

Polarities and Forming the Center

The Building Motif of the Second Goetheanum

Visual Art Section
November Conference

27–29 November 2026



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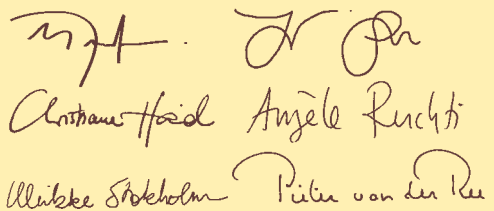
In both anthroposophy and Rudolf Steiner's art and architecture, polarities and their connection through a middle realm play a key role. This applies, for example, to the polarity of spirit and matter and their interplay within the human soul as well as in nature. But it also applies to the structure of the human body, with its spherically shaped skull, radially formed limbs, and rhythmically articulated spine and rib cage.

In an enigmatic way, these polarities also shape the design motifs for the first and second Goetheanums, as well as their centerpiece and heart—the wooden statue of the Representative of Humanity between Lucifer and Ahriman. In a more abstract form, they are also expressed in the sculptural motifs above the windows of the first Goetheanum and in the overall form of the second Goetheanum.

What is the secret behind this building motif, and why was it so important to Rudolf Steiner that he wanted visitors to be able to experience it with their senses? We will explore this question through modelling and

movement exercises, as well as stimulating presentations. The comparison between the embryonic development of the human form, which the participants will explore through modeling exercises, and the building motif of the Goetheanum will be a central focus.

We also wish to use this opportunity to prepare for the upcoming centennial of the opening of the second Goetheanum in 1928 and to explore the relevance of its building-impuls today. Through the central theme of the Goetheanum, linking opposites and finding the power of the middle, Rudolf Steiner made visible an essential capacity for the future, one that we wish to strengthen together.



Christiane Haid Angèle Ruchti
Ulrikke Stokholm Pieter van der Ree

Yaike Dunselman, Lucie Gmünder,
Christiane Haid, Angèle Ruchti,
Ulrikke Stokholm, and Pieter van der Ree

Programm

Friday, 27 Nov. 2026

19:00

Welcome

Christiane Haid

19:15

**A tour of the exhibition
featuring artwork presented
by participants**

20:15

**The Emergence and Transformation of the Building Motifs
of the First and Second
Goetheanum**

Yaike Dunselman and
Pieter van der Ree

Saturday, 28 Nov. 2026

9:00

**From Spacelessness to Space:
The Process of Becoming Human
During Embryonic Development
as an Artistic Process**

Christian Breme

10:30

Coffee break

11:00

**Modeling a crucial stage of
embryonic development**

12:00

**Observations and sharing of
results and experiences**

12:30

Lunch break

14:30

**Introduction to and Sculpting
the Goetheanum's Building Motif**
Christian Hitsch and Hansjörg Palm

16:00

Coffee break

16:30

**Observations and sharing of
results and experiences**

17:30

Plenary session

18:30

Evening break

19:30

**Divisions and Contrasts:
The Representative of Humanity
and the New Trinity**
Christiane Haid

20:45

Commemoration of the Dead

Sunday, 29 Nov. 2026

09:00

**The 18th Class Lesson (Free
rendering)**

Christiane Haid

**Discussion Group on Motifs and
Development of Form in the Arts**

Ulrikke Stokholm and Pieter van
der Ree

10:00

Coffee break

10:30

Country reports

11:30

Closing plenary sessions

12:30

End

Exhibition of Individual Works

You are cordially invited to bring one or two of your own works, especially those with a special relationship to the conference theme. When you register, please let us know how many works you would like to bring and in what format. Register with Rea Vögtlin: **sbk@goetheanum.ch**.

Country Reports

We would be delighted if as many representatives as possible from Section groups in various countries could attend and give a brief presentation on their work. Please register your presentations in advance with Rea Vögtlin: **sbk@goetheanum.ch**.

Biographies

Christian Breme

Studied architecture, sculpture, and education. Taught arts and crafts for 35 years at the Waldorf schools in Bonn and Basel. Conducted research together with his brother, Jochen Breme, in embryology through sculpture. Published works on artistic and educational topics.

Yaike Dunselman

Studied architecture at Alanus University near Bonn. Since 2003, co-directed, together with Lars Frerichs, the Dutch-German architecture firm 9grad architektur in Amersfoort (NL) and Oldenburg (DE). Since 2020, member of the leadership team of the Visual Art Section at the Goetheanum in Dornach.

