

Vanessa Parent

**The Body, Broken for You
Herman Nitsch and the Building of Community**

The following study examines the use of Christian iconography present in Hermann Nitsch's *Orgies Mysteries Theatre project* in relation to the problematics of Community. I situate my inquiry within the geopolitical and historical specificity of post-war Austria, more specifically in relation to mass secularization and to the alienation from communal existence experienced within late-capitalist climate of the post-war period. I argue for an understanding of Nitsch's radical inclusion of the body and transgressive use of Christian visual language as an attempt to create a true experience of community, what philosopher Jean-Luc Nancy would characterize as a "being-in-common", at the moment of performance.