

The Temenos Academy is pleased to announce its Programme for the Lent Term 2017. Our lectures and seminars are open to all. The addresses of the venues and instructions for booking appear on page 2.

Students in full-time education may attend lectures for free and should bring their student card with them. When using the booking form they must include their student card number.

Please note that for meetings at the Lincoln Centre doors will open at 6.15pm and lectures start at 6.45pm prompt.

‘(Starlight Order)’, a tribute to the writer and artist David Jones, will be held on Saturday 11 March. This meeting, in association with the David Jones Society, was postponed from last July.

There will be a second weekend workshop combining sacred geometry, philosophy and practice at Cowdray Park in Sussex, over the weekend of 18–19 March.

Our lecturers include two scientists and Fellows of the Temenos Academy, Rupert Sheldrake, who asks ‘Is the Sun Conscious?’, and Ravi Ravindra, whose subject is ‘Science and the Sacred’, and also Emma Clark, Valentin Gerlier and Jeremy Reed.

The Reading Essential Texts seminars are the continuation of the study of ‘Richard III’ with Joseph Milne, and ‘The Marriage of Heaven and Hell’ by William Blake, led by Grevel Lindop.

Looking ahead, there will be a study day ‘Dante’s Visionary Consciousness’ on Saturday 29 April.

For information about becoming a Member of the Temenos Academy please see page 3.

To join our postal mailing list and/or email newsletter list please contact the Administrators.

The Venues

The Art Workers Guild
6 Queen Square
Bloomsbury
London WC1N 3AT
Nearest Underground *Russell Square*

The Tower Room
Cowdray Park
Cowdray Heritage Site
River Ground Stables
Midhurst
West Sussex GU29 9AL
Nearest British Rail Station *Haslemere*

The Lincoln Centre
18 Lincoln's Inn Fields
London WC2A 3ED
Nearest Underground *Holborn*

The Royal Asiatic Society
14 Stephenson Way
London NW1 2HD
Nearest Underground *Euston / Euston Square*

The School of Economic Science
11 Mandeville Place
London W1U 3AJ
Nearest Underground *Bond Street*

Booking

For all lectures please book in advance by post using the booking form. Places may also be reserved by telephone and email but PLEASE INFORM US IF YOU NO LONGER REQUIRE YOUR RESERVATION.

For seminars please reserve a place in advance and pay at the first meeting. Please note that a seminar course may be cancelled if there are insufficient advance reservations.

Membership

Please support the Temenos Academy by making a donation and becoming a Member or Friend. On joining, new Members or Friends are sent the current issue of the *Temenos Academy Review*, and three other publications, *Lighting a Candle – Kathleen Raine and Temenos*, a collection of tributes to Kathleen Raine which also includes many examples of her own writing on the purpose and aims of Temenos, *Ten Basic Principles That Inspire the Work of Temenos* by John Carey and *A Human Approach to World Peace, the 2004 L M Singhvi-Temenos Lecture* by His Holiness The Dalai Lama. The other Member or Friend benefits are:

- the concessionary admission rate to lectures and seminars
- free copies of all new Temenos Academy publications as they are issued

To join, please complete the Membership section of the Booking Form at the back of this programme. *Thank you!*

Mailing List

To join the free postal mailing list, and/or the free monthly email newsletter list, please complete and return the name and address section of the Booking Form, or contact us by email or telephone.

Administration

Stephen & Genevieve Overy
The Temenos Academy
P O Box 203
Ashford
Kent TN25 5ZT

Telephone 01233 813663
Email temenosacademy@myfastmail.com

Audio Archive

The Temenos Academy website includes an archive of audio or video recordings of lectures, freely available to view or listen to. Please refer to:

http://www.temenosacademy.org/temenos_audio_archive.html

Temenos Academy Review and *Temenos Academy Papers*

The Temenos Academy publishes an annual journal, the *Temenos Academy Review*, the successor to *Temenos* (founded by Keith Critchlow, Brian Keeble, Kathleen Raine and Philip Sherrard), published in thirteen issues between 1981 and 1992. The *Review* contains papers given at the Academy and new work, including translations, poetry, art and reviews. The editors are John Carey, James Harpur and Valentin Gerlier.

