



Encounters with Imagination

A festival of arts and education

July 11 to 22, 2011

Rudolf Steiner Centre Toronto

Festival description

Welcome parents, educators and artists interested in working with the imagination! The Rudolf Steiner Centre Toronto has invited a team of internationally acclaimed artists and educators to offer a diverse selection of practical and artistic workshops. Each explores how the capacity for imagination can be cultivated to serve the arts and education and to enrich our lives. Enrol in one, two, three or four of these week-long workshops and savour your encounter with imagination.

The capacity for imagination is central to advances in all fields of human endeavour. Scientists, artists and educators alike rely upon creative capacities to forge new understanding and build healthy relationships. The cultivation of imagination is fundamental to Waldorf education, in which teachers and students alike are encouraged to perceive living interconnections between seemingly separate things. These reveal that individuals and objects are but a part of a whole meaning-filled world. Imagination lifts the veil of materialism and offers insights into how to work holistically in any endeavour.



Festival schedule

	Week 1 (July 11 -15)	Week 2 (July 18 - 22)
Morning 8:30 to 9:00	Morning movement, Spacial Dynamics <i>Stacey Schwarz</i>	Morning singing <i>Patrice Maynard</i>
9:00 to 10:30 and 11:00 to 12:30	Meeting Anthroposophy <i>Warren Lee Cohen</i> Is it I? Personal Biography <i>Regine Kurek</i> Painting the Mystic North <i>Julian Mulock</i> Grade One Intensive <i>David Hadden</i>	Waldorf Education <i>Patrice Maynard</i> Bringing Language to Life <i>Paul Matthews</i> Sacred Space and Being Human <i>Leigh Mellor</i>
Afternoon 2:00 to 3:30 and 4:00 to 5:30	Renewal through the Arts <i>Jef Saunders</i> Heart of Matter - metal <i>Leed Jackson</i> Creative Felting <i>Heather Church</i> Grade One Intensive <i>David Hadden</i>	Stories of Transformation <i>Dawne McFarlane</i> Waldorf Art <i>Anna Gruda</i> The Living Sky <i>Greg Scott</i> A Conversation in Art <i>Elyse Pomeranz, Sandi Churchward</i>

Workshop descriptions, week 1, July 11 to 15

Morning workshops

include morning movement, Spatial Dynamics



Painting the Mystic North Tom Thomson, the Group of Seven and their contemporaries

with Julian Mulock

In the early twentieth century, a diverse group of painters came together to express the Canadian landscape in an extraordinary way. They cast off Old World traditions of landscape painting. Influenced variously by Theosophy, profound Christianity and contemporary painters, the Group of Seven, Tom Thomson and Emily Carr brought a new and splendid vision to this land. We will explore the works of these remarkable artists, make some drawings of our own and visit the McMichael Canadian Art Collection, home of many of these great works.

Grade One Intensive preparation and practice

with David Hadden

(Meets both mornings and afternoons)

We will explore the physical, psychological and spiritual development of six and seven year old children and how the Waldorf curriculum meets their needs. Our focus will be planning the year, main lesson blocks, balanced days and organizational details. We will practice singing, recorder, recitation, form drawing, painting, modeling and movement. We will also address questions around working with parents, colleagues, meetings and writing birthday verses and reports.

Meeting Anthroposophy a journey into self and world

with Warren Lee Cohen

Rudolf Steiner coined the terms anthroposophy and spiritual science to characterize a path of knowledge in which the human being is a living image of the creative forces at work in the cosmos. This course is intended for anyone new to anthroposophy or who wishes to deepen, clarify or expand their understanding of themes such as the essential nature of freedom, karma and reincarnation, how to develop a contemplative practice and how to research spiritual questions.

Is it I? A look at our personal biography through art

with Regine Kurek

This is a course for both the novice and the seasoned biography student. It will support participants to take a fresh look at how our life's purpose shows through at every step taken along the journey. We will develop life charts and explore these through conversation and a variety of art forms including painting, mixed media and collage.



Afternoon workshops

Heart of Matter making in metal

with Leed Jackson

Working with metals engages us in a process where we can find a deeper connection to the whole, to "mother earth", that can bring personal, social and ecological healing. We will work with copper, silver, lead, tin, carbon and silica, creating both aesthetic forms and inner soul structures. We will use the processes of casting, etching, forging and enamelling to explore movement between three alchemical states: form (salt), mobility (mercury) and enthusiasm (sulphur).

