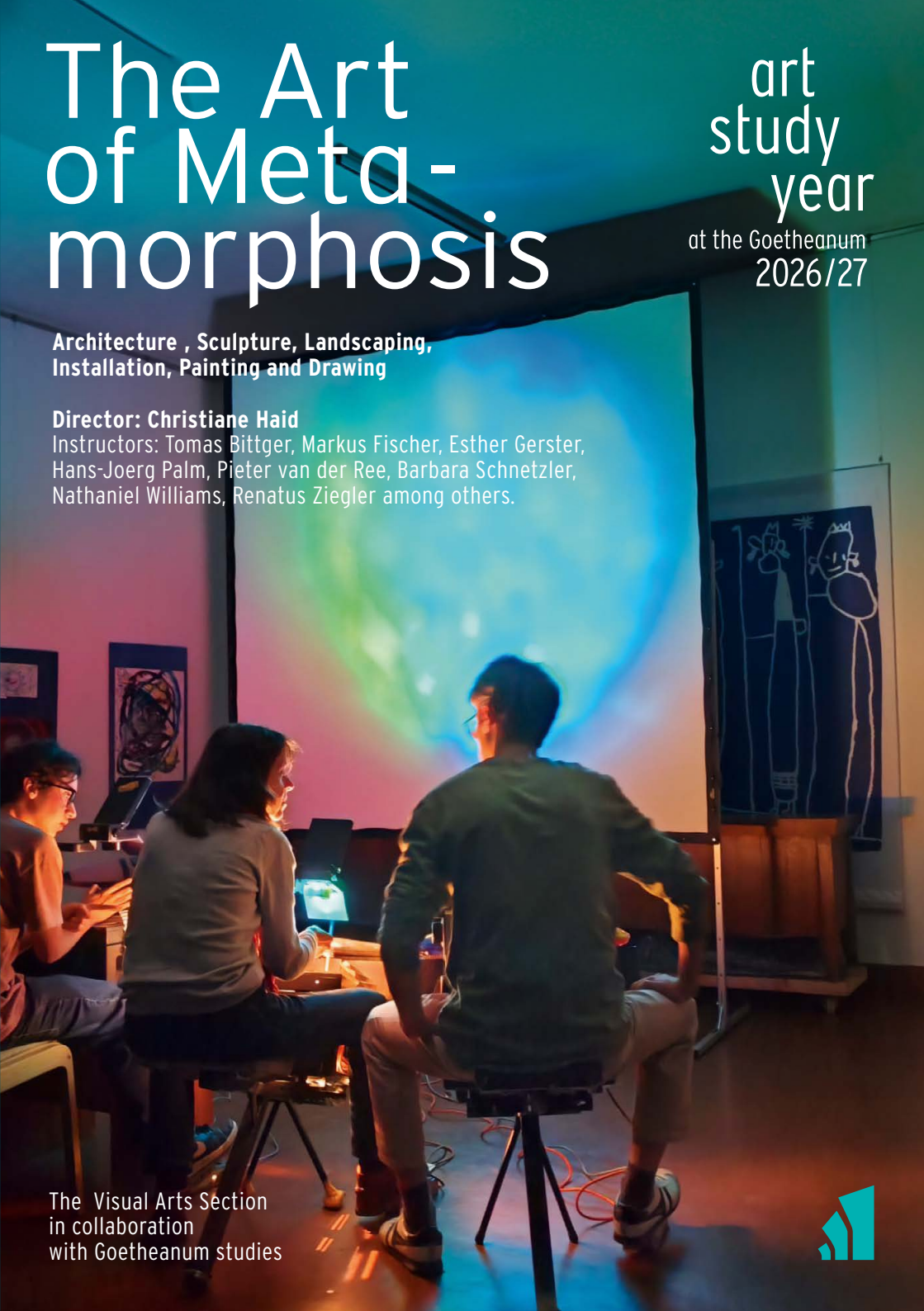
The Art of Meta-morphosis

art study year
at the Goetheanum
2026/27

Architecture , Sculpture, Landscaping, Installation, Painting and Drawing

Director: Christiane Haid
Instructors: Tomas Bittger, Markus Fischer, Esther Gerster, Hans-Joerg Palm, Pieter van der Ree, Barbara Schnetzler, Nathaniel Williams, Renatus Ziegler among others.



The Visual Arts Section
in collaboration
with Goetheanum studies

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Metamorphosis is a magical word, discovered by Goethe, that describes essential processes in the plant and animal world which were brought to life through Rudolf Steiner in all areas of art. Within it lies the key to life and inner vitality. Beyond the artificial and mechanical processes, through metamorphosis, we learn to recognize development, transformation and rebirth.

The goal of the Art Studies year is to discover metamorphosis in a sequence of forms, a series of pictures, in installations, in the rhythms of a landscape, in buildings and in handwriting (script) – yes, even to create metamorphosis ourselves. Each morning includes a contemplation of the *Soul Calendar,* followed by studies of basic texts by Rudolf Steiner *(Theosophy, Philosophy of Freedom, Occult Science)*. This precedes practical studio sessions and will be guided by Christiane Haid and Renatus Ziegler. Over three trimesters of intensive full-day artistic work we offer a possibility to consciously experience and creatively work with space, form and color in a way that engages with soul and spiritual dimensions.