The current issue of the *Review*, no. 18, can be ordered using the Booking Form; a list of its contents appears on page 25.

Thirty-nine Temenos Academy Papers have been published. They are usually single lectures or lecture series that have been given as part of the Academy's programme. The most recent to appear is *Temenos – An Index 1981–1992*.

A Publications Catalogue – a descriptive list of all Temenos publications – can be viewed on the Temenos Academy website.

http://www.temenosacademy.org/temenos_journal.html

Temenos Academy Young Scholars

For the benefit of young students who are attracted to the Temenos Academy's approach to learning *from*, and not merely *about*, the great religious and philosophical traditions, we run the Temenos Academy Young Scholars scheme, a special free membership of the Academy for people aged 18–35 years.

Applicants are asked to submit an *original* paper on a topic of their choice written in a way that emulates the first five of the 'Ten Basic Principles that inspire the work of Temenos':

- Acknowledgement of Divinity
- Love of Wisdom, as the essential basis of civilization
- Spiritual vision as the life-breath of civilization
- Maintenance of the revered traditions of mankind
- Understanding of tradition as continual renewal

The subject may be drawn from the Humanities in general – art, philosophy, poetry, religion. For further guidance we suggest you look at the work of the numerous contributors to the *Temenos Academy Review* over the last 18 years. The essay should be at least 2,000 words in length.

Essays will be appraised by the Temenos Academy Academic Board or a Temenos Academy Fellow.

Membership is by invitation only and based upon the essay.

Temenos Academy Young Scholars will be full Members of the Academy until the age of 35. They will receive the *Temenos Academy Review* every year.

Some Young Scholars essays may be read on the website; those of exceptional merit will be considered for publication in the *Review*.

For further information and an application form please refer to

http://www.temenosacademy.org/temenos_young_scholars.html

or contact the Administrators

Foundation Course in the Perennial Philosophy

A Two Year Part-Time Diploma Course

The purpose of the course is to introduce students to the universal tradition that is our spiritual heritage, through direct engagement with key texts of philosophy, poetry and mysticism. By exploring perennial teachings, which for centuries have renewed and sustained our culture, it offers a vital counterbalance to prevailing assumptions and values. The expertise of the tutors is devoted to providing the most direct encounter possible with the teachings themselves, which, springing from the love of wisdom and the quest for truth, open up infinite riches for study and contemplation. It is hoped that students will learn from, and not merely about, some of the profoundest thinkers the world has known. The authors and texts studied will be: in the first year, Plato and Plotinus, Dante's *Divine Comedy*, St Bernard of Clairvaux and Meister Eckhart; in the second year, the Upanishads and *Bhagavad Gita*, Lao Tzu, Chuang Tzu and the *Huai Nan Tzu*, Ibn 'Arabi, and Attar's *The Conference of the Birds*.

The course is divided into six modules, or three per year, with weekly meetings in Central London led by the module tutor on Tuesday evenings from 7–9pm. Students will be expected to read approximately 30–40 pages of text each week. Tuition will be conducted by lectures and guided discussions of the content of the previous week's reading.

Please contact Emma Clark, the Registrar, for further information

Email temenosacademy@myfastmail.com

Part 2 of the Diploma Course 2016–2017 is fully subscribed. To enquire about a place on the next Part 1, which starts in October 2017, please contact the Registrar.

http://www.temenosacademy.org/temenos_foundation_course.html

Thetis Blacker Temenos Batik Scholarship

The Temenos Academy has established an award in memory of the artist Thetis Blacker, to further the study of the art of batik. The award is administered by the Temenos Academy in association with the Batik Guild, a UK-based non-profit organization, which exists to encourage a wider appreciation and understanding of batik as a centuries-old craft which continues to meet the needs of creative artists working today. Thetis Blacker was a member of the Batik Guild. More information about its work can be found on its website <http://www.batikguild.org.uk>

The award, which is made every 2 years, is open to members of the Batik Guild, and other batik artists. Applications are now open for the 2017 Scholarship.

