

## Year-Round Mentoring for Christian Artists

with Dr. Brian S. Chan

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### Leader



Brian S. Chan is an assistant professor in Media Arts and Worship at Dallas Theological Seminary (DTS). His prior teaching experience of 17 years at Biola University equips him with insight on the young adult generation's thinking and questions about movies and matters of life movies address. Chan was a workshop speaker in Hollywood for 15 years, teaching writers, directors, and actors on the CBS Studio backlot, at Warner Bros Studios lot, and at Netflix lot. He taught for Hollywood Prayer Network, The Greenhouse Arts and Media, and The Act One Program, and was a juror for The 168 Film Project. He pastored in Hollywood/Burbank for 18 years, outreaching and discipling entertainment professionals. As a certified kung fu trainer, Chan is credited for acting, stunt, and stunt coordinating on *Interrogation* (2014) by Katey Darling, which is on Amazon Prime. He authored *The Purple Curtain: Living Out Beauty in Faith & Culture from a Biblical Perspective*, "Shadow" in *It Was Good: Performing Arts to the Glory of God*, "Movies: Celluloid Sanctification" in *Ordinary Saints: Living Everyday Life to the Glory of God*, and *Not Easily Broken* (novel). He is the chapter director of Hollywood Prayer Network at DTS. Chan is also familiar with the art world as an award-winning fine artist, exhibiting internationally, including Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum, Nagasaki Prefectural Art Museum, and Istituto di Cultura Evangelica e Documentazione in Rome. He is on the board of LELA International Artists.

### Overview

**GOAL:** To develop European Christian Artists in (1) personal, spiritual formation, (2) calling and vision, and (3) creativity and craft to affect culture for building God's kingdom in the missional cause of Christ.

#### PLAN:

- **First meeting during the August webinar**
- Four two-hour webinars:
  - August – "Ceasing & Creating"
  - November – "Mind & Imagination"
  - February – "Creativity & Change"
  - March – "Culture & Contribution"
- Reading: (1) Steve Turner, *Imagine*; (2) Brian S. Chan, *The Purple Curtain*; (3) Timothy Keller, *Every Good Endeavor*; (4) Andy Crouch, *Culture Making*
- Creating and sharing artworks
- Three-day **Retreat on 2-4 December 2025 in Budapest, Hungary**

- Integration of Theology, Art and Mission
- Sharing Art and Discussion
- Pre-Forum Conference at the 2026 Forum (Friday, 15 May, dinner together – Saturday, 16 May, morning). Participants will still need to apply for the European Leadership Forum and will be responsible for paying Forum fees in order to participate in the 2026 Forum. Participants must also pay for their own travel expenses.

**PARTICIPANTS:** 8-12 Christian artists in the disciplines of visual art (fine, animation, illustration, digital, sculpting), filmmaking, writing (poetry, novel, novella), fashion, acting, and dance who will commit to being in fellowship to grow in (1) personal, spiritual formation, (2) craft & calling, and (3) integration of art with effecting and evangelizing the world.

**QUALIFICATIONS:** A spiritually growing Christian who is serious and professional about his/her creative craft in his/her artistic discipline and committed to kingdom-building with his/her artistic vision and abilities through active artmaking.

**COMMITMENTS:** By being part of the YRM for Christian Artists, you commit to doing the following:

1. Attend all sessions: four **Webinar Sessions** throughout the year starting in August, a 3-Day Retreat in Budapest, 2-4 December 2025, and a **Pre-Forum Conference** at Wisla, Poland in 2026 (15-16 May).
2. **Webinars.** Attend on a computer with reliable internet connection, mic, and audio.
3. **Tasks.** Complete assigned readings, written assignments, tasks, and creative projects by the *due dates*. Secure copies of the four required books. Projects will include creating and possibly exhibiting publicly or sharing your work. Writings may be accomplished in your *native language* and *translated* to English using an app or device for submission.
4. **WhatsApp Discussions.** Join the YRM group for Christian Artists on [WhatsApp](#) for posting artworks, discussions, and sharing prayer requests
5. **Creative Journal.** Regularly record and process in a sketch journal for one year on these areas: (1) Insights from Scripture mediation, (2) prayer, and (3) creative ideas or inspirations.
6. **Portfolio.** Throughout the year-round mentoring, the work you do (written and creative) will contribute to an overall portfolio that you will develop.
7. **Registration and Fees.** Register and pay the necessary fees for the ELF conferences and retreats. Fees for the 2026 Pre-Forum Conference are 105 Euros for a Double Room and 155 Euros for a Single Room / 60 Euros for scholarship recipients.

**2025 RETREAT:** All participants will attend in person the 3-Day Retreat from noon to noon on 2-4 December, 2025 in Budapest, Hungary. The participant fees for the retreat are 175 Euros or 125 Euros for scholarship recipients. Non-scholarship recipients also have the option, which must be chosen in the application form, of paying 225 Euros in order to stay in a single room. Participants are responsible for their own travel expenses.

### Webinar One: CEASING & CREATING

4 August 2025 from 14:30 – 16:30 CEST

- I. Before attending Webinar One, complete the following tasks:
  - A. **Read.** Finish reading Steve Turner, *Visual Faith*
  - B. **Write.** Share on WhatsApp one lesson you gained from the book by 25 July, 2025
  - C. **Create (2).** Create an art piece inspired by the point you learned from *Visual Faith*
    1. Share your art piece on WhatsApp by 1 August, 2025
- II. After Webinar One, complete the following tasks:
  - A. **Pray.** Take a one-day personal retreat to cease for contemplation and prayer. Bring your journal.
    1. Pray for one another
  - B. **Write.** Write a 3-4 page plan for your creative life. (1) What are three biblical principles that will be foundational for your creative life? (2) What specific goals will you have. (3) What specific practices and disciplines you will apply? Be specific so that you can implement this.
  - C. **Create (3).** Create an art piece as a reflection from the session on Ceasing & Creating – the specific theme for the artwork will be revealed during the webinar session.
    1. Share your art piece on WhatsApp by 1 September, 2025.
    2. Give each other feedback on WhatsApp

### Webinar Two: MIND & IMAGINATION

3 November, 2025 from 14:30 – 16:30 CEST

- I. Before attending Webinar Two, complete the following tasks:
  - A. **Watch** a podcast on biblical beauty with Dr. Brian S. Chan:

<https://voice.dts.edu/tablepodcast/beholding-beauty/>

- B. **Read.** Read *The Purple Curtain: Living Out Beauty in Faith & Culture from a Biblical Perspective* by Brian S. Chan.