The Art-Studies year is intended for individuals who wish to awaken, intensify and deepen their relationship with art and Anthroposophy. The various artistic mediums will be explored practically with Anthroposophy and Goetheanism serving as a foundation. This practical approach will be deepened through the study of basic texts on Anthroposophy.

Although the entire year makes a whole, each trimester can be attended individually. Teachers and artists from each field accompany students through trimester's that are focused on their expertise while the students engage in the learning process, and actively co-create the lessons. Community - building and active participation are highly valued in this course and welcomed.

The Art-Studies year is especially suitable as a time of orientation for recent graduates, offering a possibility of learning for all life situations, through self-encounter and the opening of fresh orientations through participation in a learning community.

Instruction is in German and English.

Further offers in the trimester

- Eurythmy or Speech, 1x weekly
- History of Art, 1x weekly
- Performances at the Goetheanum

The following trips are also possible, but the costs are not included in the tuition:

- Art tour to Chartres and a further excursion (location will be determined during the year)
- Artistic excursions in the surroundings (Fondation Beyeler, Art Museum Basel, Vitra Design Museum, Paul Klee Museum, Sculpture Park Schoenthal, Isenheimer Altar)
- Weeks of intensive sculpture

Student Passes:

- Full-time students receive a Goetheanum Student Pass (valid world-wide from Aug. 1st – Jan. 31st; Feb. 1st – July 31st; included in the tuition fees)
- Part-time students may purchase the Goetheanum Pass (150 CHF); free admission to selected events at the Goetheanum.

Weekly Schedule

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:00 – 9:15	Work on basic books of Rudolf Steiner				
9:45 – 12:15	Work in the studio, introduction through instructors and individual work				
12:15 – 14:30	Lunch				
14:30 – 16:45	Individual work and consulting with instructors				Free afternoon
17:00 – 18:00	Speech, Eurythmy, Lecture work, Art History, Community building, Group discussions with instructors				Free afternoon

Course content for each trimester:

Study of Anthroposophy with basic Rudolf Steiner books

With Christiane Haid and Renatus Ziegler (main lecturers among others)

1st Trimester *Theosophy*
2nd Trimester *Philosophy of Freedom*
3rd Trimester *Occult Science*

I. Trimester Sculpture

with Barbara Schnetzler (main lecturer) Esther Gerster (drawing)

October 5th – December 18th 2026

With Barbara Schnetzler (9 weeks) and Tomas Bittger (2 weeks) – we will occupy ourselves in this trimester with the basic elements of sculpture and explore formative life forces. Through engaging with, observing and perceiving the basic technical skills of the craft of sculpture we learn:

to sculpt, carve, chisel in stone, to draw and simple casting techniques with plaster and bees wax. Significant time will also be spent occupying ourselves with Rudolf Steiner's 'Group-Sculpture' and a study of the human body.

The intensive artistic work will free up forces new, individual approaches to creativity and to oneself. In dialogue with different materials, locations, landscapes, as well as getting to know different artists, it is possible to bring one's own work forward. Besides the work in the studio, excursions to Chartres (FR), Odilienberg (FR), and the Ermitage near Arlesheim (CH) contribute to our journey toward inner vitality.

II. Trimester: Architecture, Landscaping, Installation

with Tomas Bittger, Markus Fischer, Hans-Jörg Palm and Pieter van der Ree

January 11th – March 26th, 2027

Architecture is the visual art most strongly connected to our daily life. Therefore, it directly mirrors the human being, our social structure and cultural development. In this trimester we will artistically explore the basic elements of Architecture and its relationship to the human being. A particular focus will be Rudolf Steiner's architectural impulse and the principle of metamorphosis in architecture as introduced by him. Through this approach, the aim is to cultivate a vibrant and dynamic design process that fosters lively, responsive thinking. In this way, the spiritual essence of architectural work can be directly experienced and perceived directly with our senses.

This intention will accompany us as we explore the design around the Goetheanum, taking the type of land into account in our considerations of landscaping design. The trimester will conclude with small draft tasks that synthesize the fundamental elements of organic building orientations we have explored throughout the course. The encounter with Architecture will take place primarily with drawing exercises, sculpting, model building and special exercises. Individual work will be supported through introduction by faculty as well as shared phenomenological exercises in observation.

III. Trimester Painting
Two dimensional art and spiritual dimensions in Painting

with Esther Gerster (main lecturer), Nathaniel Williams among others.

April 12th – June 26th, 2027

The focus of the summer trimester's painting research will center on how color, form, and content act as motivating forces that transform the two-dimensional medium into expressive works of art.