Renewal through the Arts

with Jef Saunders

In Waldorf education the arts are understood as integral pathways to learning in all disciplines. We will explore Rudolf Steiner's basic ideas through artistic experience. Taking the three mediums of black and white drawing, water colour painting and clay modelling, we will explore the threefold relationship of thinking, feeling and intention. A closer look at the four elements of earth, water, air and fire will help us to look at the seven soul qualities. No previous artistic experience is needed.

Creative Felting

with Heather Church

Together we will explore the wonderful properties of wool using warm water, soap and movement to turn colourful wool fibres (roving) into beautiful and practical items such as table centre pieces, containers, scarves, bags and hats. We will learn how to create smaller designs and flowers to adorn our flat and three-dimensional felted creations. Felting is a wonderful craft for home, kindergarten or school.

Workshop descriptions, week 2, July 18 to 22

Morning workshops

include morning singing

Waldorf Education heaven in a wild flower

with *Patrice Maynard*

What is the essence of Waldorf education? This constructive educational revolution approaches the development of the human being and asks for transformation in ourselves as educators and in our methods. Signature works of Dr. Rudolf Steiner, the building blocks of meditative work, and reflecting upon our own experiences as parents or educators will help in deepening our understanding of the genius of Waldorf education.

Bringing Language to Life: a creative writing workshop

with *Paul Matthews*

This workshop offers an opportunity for teachers, parents, writers, and anyone interested in developing the life of language and imagination. Through guided tasks in writing and some simple movement we will explore (both seriously and playfully, individually and collaboratively) the creative dynamics of language. Our emphasis will be on creative process rather than finished work, finding ways to carry a language rich in image, word-music and rhythm into our classrooms, homes and relationships. Beginners and the more experienced are equally welcome.

Sacred Space and Being Human

with *Leigh Mellor*

What does it mean to be truly human? Throughout time, civilizations have built structures to help commune with the spiritual world. We will explore the notion of 'temple as human being' in relation to our lives and to an evolving picture of human consciousness. Our journey will stretch from Stonehenge through temple, pyramid and cathedral architectures. The Goetheanum will feature in our modern survey of sacred spaces. Clay modeling will help us to understand the relationship between human and architectural forms.

Afternoon workshops



A Conversation in Art: encounters with Nature

with *Elyse Pomeranz and Sandi Churchward*

Can you read from the book of nature? She presents her mysteries to us both externally and internally. We will stretch our capacities for observation and knowing nature through techniques developed in Goethean science and geomancy. These will range from sketching and watercolour studies to meditative exercises in the service of imaginative perception. We will then use the ancient technique of egg tempera to build up a synthesis. No previous experience is required.

Waldorf Art

with *Anna Gruda*

Journey through the Waldorf curriculum as it is expressed through the visual arts. We will complete projects that demonstrate the unique methods of teaching art in a Waldorf school, and give participants the experience of how and why new materials and skills are introduced to the students each year. A variety of techniques will be explored including painting, printmaking, clay and more to deepen understanding of Waldorf pedagogy and art.

The Living Sky

with *Greg Scott*

Explore the life of clouds through stone carving. Clouds are wonderful to watch as they move across the sky creating playful and often ominous forms. What builds these beautiful forms? Through careful observation and reflection, we hope to witness the underlying formative gestures guiding the formation of clouds. We will be observing and sketching clouds, making small studies in clay and then carving in stone. All materials from cloud to stone will be provided.

Stories of Transformation

with *Dawne McFarlane*

Fairy tales are rich in images of transformation: straw into gold, frog to prince, miller's daughter to queen. Storytelling can transform a difficult moment into a magical one and guide us through the stages of human development. Through movement, improvisation, creative writing, and spoken word we will explore the art of storytelling and set the stage for developing the craft. This is an opportunity for new storytellers to emerge from cocoons and experienced storytellers to deepen the colours of their wings.



Workshop leaders

Heather Church graduated from the Ontario College of Art, Sunbridge College and Sophia's Hearth. She has been teaching kindergarten in Waldorf schools for eleven years. She is the co-founder of "My Child Myself Centre."

Sandi Churchward teaches visual arts at the Toronto Waldorf School. She studied at the Ontario College of Art and Design, the North American School for Geomancy, Arscura and RSCT. She is a practising artist.

Warren Lee Cohen, M. Ed., B.A. Physics, is the director of teacher education at RSCT. He directed the Foundation Studies program at Emerson College and has been a Waldorf teacher. He is the author of *Raising the Soul* and *Baking Bread with Children*.

Anna Gruda is a graduate of Ontario College of Art and Design and RSCT. Anna has been a Waldorf class teacher and art teacher for 20 years. She currently teaches at the Toronto Waldorf School and RSCT.