THETIS BLACKER (1927–2006) made a remarkable contribution to Temenos as an artist and lecturer. Her work was first featured in *Temenos 4*, and her ‘Phoenix Egg’, designed especially for the journal, appeared on the covers of issues 6–9. During her life-time she was regarded as the pre-eminent batik artist in the West. Her brilliantly colourful and masterfully executed dye paintings were commissioned for and exhibited in cathedrals and churches in the United Kingdom, Europe and the United States. She was also a writer and the author of *A Pilgrimage of Dreams* (1973), an account of her own vivid dreams.

As a Churchill Fellow, Thetis Blacker studied the craft of batik in South East Asia. The purpose of the Thetis Blacker Temenos Batik Scholarship is primarily, but not exclusively, to support overseas research, study and travel in the field of batik creation.

For further information, and to request an application form, please write to

heather.gatt@yahoo.co.uk

Heather Gatt

Secretary, The Batik Guild

Sun Rise, Vicar Lane, Easington, Hull HU12 0TF

LENTEN FLOWERS

PRIMROSE, anemone, bluebell, moss
Grow in the kingdom of the cross

And the ash-tree's purple bud
Dresses the spear that sheds his blood.

With the thorns that pierce his brow
Soft encircling petals grow

For in each flower the secret lies
Of the tree that crucifies.

Garden by the water clear
All must die that enter here!

KATHLEEN RAINE

From *The Collected Poems of Kathleen Raine*
(Ipswich: Golgonooza Press, 2000)

The study of key texts in small seminar groups

Richard III

by WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

Leader Dr Joseph Milne

Text the Arden edition

25 January – 12 April

Wednesdays, 12 weekly sessions

Time 3 – 4.30pm (please arrive promptly)

Venue The School of Economic Science

A close reading of Shakespeare's play to explore its meaning in the deepest sense; continuing from last term.

JOSEPH MILNE has made a significant contribution to the Temenos Academy by giving numerous lectures and seminars over the past 25 years. He is a trustee of The Eckhart Society and of the Henry George Foundation of Great Britain, and editor of the Foundation's journal *Land & Liberty*; he is also a Fellow of the Temenos Academy and author of the Temenos Academy Papers *The Ground of Being – Foundations of Christian Mysticism, Metaphysics and the Cosmic Order* and *The Mystical Cosmos*.

Course cost

£120 or £90 Members of the Temenos Academy/
Concessions

Booking

Please reserve your place in advance and pay the course fee at the first meeting.

The study of key texts in small seminar groups

The Marriage of Heaven and Hell

by WILLIAM BLAKE

Leader Professor Grevel Lindop

Text *Blake's Poetry and Designs* (Norton Critical Editions, ed. John E. Grant)

7 February – 7 March

Tuesdays, 5 weekly sessions

Time 6.45 – 8.15pm (please arrive promptly)

Venue in London NW3; full address on booking

William Blake's *The Marriage of Heaven and Hell* is his most radical, challenging and entertaining work, and also one of the most visually beautiful of his illuminated books. Written in 1790, in the period between the publication of *Songs of Innocence* and *Songs of Experience*, it provokes and inspires the reader on every level – religious, philosophical, moral and aesthetic – and contains some of Blake's most profound and memorable aphorisms. It also offers the clearest statement of many of Blake's essential ideas about the nature of human existence and the spiritual potential of the human being. Reading it can be a thrilling and transformative experience.

GREVEL LINDOP is a poet, critic, and former Professor of Romantic Studies at the University of Manchester, where for many years he taught a 'Special Subject' course on Blake. He is a Fellow of the Wordsworth Trust and chairs the Academic Board of the Temenos Academy.

Course cost

£55 or £45 Members of the Temenos Academy /
Concessions

Booking

Limited to a maximum of 12 participants

Please contact the Administrators to secure your place.

Is the Sun Conscious?

