Goetheanum
Medical Section

27th International Study Days for Anthroposophic Art Therapies

‘Wisdom of the Heart’ – From the Maturing of the Soul on the Threshold of Life to the Birth of the Spirit

7 to 10 January 2027 in Dornach, Switzerland

For art therapists (sculpture, painting, music, speech), art therapy students, doctors, medical students, psychotherapists, and special needs teachers

Dornach, August 2026

Dear colleagues worldwide!

We warmly invite you to join us in January 2027 for the fourth and final part of the art therapy conferences on the theme of the heart and the seventh year!

We began this journey in 2024 with the theme 'The Heart Awakens – on the etheric forces of the heart in the therapeutic encounter' and continued in 2025 with 'Listening to the Heart – on perceiving the etheric forces of the heart in one's own life story'. Last year, our journey was guided by the theme 'Harmonies of the Heart – Courage to Be Oneself'. Now it is a matter of rounding off this arc from the age of 63 onwards, whilst at the same time opening it up. We are devoting ourselves to questions of the wisdom of the heart, extending beyond the threshold into the spiritual world.

What wisdom can we seek and find in a heart that has come alive? What significance do processes that have become unbalanced in geriatric care hold for a person's future life story and karma? What might be important in palliative care to build a true bridge to the spiritual world – which we sense, or perhaps hear glimpses of, in our everyday therapeutic practice? It is certain that art therapies – whether music, colour and form, or words – touch and nourish our clients. We perceive this directly in therapy. But how, specifically, does art-therapeutic work alter the interplay within the structure of the ageing person's being? Do we have the courage to listen to the end of physical, earthly life, and to the person's continued existence in the world-ether? How do we practise serenity and find meaning in our therapeutic work in geriatrics, palliative care, and end-of-life care? Three pairs of presenters, each presenting a case study on these key themes, can offer insight and inspiration into this valuable work. The working groups invite you to engage more deeply with individual topics.

Time and again, we are called upon to design art therapy processes that are also receptive for our clients. What spaces for listening or perceiving with the senses and the heart can we open, and how can we entrust ourselves to the hand of the angel? How do we create such moments, and from what sources do we draw inspiration?
We look forward to working together, to lively, inspiring exchanges, and to the gentle mutual encouragement of our therapeutic practice and our humanity.

With warm regards

Laura Piffaretti, Esther Böttcher, Linda Teipen, Katja Schultz, Katrin Sauerland, Marieke Schagen-van Houts

On behalf of the leadership of the Medical Section
Dr Marion Debus, Dr Karin Michael and Adam Blanning MD

Cover image credit: Rudolf Steiner: Blackboard drawing accompanying the lecture of 4 June 1924, GA 236

Thursday, 7 January

From 4.45 pm
Arrival and welcome, with an overview of the working groups

Start of the workshop

5.30–6.30 pm
Opening of the conference: Wisdom of the Heart

Welcome and opening address by ICAAT

6.30–8 pm **Evening break**

8–9.30 pm
Lecture by Dr Christian Schikarski
What we can bear in mind when working with older people in art therapy.

Closing session together

Freitag, 8. Januar

8.15–9 am
Artistic and meditative morning session

or

Introduction to the work of the college
Open event for anyone interested
Dr Marion Debus

or

The work of the Free University in the context of the conference theme
for members of the Freie Hochschule
(please bring your blue card)
Laura Piffaretti, Bernadette Gollmer, Ulrikke Stokholm

9.15–10.30 am
Announcements
A socio-artistic introduction to the conference theme
The Poetry of Fate – Karma as a reality of life
Katja Schultz

10.30–11.15 am **Coffee break**

11.15 am –1 pm
Working Group A

13–14.30 am **Lunch break**

2.30–4.30 pm
Working Group A

4.30–5.15 pm **Break**

5.15–6.30 pm
Case study 1: Geriatrics
Petra Siebenhaar – art therapist and Dr Marion Debus

6.30–8 pm **Evening break**

8.00 pm–9.30 pm
Lecture by Dr Marion Debus
Fruits of a past life – seeds of a future life. The post-death path of human development

Closing session together

Saturday, 9 January

8.15–9 am
Artistic and meditative morning session

or

Introduction to the work of the college
Open event for anyone interested
Dr Marion Debus

or

The work of the Free University in the context of the conference theme
for members of the Freie Hochschule
(please bring your blue card)
Laura Piffaretti, Bernadette Gollmer, Ulrikke Stokholm

9.15–10.30 am
Announcements
Case study 2 Palliative care: the example of Parkinson's disease
Gabriele Bucher – Speech and Language Therapy and Dr Marion Debus

10.30–11.15 am **Coffee break**

11.15 am - 1 pm
Working Group B

1–2.30 pm **Lunch break**

2.30–4.30 pm
Working Group B

4.30–5.15 pm **Break**

5.15–6.30 pm
Case study 3
End-of-life care
Laura Piffaretti – Music Therapy and Dr Marion Debus

6.30–8 pm **Evening break**

8.00–9.30 pm
Words of wisdom from a centenarian
Andrea Klapproth, speech and Antipe da Stella, Queer Flute

Sunday, 10 January

9.15–11 am
Breakfast together before departure in the foyer at the Goetheanum
A space for exchange and conversation

The conference language is German, with translation into English and Italian

Spanish translation can be provided if at least 20 people require it until 30 October 2026 via laura.piffaretti@medsektion-ikam.org

-- Subject to change --

Working groups

Friday (A) and Saturday (B), 11.15 am–1 pm and 2.30 pm–4.30 pm on both days

The content of the workshops will be the same on both days. Meaning you can attend a different workshop on Friday than on Saturday. Some workshops will be held in different languages on each of the two days.

