

ESSEX STREET

Chadwick Rantanen
STAUROS

ESSEX STREET is honored to present a new series of demontages by Chadwick Rantanen in our viewing rooms.

Many view the cross as the most common symbol of Christianity. However, the Bible does not describe the instrument of Jesus' death, so no one can know its shape with absolute certainty. Still, the Bible provides evidence that Jesus died, not on a cross, but on an upright stake.

The Bible generally uses the Greek word *stau-ros'* when referring to the instrument of Jesus' execution. (Matthew 27:40; John 19:17) Although translations often render this word "cross," many scholars agree that its basic meaning is actually "upright stake." * According to *A Critical Lexicon and Concordance to the English and Greek New Testament*, *stau-ros'* "never means two pieces of wood joining each other at any angle."

The Bible also uses the Greek word *xy'lon* as a synonym for *stau-ros'*. (Acts 5:30; 1 Peter 2:24) This word means "wood," "timber," "stake," or "tree." * The Companion Bible thus concludes: "There is nothing in the Greek of the N[ew] T[estament] even to imply two pieces of timber."

A *crux simplex*—the Latin term for a single stake used for impalement of a criminal. Regardless of the shape of the instrument on which Jesus died, the following facts and Bible verses indicate that we should not use the cross in worship.

1. God rejects worship that uses images or symbols, including the cross. God commanded the Israelites not to use "the form of any symbol" in their worship, and Christians are likewise told to "flee from idolatry."—Deuteronomy 4:15-19; 1 Corinthians 10:14.

2. First-century Christians did not use the cross in worship. * The teachings and example of the apostles set a pattern that all Christians should adhere to.—2 Thessalonians 2:15.

3. Use of the cross in worship has a pagan origin. * Hundreds of years after the death of Jesus, when the churches had deviated from his teachings, new church members "were permitted largely to retain their pagan signs and symbols," including the cross. (The Expanded Vine's Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words) However, the Bible does not condone adopting pagan symbols to help make new converts.—2 Corinthians 6:17.

ESSEX STREET
MAXWELL GRAHAM

55 HESTER STREET NEW YORK CITY 10002

Wednesday-Sunday 12-6PM

917 675 6681 info@essexstreet.biz www.essexstreet.biz

Both levels of the gallery are accessible by elevator. Open To The Public. Free Admission For All. Tours Available Daily. Groups Always Welcome.

ESSEX STREET

1. Chadwick Rantanen

White String Lights, 2020

Inkjet print on paper, laminate

5 1/8 × 5 1/8 inches (13.02 × 13.02 cm)

2. Chadwick Rantanen

Paper Crafts, 2020

Inkjet print on paper, laminate

5 parts, overall: 7 × 37 inches (17.78 × 93.98 cm)

3. Chadwick Rantanen

Pet Rabbit, 2020

Inkjet print on paper, laminate

8 × 12 inches (20.32 × 30.48 cm)

4. Chadwick Rantanen

Staurolite, 2020

Inkjet print on paper, laminate

5 × 3 1/2 inches (12.70 × 8.89 cm)

5. Chadwick Rantanen

Window, 2020

Inkjet print on paper, laminate

12 1/4 × 23 1/4 inches (31.12 × 59.06 cm)

6. Chadwick Rantanen

Dark sconce, 2020

Inkjet print on paper, laminate

16 1/8 × 16 1/8 inches (40.96 × 40.96 cm)

7. Chadwick Rantanen

Floral Graphic, 2020

Laser print on colored paper, laminate

7 3/4 × 8 inches (19.69 × 20.32 cm)

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