DR RUPERT SHELDRAKE

Wednesday 25 January

In the chair Ian Skelly

Venue The Royal Asiatic Society

Doors open at 6.30pm

Lecture begins promptly at 7pm

Concludes 8.30pm

This talk will explore the possibility that the sun and the other stars are conscious, as opposed to the usual assumption that they are unconscious and inanimate.

RUPERT SHELDRAKE studied natural sciences at Cambridge University where he took a PhD in biochemistry in 1967. Among the numerous fellowships and research appointments he has held was that of Principal Plant Physiologist at the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (1974–85) in Hyderabad. While in India, he also lived for a year and a half at the ashram of Fr Bede Griffiths in Tamil Nadu, where he wrote his first book, *A New Science of Life* (1981).

He has also investigated unexplained aspects of animal behaviour, including the apparent abilities of animals to anticipate earthquakes and tsunamis. He subsequently studied similar phenomena in people, including the sense of being stared at, telepathy between mothers and babies, telepathy in connection with telephone calls, and premonitions. His research on these subjects is summarized in his books *Seven Experiments That Could Change the World* (1994), *Dogs That Know When Their Owners Are Coming Home* (1999) and *The Sense of Being Stared At* (2003). In his most recent book *The Science Delusion* (2012) he examines the ten dogmas of modern science, and shows how they can be turned into questions that open up new vistas of scientific possibility.

He is a Fellow of the Temenos Academy.

Admission

£8 or £5 Members of the Temenos Academy/Concessions

Full-time students with student ID card FREE

Starman

DR JEREMY REED

Monday 30 January

In the chair Professor Grevel Lindop

Venue The Royal Asiatic Society

Doors open at 6.30pm

Lecture begins promptly at 7pm

Concludes 8.30pm

Jeremy Reed's talk on David Bowie as Starman, delivered to coincide with the anniversary of the singer's death in January 2016, focuses on the seminal role Bowie played as an epochal figure radically changing our conceptions of gender, music and social orientation in the early seventies. Reed argues a case for Bowie as predictive futurist, a visionary in the line of Blake and Rimbaud, who changed the way we see the world in the process of pushing the edges of reality an astronomical unit forward in the course of their lives.

JEREMY REED has been called 'British poetry's glam, spangly, shape-shifting answer to David Bowie' something he has always owned to in both his writing and performances of his work. He has published over forty books of poetry, fiction and non-fiction, and most recently the poetry collections *Piccadilly Bongo*, *Sooner or Later Frank*, *Voodoo Excess* and *Red Light Blues*. His biography of Lou Reed, *Waiting For The Man*, was published in 2014; *I Heard It Through the Grapevine: Asa Benveniste and Trigram Press* appeared in 2016.

Admission

£8 or £5 Members of the Temenos Academy/Concessions

Full-time students with student ID card FREE

What is Sacred Art and does it have a place in the world today?

EMMA CLARK

Wednesday 1 March

In the chair Professor Keith Critchlow

Venue The Royal Asiatic Society

Doors open at 6.30pm

Lecture begins promptly at 7pm

Concludes 8.30pm

This lecture examines the timeless and universal principles of sacred art and asks whether they may still be powerful tools today for opening hearts and minds to the Divine. Through contemplating the beauty of this art – which includes the sacred art of virgin nature – we may be awakened to the existence of that often un-cherished Spirit that lies deep within each of us. Sacred art may guide us down the road ‘less-travelled’ today and lead us to the still centre within.

EMMA CLARK is a Senior Tutor on the MA Programme at The Prince’s School of Traditional Arts where she teaches the principles of sacred and traditional art. She is also a garden designer, writer and lecturer specialising in sacred gardens and she has written two books about Islamic gardens: *‘Underneath Which Rivers Flow’ – The Symbolism of the Islamic Garden* (1998) and *The Art of the Islamic Garden* (2006). She is interested in the relationship between humankind and nature and how nature may open our hearts to the sacred.

Emma Clark is a member of the Academic Board of The Temenos Academy.