Dr. Christiane Haid

Studied educational science, German studies, history, and art in Freiburg and Hamburg. 2012: Ph.D.: *Mythos, Traum und Imagination. Die kleinen Mythen Albert Steffens*. [Myth, Dream, and Imagination:

The Little Myths of Albert Steffen]. 2009-2019: Director of the Goetheanum Publishing House; 2019-2025: Program Director. Since 2012, Leader of the Literary Arts and Humanities Section, and, since 2020, Leader of the Visual Arts Section. Since 2024, Director of the Art Study Year at the Goetheanum.

Christian Hitsch

1969-1975 Studied sculpture at the Free College for Socially Engaged Art. Master student of Siegfried Pütz. 1975-1982 Crafts and art teacher at the Rudolf Steiner School in Vienna. 1982-1989 Co-founder and lecturer at the Goetheanistic Study Center in Vienna for anthroposophy, art, and education. 1989-2004 Head of the Section for the Visual Arts at the Goetheanum. Since 2004, working independently in Switzerland and Austria.

Hansjörg Palm

Studied sculpture at Alanus University of Arts in Bonn and Emerson College in London. Natural scientific

study year and work as landscape designer at the Goetheanum, Dornach. Independent sculptor based in Freiburg im Breisgau. Specializes in the planning and creation of sensory experience parks.

Prof. Pieter van der Ree

Studied architecture at Delft University of Technology (NL). Since 1990, independent architect in the field of ecological building and organic design. From 2005 to 2020, professor of organic architecture at Alanus University (DE). Author, Coordinator of the Visual Art Section in the Netherlands, and member of the international Visual Art Section Team in Dornach.

Ticket prices

Prices include lunch: Saturday, 29 November, 12.30 p.m.
and 2 coffee breaks: Saturday, 29 November and
Sunday, 30 November at 10.30 a.m.

Sponsorship price	CHF	250
Conference price	CHF	120
Reduced Price	CHF	90
Student price	CHF	60

Registration

Registration for the conference is available at:

https://goetheanum.ch/en/veranstaltungen/sbk_arbeitstagung_2026

Goetheanum

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Visual Arts Section

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<https://sbk.goetheanum.org>

For the time being, the STIL magazine will only be published in German. An English translation of the STIL as an online edition is planned. If you are interested, please contact: sbk@goetheanum.ch.

Die Zeitschrift STIL ist das Organ der Sektion für Schöne Wissenschaften und der Sektion für Bildende Künste und erscheint vier Mal im Jahr. Jedes Heft hat einen besonderen thematischen Schwerpunkt, enthält Vorträge, Essays und Interviews mit Künstlern, Schriftstellern, Philosophen, informiert über die Forschung sowie die aktuellen Ereignisse innerhalb der Sektionen. Zudem werden Rezensionen interessanter Neuerscheinungen publiziert und besondere Entwicklungen im aktuellen Kultur- und Kunstleben dargestellt.

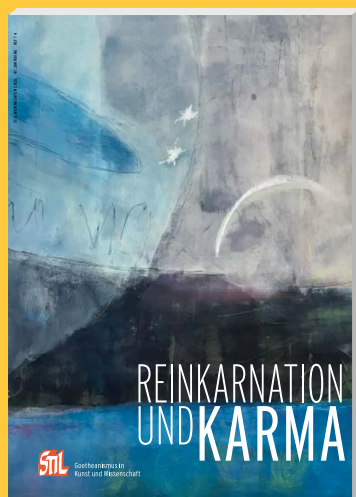
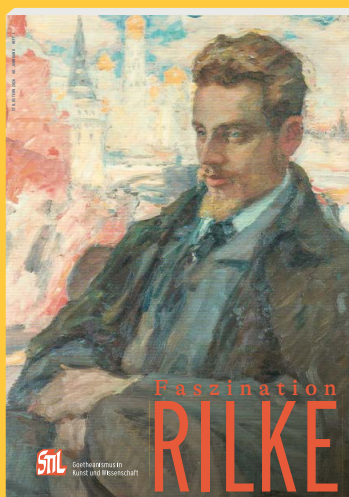
Formen schaffen.
Architektur,
Technik, Kunst
Johanni 2026

**Rainer Maria
Rilke – Grenzgänge**
Nachdruck
Ostern 2026



Faszination Rilke
Ostern 2026

**Reinkarnation
und Karma**
Weihnachten 2025



Das Abonnement kostet für vier Hefte im Jahr 60 € / 70 CHF, zuzüglich Porto, Förderpreis 100 € / 120 CHF. Das Einzelheft kostet 18 € / 20 CHF, zuzüglich Porto. Einzelausgaben der Zeitschrift STIL können Sie in Ihrer Buchhandlung bestellen oder unter: <https://ssw.goetheanum.org/publikationen/stil>