Details of the planned workshops will be announced at the end of November when registration opens.

Conference theme
Christian Schikarski, Medicine
Esther Böttcher, Conversations with the Wisdom of the Heart – We will focus on intuition and nurture dialogue with our guardian angel through prayers and mantras.
Katja Schultz, karma work (including modelling)

Painting/modelling/form drawing
Maria Göbel, Painting – The North Star, the Horizon as the Thread of One's Life Story
Bernadette Golmer, Transitions to Life and Death, Collot
Linda Teipen, Painting as Support in Hospice Care – Receptive Art Therapy
Agata Loriz, Fairy tales and plant dyes
Mareike Becker, A Space of Warmth. Sculpting in a studio for elderly people.
Nathalie Cappa, A Biographical Retrospective (in paint)

Music
Debora Kleinmann, Approaches to musical improvisation when working with patients in palliative care/IPS
Laura Piffaretti, Music Therapy in Geriatrics – Individual Support for Older People, Taking into Account 'Nourishment' for Body, Soul and Spirit. A Journey Through the 12 Months.
Jaime Filippo, Providing music therapy support for transgenerational trauma and its consequences in old age

Speech
Andrea Klapproth, Word Goldsmiths – Writing in Old Age
Daiana Vassella, On the quieting of a butterfly – biographical transformation through the healing power of words. Experiences from speech therapy in elderly care.

Artistic and meditative morning session

Inspiration Space for Karma Work *(German)*
How do we become more attuned to the spiritual and emotional forces that underpin our work? How do we connect, through imagination, inspiration, and intuition, with the creative space we need for our work as companions? What happens when we share with one another what is already there and what may yet reveal itself? Experience, exchange, inspiration and practical exercises.
Anna Vogel and Anita Binkert

or

Singing in the West Staircase at the Goetheanum *(English)*
Marieke Schagen-van Houts

Work for the School of Spiritual Science

Introduction to the work of the School of Spiritual Science *(German)*
Open event for all interested parties
Dr Marion Debus

Academic work in the context of the conference theme *(German/English/Italian)*
For members of the Free University only – please bring your blue card
Laura Piffaretti, Bernadette Gollmer and Ulrikke Stockholm

Preparatory group

Esther Böttcher, therapeutic speech artist, Germany

Laura Piffaretti, qualified art therapist (ED), specialising in music therapy, lecturer and coordinator at ICAAT, Switzerland

Katrin Sauerland, art therapist, Germany

Marieke Schagen-van Houts, music therapist, Netherlands

Katja Schultz, art therapist, Germany

Linda Teipen, art therapist specialising in painting and sculpting, Germany

General information

Conference registration and signing up for working groups
You can sign up for the workshops at the same time as registering for the conference. At the start of the conference on Thursday at 4.30 pm, the workshop lists will be available in the carpentry workshop. At that time, you will also have the option of signing up for the workshops on the spot, provided they are not already fully booked.

Registration for the conference will open at the end of November. We will be happy to notify you personally by email once registration is open. To receive this notification, please complete the form via the link provided.

https://tinyurl.com/5a3zpyz7

Accommodation
Use of a bed in the dormitory: 10 CHF per night; sleeping mats are provided, but you must bring everything else with you. The number of beds is limited; places can be booked during online registration.

Conference fees (including both lunches and breakfast on Sunday)

Sponsor rate:	CHF 390
Standard price:	CHF 290
Concessionary price:	CHF 240
Student price:	CHF 190

Donations to support travel expenses and other costs for the Anthroposophic Art Therapies Conference *(not for payment of the conference fee)*

From Switzerland
General Anthroposophical Society / Medical Section / Raiffeisenbank Dornach
IBAN: CH53 8093 9000 0010 0605 6 / BIC: RAIFCH22
Reference: "KT 2027"

From Germany and the EU
Medical Section / AM Support Foundation / Volksbank Dreiländereck eG
IBAN: DE92 6839 0000 0000 9707 60 / BIC: VOLODE66
Reference: "KT 2027"

Conference information: Objectives and accreditation

Aims of the conference

- To strengthen and develop therapeutic intuition, judgement and decision-making skills in encounters with patients. To train the senses and perceptual abilities.
- To enhance understanding and perceptual skills regarding biographical crises and developmental stages across all ages.
- Exploring the tools and methods of anthroposophic art therapies across all disciplines (painting, drawing, sculpting, music, singing, speech and drama).
- Becoming familiar with new methods and approaches.
- Deepening the understanding of the prerequisites for health and illness.
- Consolidation of the topics covered in the lectures through various working groups; intervision.
- Interprofessional encounters and exchanges between doctors and colleagues of various nationalities who practise anthroposophic art therapies.

Certificates of attendance

Certificates of attendance will be issued for 19.5 hours (60 minutes each).