Admission

£8 or £5 Members of the Temenos Academy/Concessions

Full-time students with student ID card FREE

*The David Jones Society, in association with the
Temenos Academy, presents*

(Starlight Order)

A series of presentations comprising discussions, films,
poetry and musical recitals in honour of

DAVID JONES (1895–1974), author and artist who
fought in The Great War

Saturday 11 March

Venue The Art Workers Guild

Registration 10am

Concludes 6pm

Speakers

WILLIAM BLISSETT *David Jones and his Legacy*

EWAN CLAYTON *In Parenthesis: the Word as
Illustration?*

HILARY DAVIES *David Jones and Stanley Spencer*

TOM DURHAM *'Last Minute Drums its Taut
Millennium Out'*

RICHARD KINDERSLEY *Beyond the Surface*

JOHN MATTHEWS *Remembering David Jones*

FILM *David Jones: his Final Years* – a film consolidating
themes in Jones' mind and vision

MUSIC the Conran Poetry Chorus will premiere their
performance of poems from *Three Symphonies* by the late
Tony Conran, modernist poet, translator of Welsh poetry
and a founder member of the original David Jones
Society

In the chair

Dr Anne Price-Owen *Director of the David Jones Society*

The presentations are a commemorative tribute to
acknowledge the achievements of David Jones, as well as
the legacy he has left us. The occasion also celebrates
21 years of The David Jones Society, in the same venue
from which the Society was launched.

Jones's achievements were many and varied. He was a Modernist who left us an amazing and diverse collection of visual art: drawings, wood- and metal-engravings, paintings in both oil and watercolour, and mixed media, the content of which ranged through many themes. Once he had 'discovered' his theory of art as a sign of something other, Jones seldom deviated from investing his visual endeavours with connotations, symbols and allusions. To this end he went on to 'make a shape in words' which further enriched his output as a 'maker'. His interest in both image and text were consolidated in his 'painted inscriptions' which are possibly the apotheosis of the concept of unity in which he so delighted.

WILLIAM BLISSETT first met David Jones in the mid-sixties when the poet-painter kindly responded to a young writer's questions about his work. William's memories of Jones are collected in *The Long Conversation*, which gives an insight into Jones and his beliefs.

HILARY DAVIES is an award-winning poet, Royal Literary Fund Fellow and former Chair of the Poetry Society. Her fourth collection of poetry, *Exile and the Kingdom*, was published in 2016. She is a member of the Academic Board of the Temenos Academy.

EWAN CLAYTON is a calligrapher and teacher, who grew up near Ditchling, Sussex. His family worked as weavers in the Guild of Craftsmen founded by Eric Gill and Hilary Pepler in 1921. The Professor in Design at The University of Sunderland, he is the author of *The Golden Thread* (2013), a history of writing.

The CONRAN POETRY CHORUS presents a selection from *Three Symphonies* (2016), the final substantial work of their founder and inspiration, Tony Conran, who has been described as '...by far the finest poet in the Modernist tradition that Wales has produced since David Jones.' (Professor Tony Brown, Bangor University).

TOM DURHAM was 11 years old when his family spent the summer of 1955 at an eccentric boarding-house on Harrow Hill – Northwick Lodge, home to a 60 year-old artist named David Jones. Tom will perform from memory a three-part sequence from Part 7 of *In Parenthesis* – The Battle of Mametz Wood.

RICHARD KINDERSLEY was trained by his father David, who had been apprenticed to Eric Gill. Richard followed in his father's footsteps, specialising in architectural lettering and carving. David Jones has always been an inspiration to Richard because of Jones's seriousness in expressing his beliefs and fusing them uncompromisingly into his art and life.

JOHN MATTHEWS remembers: 'I first met David Jones in the mid-sixties. We shared a love of all things Arthurian and I made several visits over the next few years – to within a few days of his death. His passion for the legends of Arthur and the Grail, his shy but profound spirituality and his personal struggles with ill-health were a background to our conversations. We talked for long hours about the mysteries – and difficulties – of writing, drank copious amounts of tea, and pored over the pictures he has stored in his "dugout". In my talk I will remember those meetings and the things we discussed and try to understand this remarkable man I was lucky enough to know.'