1. Do the exercises at the end of each chapter.

- C. **Create (4).** Create an art piece about God's beauty or objective beauty

1. **Share** your art piece on WhatsApp by 1 November, 2025.

- II. After Webinar Two, complete the following tasks:

- A. **Pray.** Pray for one another

- B. **Write.** Write 2 pages on how you will cultivate your mind and imagination.

- C. **Create (5).** Create an art piece inspired by select Bible passages about the mind. These Bible passages will be given to you at the webinar session.

1. \*Create this in a form (size, substrate, medium) that you can bring to Budapest to share! Do not post this one on WhatsApp. It will be debuted at the retreat!

### 3-Day Retreat in Budapest

2-4 December, 2025 from noon to noon

\*Schedule your travel to arrive on time and depart after all sessions are completed.

- I. **Bring:**

- A. Journal
- B. Art media of your choosing to create in your journal
  - 1. If you wish, you may bring a sketch, watercolor pad, or something similar that's larger than your journal size and you're able to transport. This is optional.
- C. Bible (digital or physical)
- D. Your art piece about the mind.
  - 1. And if your piece on God's beauty can be brought, bring it too.

- II. **Cross-Potentiate.** Edify one another with lessons on your creative craft

- A. **Prepare beforehand** to teach one lesson, technique, or principle from your creative craft. The lesson, technique, or principle may be something commonly taught in your discipline or something original to you that you developed through experience and practice.

B. **Teach** and demonstrate this lesson, technique, or principle to your peers in the mentoring group

1. You have 10 minutes to teach and demonstrate live at the retreat.
2. There will be a chance for questions and discussion.

C. The *purpose* is to creatively gain insight from one another through cross disciplines of artistry.

III. **Themes and Discussions.** The main teaching theme and facilitated discussions will be on integrating theology and art in your world.

- A. The retreat will be an opportunity to share and process as a group and in pairs on matters of faith, art, and work that you may be entertaining or wrestling with
- B. Share insights and creative ideas/inspirations from your journal. Sharing is optional, but it is an opportunity we will have as a group.

IV. **Create (6).** There will be opportunities to create in your journals according to prompts and inspirations as part of the thematic lessons and discussions.

V. **Prayer and Contemplation**

- A. We will pray together and concertedly for each individual
- B. There will be opportunities for personal reflection and listening to God

### Webinar Three: CREATIVITY & CHANGE

9 February, 2026 from 14:30 – 16:30 CEST

I. Before attending Webinar Three, complete the following tasks:

- A. **Read.** Timothy Keller, *Every Good Endeavor*
- B. **Write.** Write 2 pages on your theological understanding of a vision of hope for the world. Submit to Brian S. Chan by 15 January, 2026.
- C. **Create (7).** Create an art piece inspired by an insight or lesson you gained from the reading about the meaning of hope.
  1. Share your art piece on WhatsApp by 31 January, 2026.

II. After webinar session three:

- A. **Pray.** Pray for one area of change in the world that your creativity can affect.
- B. **Share.** Share on WhatsApp your conviction over one specific change or effect that builds God's kingdom by 15 February, 2026.

- C. **Journal.** Remember to keep journaling your insights from Scripture, prayers, and creative ideas/inspirations.

#### Webinar Four: CULTURE & CONTRIBUTION

9 March, 2026 at 14:30 - 16:30 CEST

- I. Before attending Webinar Four, complete the following tasks:
  - A. **Read.** Read Andy Crouch, *Culture Making*, Introduction - Chapter 8.
  - B. **Share.** Share one insight or lesson you gained from the reading on WhatsApp by 5 March, 2026.
- II. After Webinar Four, complete the following tasks:
  - a. **Write.** Write 2-3 pages on your analysis of a specific culture you are exposed or connected to. Include in it how you can affect that culture as an artist. Submit to Brian S. Chan by 20 March, 2026.
  - b. **Pray.** Take a one-day personal retreat to listen to God about your contribution to the shaping of culture as an artist.
  - c. **Read.** Read Andy Crouch, *Culture Making*, Chapters 9 – 16.
  - d. **Create (8).** Create one or two art pieces that engages or relates to the specific area of culture you addressed in your writing.
  - e. **Engage.** Engage culture by showing your art pieces in strategic ways or venues. You may (1) research specific ways to showcase or share your art piece and (2) showcase your art pieces (whether created in one of the exercises of the mentoring or not)
    - i. Be prepared to share about your practical endeavors of showing your art pieces and discuss the experience at ELF Pre-Forum Conference, 2026.

#### Pre-Forum Conference, 2026: CONCLUSION & COMMISSIONING

- I. Share about your experience of showing and effect of your artwork on culture
- II. Concluding the journey, and where do we go from here?

#### Application Process

To apply:

1. Complete the [online application](#).
2. We will review completed applications and let you know if you are accepted into the programme within four to six weeks.

***If you have questions, contact us at [initiatives@euroleadership.org](mailto:initiatives@euroleadership.org).***