shopping street. Above, a panoramic view of Dresden's destruction.

3E High Street from Broadgate; above, the damaged Old Ford Hospital. Right, the damaged Dresden Town Hall and the Kreuzkirche, Church of the Holy Cross on the Altmarkt.

Tower 4: Rebuilding and Reconciliation

4A Left the ruins of the old St Michael's and the façade of the new Coventry Cathedral. Below, the Whittle Arch on Millennium Place. Right, the rebuilt Frauenkirche in Dresden. Centre, the Cross of Nails, a worldwide symbol of peace and reconciliation.

4B Left, the central nave of the new Coventry Cathedral, with the Graham Sutherland tapestry Christ in Glory. Right, the German Military History Museum Dresden, with its new wing by Jewish architect Daniel Libeskind, which represents the 'shape' of the bombing. Centre, the Statue of Reconciliation by Josefina de Vasconcellos in the ruins of the old cathedral. Other castings of this statue are in the Hiroshima Peace Park, Japan, the grounds of Stormont Castle, Belfast and part of the Berlin Wall memorial.

4C Left, a saint from the Great West window, the engraved

glass 'screen of saints and angels' by John Hutton, in the new cathedral. Centre, the interior of the rebuilt Frauenkirche in Dresden. Right, the orb and cross on the top of the Frauenkirche, commissioned and paid for by the Dresden Trust using donations from the British public, including the Queen.

4D Look closely: left, Arup's Coventry University Engineering and Computer building. Right top, the new skyline of Dresden; below, the façade of the new cathedral with the Epstein statue of St Michael. The twined cites are now on the same side of the image.

4E A diverse future. Left top, the Masjid-e-Zeenat-ul-Islam mosque in Coventry; below, the Shree Krishna Hindu Temple, in Coventry. Right, the new synagogue in Dresden, dedicated on November 9th, 2001, exactly 63 years after Kristallnacht, incorporating the Star of David and a fragment of the wall from the Semper Synagogue.

The prints are created by a lengthy manual process, using lithograph over monoprint: therefore each print is unique. They are in a variable edition of 5. The original photographs were both borrowed and my own. Thanks are due to all those whose images I have used, in particular Historic Coventry.

These prints are copyright of the artist, and may not be reproduced without permission. The prints aim to be faithful to their subject matter and all errors in both depiction and attribution are the sole responsibility of the artist.

All the prints are for sale online at <http://www.printroomlondon.com/artist/monica-petzal/> They cost £500.00 each unframed and £675.00 framed as seen. All proceeds will help fund this exhibition.

This is a development from 'The Dresden Project' exhibition shown at the Kreuzkirche Dresden, Germany for the 70th commemoration, and showing until 7th February 2016 at the Herbert Museum and Art Gallery directly opposite Coventry Cathedral. Entrance is free of charge.

Full details of both projects on www.monicapetzal.com

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Coventry and Dresden are twinned, symbolising an act of peace and reconciliation. The British Dresden Trust, founded in 1993 and committed to a lasting British-German friendship, grew out of the ashes of the city of Dresden.

The enduring relationship between these two cities is a testimony to the power of understanding and the importance of regular cultural exchange. By considering the past and the present, we also look to the future and reinforce the message to the younger generations: never again.