Admission

£40 includes tea/coffee, biscuits and Welsh cakes, and a glass of wine

Booking

To register your interest in attending the symposium please email thedavidjonessociety@gmail.com

To purchase a ticket please send a cheque for £40 per person, payable to 'The David Jones Society', to 22 Gower Road, Sketty, Swansea SA2 9BY.

<http://www.david-jones-society.org>

‘What impossible matter will he make easy next?’

The Transformation of Reality in Shakespeare’s *The Tempest*

VALENTIN GERLIER

Tuesday 14 March

In the chair Dr Joseph Milne

Venue The Lincoln Centre

Doors open at 6.15pm

Lecture begins promptly at 6.45pm

Concludes 8pm

As with many of Shakespeare’s comedies, *The Tempest* presents a world in which forgiveness and mercy resolve a situation where revenge had seemed the inevitable outcome. Yet in this play Shakespeare explores the dynamic between what is conventionally seen as ‘reality’ and ‘imagination’ and reverses it. Whereas the characters, at the beginning of the play, all operate under the hegemony of pragmatic politics, retributive justice, and wilful action, the possibilities offered by the ‘imaginary’ enchanted island gradually dispel these modes of action and allow the characters to see, think and speak from a higher principle, that of poetic vision. Once seen by the characters, this higher principle *becomes the reality* and the cold world of Milanese *realpolitik* is perceived as illusion.

VALENTIN GERLIER is a teacher, novelist and musician, a tutor for the Temenos Academy and member of its Academic Board, and has lectured for the Temenos Academy, the William Blake Society and The Prince’s School of Traditional Arts. He is currently completing a PhD thesis on Shakespeare, Poetry and the Language of Grace at the University of Cambridge.

Admission

£8 or £5 Members of the Temenos Academy/Concessions
Full-time students with student ID card FREE

Temenos Academy at Cowdray Park

The Head, the Heart and the Hand: Geometry, Philosophy and the Music of the Spheres

A weekend workshop of sacred geometry combining
philosophy and practice

TOM BREE, DANIEL DOCHERTY,
VALENTIN GERLIER

Saturday 18 – Sunday 19 March

10.30am – 5.30pm Saturday; 9.30am – 5pm Sunday

In the chair Dr David Cranswick & Emma Clark

Venue The Tower Room, Cowdray Heritage Site

INTRODUCTION

This collaboration between the Temenos Academy and Cowdray Heritage will unite philosophy with its practical expression through craft practice. After the success of the first workshop (October 2016) this second one is also dedicated to exploring how the perennial philosophy may be understood first theoretically by the intelligence, then absorbed and known by the heart and finally expressed and embodied through the hands. The value of harmoniously combining activity of the head, the heart and the hand is one of the central tenets of the teaching of Professor Keith Critchlow, the guiding light of this joint endeavour and one of the principal founders of the Temenos Academy.

The practice of sacred geometry and the traditional arts and crafts requires not only full engagement of head and heart, but crucially a close relationship with hands and craft tools – for example, the compasses and ruler used for geometry, which symbolize the celestial and terrestrial realms. In the words of Titus Burckhardt, ‘The tools used to shape the crude materials ... symbolize the divine “instruments” which “fashion” the cosmos out of the undifferentiated and amorphous *materia prima*.’ This method of integrating an outward process with an inner transformation of the soul lies at the heart of all true traditional and sacred arts.

GEOMETRY, PHILOSOPHY AND THE MUSIC OF THE SPHERES

In the ancient world, the Music of the Spheres, or *musica universalis*, expressed the principle of cosmic unity, referring to the movement of the stars, but also to the rhythm, harmony, proportions and relationships between all things in the universe. The cosmos was thereby understood to be a dynamic whole, held together by a unifying principle that wove and tied all things together in mutually nourishing relationships. Whether expressed in terms of a great harmony, a chain of being or a cosmic dance, this rich metaphysical idea inspired tremendous creativity and vision in philosophy, poetry, music, geometry and mathematics.