David Hadden, B.A. Music, B.A. Ed., is a highly experienced Waldorf class teacher at the London Waldorf School. He has been teaching there since 1980. His outside interests include watercolour painting, music and gardening.

Leed M Jackson, B.Sc. Math, studied sculpture and Goethean science at Emerson College in England. He has been teaching high school science, math and metal craft at the Toronto Waldorf School for 18 years.



Regine Kurek is an anthroposophical art therapist and biographical counsellor. She works internationally developing art and art therapy courses. She is enthusiastic about art, personal development and 'forever learning and growing as an adult.'

Paul Matthews led creative writing, Foundation Studies and gymnastics at Emerson College. He now travels widely, speaking his poetry and encouraging others in the use of imagination. His inspirational books include *Sing Me the Creation* and *Words in Place*.

Patrice Maynard, M.Ed., is the leader for Outreach and Development of the Association of Waldorf Schools of North America (AWSNA). She is a Waldorf teacher and a music teacher. Patrice is a passionate advocate for renewal and pluralism in education.

Dawne McFarlane, M.H.Sc., is a storyteller, dancer, Waldorf teacher and RSCT faculty. She weaves storytelling and movement into creative tapestries with adolescents and adults. She is a NIA movement teacher and is an Ontario Arts Council grant recipient.

Leigh Mellor is a Waldorf teacher at the Edge Hill Country School, art therapist and a faculty member of Arscura. She is dedicated to enlivening her relationship with art and education in a creative and soulful manner.

Julian Mulock graduated from Michael Hall Waldorf School in England and then studied art in Toronto. Julian is an acclaimed practising artist with lifelong interests in the worlds of art and the invisible and the dynamic intersection of the two.

Elyse Pomeranz is a Waldorf teacher who has trained with the North American School for Geomancy and as a biographical counsellor at Arscura. She is a facilitator, mediator, photographer, fibre artist and writer.

Jef Saunders is director and faculty member of Arscura – School for Living Art. He is a biography counsellor and anthroposophically inspired art therapist. He currently divides his work equally between patients and teaching.

Stacey Schwarz is a eurythmist and Spacial Dynamics educator and therapist and is licensed in massage therapy. She currently works at the Toronto Waldorf School and RSCT. She offers workshops and individual therapy.

Greg Scott is a sculptor and a Waldorf teacher at the Toronto Waldorf School and RSCT, where he runs the woodwork program and teaches high school. His artistic work has carried him throughout North America and Europe.

Registration details

Register early to secure your choice of seminars. Places are limited.

Early registration special – Save 5% if you register by May 27

Festival fee

(includes materials costs and snacks)

- Morning workshops meet 8:30 to 12:30
- Afternoon workshops meet 2:00 to 5:30.

Fees are calculated for each week:

\$325 for the first workshop

\$170 for the second workshop
in the same week

Cash or cheques preferred. We also accept VISA and Mastercard.

Accommodation and meals

Bed and breakfast with a local family: please call Melanie at 905-709-3136.

To offer accommodation to a festival participant and receive compensation: please contact Melanie.

Local hotels listed on our website.

Meals are available at local restaurants and shops.

Scholarships

Some scholarships may be available and will be awarded on a first come basis. Please include a letter describing your financial circumstances with your application.

Childcare at TWS Summer camp

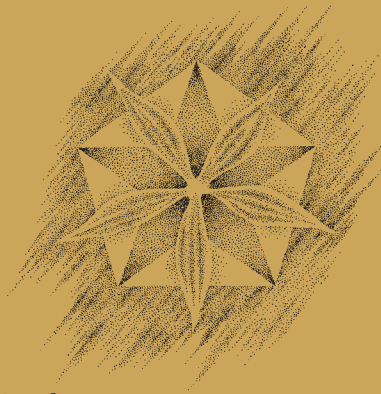
Toronto Waldorf School Summer Camp offers full-day summer camp for children (ages 4 to 12) at a reduced fee for festival participants. Contact the camp at 647-210-8865 or camp@torontowaldorfschool.com.

Collaborating organizations

RSCT is grateful for support from Arscura – School for Living Art, Toronto Waldorf School, Hesperus Village, Christian Community, My Child My Self, Anthroposophical Society of Canada, Anthroposophical Foundation of Canada and Michael Foundation.

Coming July 25 to 29 – HEART, Intensive Remedial Week, with Rachel Ross for teachers, therapists and homeschoolers. Register now.

**To register contact
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Rudolf Steiner Centre Toronto

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