This trimester will focus on cultivating an attentive awareness of creative and spiritual activity in the process of making art. Emphasis will be placed on the practical experience of working with watercolor, pastels, plant and oil -based paints. Alongside this hands-on practice, students will engage in observing works of art, reading selected materials, and participating in discussions of texts by Rudolf Steiner as well as various other artists. These interwoven activities will form the core content of the trimester.

Additional content will include foundational exercises aimed at experiencing the essence of color, alongside the study of Goethe's and Rudolf Steiner's color theories (including "picture and luminous colors"). Further areas of focus will be Rudolf Steiner's pedagogical sketches for painters, motif sketching, the exploration of the motifs in the cupola paintings of the Goetheanum and engagement with Steiner's art lectures and insights.

Biographies of lecturers

Tomas Bittger
He began working in therapeutic education which was followed by studies as an architectural draftsman in collaboration with organically oriented architects, among others, at the Goetheanum. Studies in sculpture and Waldorf Pedagogy at Alanus College (1990–1995). From 1996–2024 handicraft teacher in USA Waldorf Schools. He is involved in establishing workshops and accompanying building projects.

Markus Fischer
Architect, studies at the U/GH Siegen and the Visible Arts Section at the Goetheanum; for ten years, active as a free-lance Architect; now Architect and board member of the Social- Therapeutic Community Altenschlirf, Herbstein near Fulda (Germany).

Esther Gerster
Studies in Sculpture, Graphics and Painting at the Goethean-Studies Center in Vienna and graduated with Painting as a major. Teaching of art and mural painting in the Lasur - technique in Finnland. Participated in the vaulted ceiling paintings during the reconstruction of the Goetheanum Great Hall from 1996–98. Since then, instructor in painting and drawing in the foundational Anthroposophical studies during conferences; Guide for Goetheanum tours.

Christiane Haid
Studied Pedagogy, German Studies, History, History of Art and Art in Freiburg, Hamburg. Dissertation: "Mythos, Traum und Imagination. The Little Myths of Albert Steffen". 2009–2019 director of Verlag am Goetheanum, and since 2019-2025 its program director. Since 2012 leader of the Literary Arts and Humanities Section and since 2020 leader of the visual Arts Section. Since 2020, Christiane Haid and Ariane Eichenberg collaborate as editors of the Magazine STIL. Goethanismus in Art and Science. 2024 Leader of the Art Study year at the Goetheanum.

Hansjörg Palm
Studied Sculpture at Alanus College/Bonn and Emerson College/London. One year of natural-Scientific Studies and active as a landscaper at the Goetheanum, Dornach. Free-lance sculptor with Basiscamp in Freiburg I. Br. Focal Point: Planning and completion of Sinnes-Parks.

Barbara Schnetzler
Free-lance sculptor in Basel and Mulhouse (FR). She received her education as sculptor at the School of Sculpture in Muellheim (CH). Her work is represented in different galleries and also exhibited in various art collections as well as in public spaces. From 2020–2023 she was active in the leadership team of the Visible Arts Section at the Goetheanum and remains connected to it as a lecturer and curator.

Pieter van der Ree
Studies of Architecture at the Technical University of Delft (NL) Since 1990 independent Architect in the realm of ecological construction and in the traveling exhibition "Organic Architecture – the Human Being and Nature as Inspiration for Construction". Chair for organic Architecture at Alanus College near Bonn from 2005–2020.

Nathaniel Williams
Born in the USA. Artistic studies in Painting, drawing and Anthroposophy at the neueKUNSTschule, Basel. Art instructor and free-lance artistic activities 2003–2022. Since 2023, leader of the Youth Section at the Goetheanum.

Renatus Ziegler
PhD in Mathematics and Theoretical Physics, ETH Zuerich. Dissertation 1985 on Geometric Mechanics, University Kassel. Research and teaching in USA universities. Since 1987 in the Mathematical-Astronomical Section at the Goetheanum. 2001-2019 scientific co-worker in the Association for Cancer Research, Arlesheim (Switzerland). Since 2019 editor of the Rudolf Steiner Archive active with Rudolf Steiner's Collected Works.

JUMBO

I. Trimester / Autumn:
SCULPTURE AND DRAWING
October 5th – December 18th 2026

II. Trimester / Winter:
ARCHITECTURE, LANDSCAPING, INSTALLATION
January 11th – March 26th, 2027

III. Trimester / Spring:
PAINTING
April 12th – June 26th, 2027

TUITION

First Trimester / Single Trimester
CHF 2450 (includes registration fee and material costs)

Second Trimester
CHF 2400 (includes material costs)

Third Trimester
(when attending all three trimesters in the course of one year)
CHF 2000 (includes material costs)

APPLICATION AND FURTHER INFORMATION
UNTIL JULY 31, 2026

Application and Registration at:
Section for Visible Arts
c/o Rea Voegtlin / Monika Clement
Ruettiweg 45
CH-4143 Dornach
+41 61 706 41 37
sbk@goetheanum.ch

Online Registration:
https://studium.goetheanum.ch/de/kunststudienjahr

Please submit the following documents when applying:
- Resume
- Cover letter
- Portfolio of your work (if available)

Goetheanum