Though inaudible to human ears, the Music of the Spheres expressed this idea of a fundamental harmony, a cosmic order which philosophy and poetry attempt to express and sacred geometry to make visible. This cosmic order is what Shakespeare called 'the harmony in immortal souls' which unites the human being as a microcosm to the universe's macrocosm.

This workshop will be grounded in the spoken word as well as the artistic drawing process and will combine philosophical talks and discussion with slideshow presentations and the practice of drawing geometric patterns with compasses and ruler. The talks will draw upon the philosophy of Pythagoras, Plato and Boethius and show how the idea of cosmic harmony became expressed in the poetry of Dante, Spenser and Shakespeare. The drawing classes will elaborate these themes, relating these ideas to geometry and music; and by using pencil, ruler and the orientation of the compasses, participants will become attuned to the inner silence of the heart from whence all harmony is revealed.

TOM BREE is a geometer-artist, teacher and writer who specialises in the use of geometry in sacred art and philosophy. He teaches at The Prince's School of Traditional Arts in London as well as on his own teaching projects in the United Kingdom and abroad. He is currently researching the underlying geometric design of Wells Cathedral.

DANIEL DOCHERTY received his MA from The Prince's School of Traditional Arts in 2004. He has since undertaken extensive research into how the philosophy and practice of sacred geometry and the other 'quadrivial' arts/sciences inform the cultural traditions of the world. He currently lives and works at Tablehurst Farm and regularly teaches for 'Sacred Art of Geometry'.

VALENTIN GERLIER is a writer, novelist and musician, a tutor for the Temenos Academy and member of its Academic Board, and has lectured for the Temenos Academy, the William Blake Society and The Prince's School of Traditional Arts. He is currently completing a PhD thesis on Shakespeare, Poetry and the Language of Grace at the University of Cambridge.

Admission

The cost of the weekend workshop is £225 inclusive of tools and materials and coffee/tea. Places are limited to 14 students. Full details of the workshop will be forwarded to participants in advance of the weekend. For enquiries and bookings please contact cranswickart@gmail.com Telephone 07801 430194 or call the Cowdray Estate office 01730 812423

Science & the Sacred

PROFESSOR RAVI RAVINDRA

Monday 10 April

In the chair Dr Rupert Sheldrake

Venue The Lincoln Centre

Doors open at 6.15pm

Lecture begins promptly at 6.45pm

Concludes 8pm

Human beings have two great needs: knowledge and meaning. These correspond in general to the domains of scientific research and spiritual search. An awareness of mystery inspires both. Scientific mysteries can in principle be solved and the solutions can be publicly shared. Spiritual mysteries cannot be solved even in principle but they can be dissolved for those who have undergone a radical transformation so that their perceptions are from the eyes of the spirit rather than from the eyes of the flesh. The spiritual mind is scientific in spirit but it does not share the reductionist assumption of modern science that matter is the primary reality.

RAVI RAVINDRA is Professor Emeritus at Dalhousie University in Halifax. He was a Member of the Institute of Advanced Study in Princeton, a Fellow of the Indian Institute of Advanced Study in Shimla, and the Founding Director of the Threshold Award for Integrative Knowledge. He was a member of the Board of Judges for the Templeton Prize for Progress in Religion. Ravi Ravindra's spiritual search has led him to the teachings of J. Krishnamurti, G. I. Gurdjieff, Zen, Yoga, and a deep immersion in the mystical teachings of the Indian and Christian classical traditions. He is the author of several books on religion, science, mysticism, and spirituality. His latest book is on the Bhagavad Gita, forthcoming in May 2017 from Shambhala Publications. He is a Fellow of the Temenos Academy.

Admission

£8 or £5 Members of the Temenos Academy/Concessions
Full-time students with student ID card FREE

Dante's Visionary Consciousness

A Study Day

PROFESSOR DANIELA BOCCASSINI

ANDREW FRISARDI

DR JEREMY NAYDLER

Saturday 29 April

In the chair Julia Cleave

Venue The Art Workers Guild

9.45am (registration) – 5pm

This Study Day is dedicated to exploring Dante's creative genius and the sources of his inspiration, as a poet, a prophet and an initiate of the profoundest spiritual mysteries. The 'visionary Dante' speaks to us not only from the medieval era in which he lived, but also from a level of experience that transcends boundaries of place and time, for it is rooted in the eternal. For this reason, we can return again and again to his work, to drink from the enlightening and revivifying fountain of inspired wisdom which flows from it.

