

# ImageUpdate's Top Ten of 2009

*Domestic Vision: Twenty-five Years of the Art of Joel Sheesley*, edited by Gregg Hertzlieb

*The Seamstress of Hollywood Boulevard* by Erin McGraw

*New Tracks, Night Falling* by Jeanne Murray Walker

*Usher* by B.H. Fairchild

*The Russian Dreambook of Colour and Flight* by Gina Ochsner

Pierce Pettis: *That Kind of Love*

*Nurse Jackie* on Showtime

Dave Perkins: *Pistol City Holiness*

*The End of Suffering: Finding Purpose in Pain* by Scott Cairns

*The Crack Between the Worlds* by Maggie Kast

## The Crack Between the Worlds

by Maggie Kast

Memoirs that center on a conversion experience are common enough, but they can often become cerebral, focused on an inner, intellectual journey. The deepest and most memorable conversion stories embed the journey of the mind within the pilgrimage of the heart; in doing so they anchor theological matters in the small, dense worlds of work and family life. Maggie Kast, who has written on dance for *Image* (#19), has published just such a memoir, *The Crack Between the Worlds*. Kast has a harrowing story to tell—including the death of one child and the mystery of another child's disability—but threads of grace and light run parallel to the pain of loss. Raised in a religion-less family, Kast is drawn to the Catholic Church, but her eventual conversion is anything but sentimental: she struggles with the church she also loves. Another layer that Kast brings to the story is her own creative life as a dancer and choreographer. In both her liturgical and mainstream work, Kast has explored the capacity of modern dance to move beyond prettiness and tackle the big questions. Here's what *Image* editor Gregory Wolfe wrote in his endorsement blurb for this book: "In prose that is spare, lucid, and elegiac, Maggie Kast's memoir, *The Crack Between the Worlds*, tells the story of a pilgrimage and a conversion. A dancer and choreographer, Kast knows that the most expressive gestures—and words—are often the simplest, rooted in the dailiness of our lives. Her search for a faith that can embrace both the tragic sense of life and the ecstatic sacramentality of ordinary matter leads her inexorably to the church whose name means 'universal.' Readers will find in Kast's particular story something universal, moving, and true." We hope you'll become one of those readers.