

The Art of Meta- morphosis

art
study
year

at the Goetheanum
2026/27

Architecture , Sculpture, Landscaping,
Installation, Painting and Drawing

Directors: Christiane Haid and Barbara Schnetzler

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

The Visual Arts Section
in collaboration
with Goetheanum studies



The Art of Metamorphosis

Architecture , Sculpture, Landscaping,
Installation, Painting and Drawing

Directors: Christiane Haid
and Barbara Schnetzler

art
study
year
at the Goetheanum
2026/27

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
Renus 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 form-
ative life forces. Through engaging with,
observing and perceiving the basic techni-
cal 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 for-
ward. Besides the work in the studio, ex-
cursions to Chartres (FR), Odilienberg (FR),
and the Ermitage near Arlesheim (CH) con-
tribute 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 ar-
chitecture 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 architectur-
al work can be directly experienced and
perceived directly with our senses.

This intention will accompany us as
we explore the design around the Goet-
heanum, taking the type of land into ac-
count in our considerations of landscap-
ing design. The trimester will conclude
with small draft tasks that synthesize the
fundamental elements of organic building
orientations we have explored through-
out the course. The encounter with Ar-
chitecture will take place primarily with
drawing exercises, sculpting, model build-
ing and special exercises. Individual work
will be supported through introduction by
faculty as well as shared phenomenologi-
cal 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

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.

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



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, Herbesten 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 Basicamp 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.



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:

A portfolio of your work (if available)