JEREMY NAYDLER **Dante and the Prophetic Tradition**

We tend to think that a prophet is someone who can see into the future and that prophecy is the prediction of events that have yet to happen. But this is a drastically reduced understanding of both prophets and prophecy. Within the Judaeo-Christian tradition, the prophet is one who is divinely inspired and for whom the veils separating us from the world of spirit are drawn aside, enabling a higher revelation to be received and then communicated to others. Dante was steeped in the Bible and self-consciously drew on the rich repository of images belonging to the Biblical prophetic tradition, creatively re-working it to convey his own spiritual vision.

ANDREW FRISARDI **A Divine Gift: Inspiration in Dante**

In Canto XXIV of *Purgatorio* Dante famously states, *I' mi son un che, quando / Amor mi spira, noto, e a quel modo / ch'e' ditta dentro vo significando*, 'I am one who, when Love inspires me, takes note, and according to how he dictates within, I put it into words'. Indeed, Dante is the epitome of the inspired poet, whose poetry consequently passes on the transformative power of inspiration to countless readers and listeners. This talk will sketch this aspect – or rather, this foundational and pervasive presence – in Dante's poetry, including the figure of the muse and the metaphysics of inspiration that underlie and propel his poetic vocation.

DANIELA BOCCASSINI **Earthly Paradise: Dante's Initiatory Rite of Passage**

Despite reaching the summit of Purgatory, Dante is not quite ready for Paradise yet. Through a long sequence of seven cantos that begins in fire and ends in water, Dante the author now takes us through what, in the circumscribed space of pre-lapsarian earthly Paradise, needs to be shown, said and staged for his self as wayfarer to be *rifatto sì come piante novelle / rinovellate di novella fronda* ('made as new trees are / renewed of new foliage'), so that access to the stars be granted him.

If the entirety of the *Commedia* can be understood as the poetic expression of a vision that finds its roots in love and its end in transformative, prophetic revelation, then the Earthly Paradise sequence goes right to the heart of the mystery that seals Dante's poem. This talk will approach some of the complexities of that mystical rite of passage.

DANIELA BOCCASSINI is a Medievalist whose interests focus on the human quest for transformative understanding or *gnosis* in a perspective centered on Dante's *Divine Comedy*, yet encompassing the Medieval Mediterranean world. Her most recent published work includes articles on various aspects of Dante's 'intelligence of the heart', and the editing of two thematic issues for the journal *Quaderni di Studi Indomediterranei*, which she co-directs: *Dreams and visions in the Indomediterranean world* (2009); *Transmutatio, the*

hermetic way to happiness (2012). She is currently engaged in a comparative study of Dante's and C.G. Jung's visionary experiences as time-bound expressions of timeless *gnosis*. She teaches at the University of British Columbia.

ANDREW FRISARDI is a writer, translator and independent scholar from Boston who lives in central Italy. A long-time contributor to *Temenos Academy Review*, four of his talks on Dante, at the Academy in 2012 and 2014, were published as Temenos Academy Papers 36 and 38: *The Young Dante and the One Love* and *The Quest for Knowledge in Dante's 'Convivio'*. An edition of Dante's *Vita Nova* that he translated and annotated was published by Northwestern University Press in 2012. His most recent Dante-related project, supported by a Fellowship from the Guggenheim Foundation, is an annotated translation of Dante's unfinished philosophical prosimetrum the *Convivio*, forthcoming in 2017 from Cambridge University Press.

JEREMY NAYDLER holds a PhD in Theology and Religious Studies and is author of a number of books on religious life in antiquity and the history of consciousness. He is a Fellow of the Temenos Academy and teaches the Dante module on the Temenos Academy Foundation Course in the Perennial Philosophy.

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