



April 2020

Dear Section Members,  
Dear friends of the Visual Arts Section!

Art delivers the key to holistic cultural development as well as man himself. It is the current situation that threatens the artists' financial basis and the possibility to find work. This low point, however, can open the doors to the awareness and experience that art is a one of life's necessities. It is this insight that gives us a perspective for the Section work we want to engage in and we invite all our colleagues around the world to join us.



BLAUER KLANG, Sölker Marmor, 100 x 35 x 35, Alfred Frischknecht

Beyond the personal meetings that have already taken place, we are also keen to get in touch with you via this first newsletter. At the end of last year our new leadership team, Rik ten Cate, Yaike Dunselman, Christiane Haid, Barbara Schnetzler and Pieter van der Ree met for the first time. Since then we have had regular meetings and our discussions focussed on the perspectives of our section

work and we would like to present the first results: such as the programme of the Ascension Conference and the exhibition concept for the Goetheanum in 2020, as well as first ideas for the November Conference. We look forward to hearing about your artistic interests and research, so that we can incorporate these into the next steps to develop our mutual section work.

Now, after our meeting on the first weekend of March, this letter and its English translation had just been completed and was ready to be sent when measures to combat the corona virus pandemic were taken. So we decided to wait and see how things developed and now we are sending this first newsletter.

The programme for the Ascension Conference has already been sent out several times, but on the 19th of April we were notified that the Goetheanum would be closed to the public till the 7th of June, so that neither the Ascension Conference nor the conference on the Glass Windows can take place. So we decided **to postpone the planned Ascension Conference for one year, to Ascension 2021**. The postponement gives us the opportunity to look at the meeting differently and to prepare long term topics, which would be the aim of the November Conference 2020.

We, as the leadership team of the Visual Arts Section, laid the foundation for our section work and outlook into the future in November 2019 by studying Rudolf Steiner's lecture cycle "Art as seen in the Light of Mystery Wisdom" (CW 275), held in Dornach in 1914, shortly after the beginning of the First World War. In these lectures Rudolf Steiner shows how the different parts of the human being relate to and effect the different fields of artistic activity. The first lecture is on art and technology and its relevance to our modern culture is more than obvious, especially when we take into account that we are confronted with spreading digitalisation and transhumanism. For us, this will be the entry point for our Ascension Conference 2021, because the lecture displays an unexpected approach to the significance and quest in contemporary art. So these lectures, as well as work on the 11th class lesson, have become the basis for our regular study work within the leadership team.

The round of unfolding arts described Rudolf Steiner's lecture cycle "Art as seen in the Light of Mystery Wisdom" will be the theme of the Ascension Conference in 2021, as well as a closer examination of the influence of technology and digitalisation on contemporary art. In the coming years we hope to elaborate the approach in more in-depth conferences on a wider range of different aspects of the arts.

Concerning the **November conference** we are not only planning to work on the spiritual foundations of art and the challenge the Visual Arts Section at the School of Spiritual Science faces, but also to prepare the Ascension Conference together. There will also be a possibility that allows the various arts groups to meet among themselves so that they can generate first ideas for preparing specific conferences concerning their field of art.

At the Goetheanum we also want to promote practical artistic work in courses, working groups and individual opportunities. For this purpose, workrooms and studios are being set up in the northern area of the carpentry workshop and should be ready early autumn.

A further field of work concerns the exhibitions at the Goetheanum, for which we would like to show works by anthroposophically inspired artists besides works of art by Rudolf Steiner. The projected exhibition 'Language of Light' on the glass windows cannot take place and will be postponed to next year. On the occasion of the 'Faust' performances in July, pictures of Goethe's 'Faust' by Frederiek Nelissen from the Netherlands will be shown. In the Summer we will exhibit works of art sent to us, which were created during Corona times from the 10th of June to the 28th of August. (Please see paragraph below for details). On our website you can always find the latest events and happenings of the Section's work.

Dear Artists, we would like to hear from you, especially how you experience this challenging time and how you show the innovative through your artistic work. **We would like to encourage you to send us (by post) 1-3 small-format sketches, paintings or small sculptures which were created in these Corona Times**, which we will show in an exhibition. We would also like to establish a small library in the new section room in the Kleinodienhaus consisting of your art catalogues, portfolios or similar which we would be happy to receive together with your dossiers including name, profession, contact details, at the conference or by post. (Please do not send any folders nor bulky formats).

With warmest greetings and looking forward to meeting you,

Rik ten Cate

Yaïke Dunselman

Christiane Haid

Barbara Schnetzler

Pieter van der Ree



Top from left: Yaïke Dunselman, Pieter van der Ree

Middle from left: Rik ten Cate, Barbara Schnetzler, Isabelle Böhmler (Assistant)

Front from left: Christiane Haid, Monika Clément (Website, Social media, Newsletter)