



SITA FALKENA, THE NETHERLANDS

Title: Cloak of Charity” Materials: Plaster covert with fiber and silver and sheep wool; Price: € 2.800,-

There is a Dutch expression “bedekken met de mantel der liefde”, which literally means to cover something with a cloak of charity. More generally, it means to refrain (out of tact or kindness) from remarking on a weakness or vice in one’s neighbour, and to conceal or gloss it over instead. There is nothing wrong with this; I see charity as an important moral quality. What I do have a problem with is that so many dreadful events or malicious statements are also covered with this cloak of charity and I made this jewel as a protest against such behaviour. Its religious symbolism lies in its colours – white standings for purity, truth and light, red for fire, for blood, martyrdom and being true to one’s beliefs. The number of texts that are “covered” by the hearts is seven, which is a sacred number. The cloak, which is made of a fleece, alludes to the Lamb of God.

The hearts symbolize love. The text from the Book of Genesis, chapter 9 verses 18-24, that I have placed on a “stone tablet” tells the story of the sons of Noah (Shem, Ham and Japheth) who covered their father’s nakedness with a cloak when he was drunk. Apparently this is the origin of the expression “to cover something with the cloak of charity”.