

Edith Bierman's Painted forms for the Calendar of the Soul by Rudolf Steiner

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I am not a eurythmist, nor am I a publisher but I do appreciate eurythmy, colour and form. I have been privileged to meet Edith Bierman, who has created a beautiful set of pictures of the eurythmy forms for the Calendar of the Soul by Rudolf Steiner.

Born May 1908, she undertook a eurythmy training with Frau Obe Jaeger in Dornach and was one of the first eurythmists. She later taught eurythmy sporadically in schools and in her own children's home. In retirement at Schloss Hamborn near Paderborn Germany, she gave a weekly eurythmy lesson to the residents and in the course of about seven years, painted the 201 forms for the weekly verses as required for the work. From the time of the training she wished to put the weekly verse forms into movement and colour but hesitated to 'fiddle' with Dr Steiner's forms. Much later she heard from Marie Steiner that Dr Steiner had suggested to a Dornach painter to do just that. She never found time and had passed on when Edith tried to make a go of it. The people she worked with found Edith's pictures very helpful.

Looking at these pictures it has struck me that they could be a stepping stone to appreciate (even without knowledge of eurythmy), the relationship between form in movement and mood of soul in the cycle of the year. Line forms are clearly for the professional, and yet it is difficult for the non-eurythmist to appreciate the eurythmy forms on stage without being offered a birds-eye view. Colour and shade add a soul quality as well as a sculptural quality. My work is with the land and such forms create in me imaginations of parallel etheric and astral processes revealed in plant and animal forms.

When I look at the pictures I think to myself, I could do that and yet, I have not and nor have others. Meeting Edith however briefly during her sunset years, reveals a person with tremendous depth of character and determination. Her vulnerability lies in her isolation.

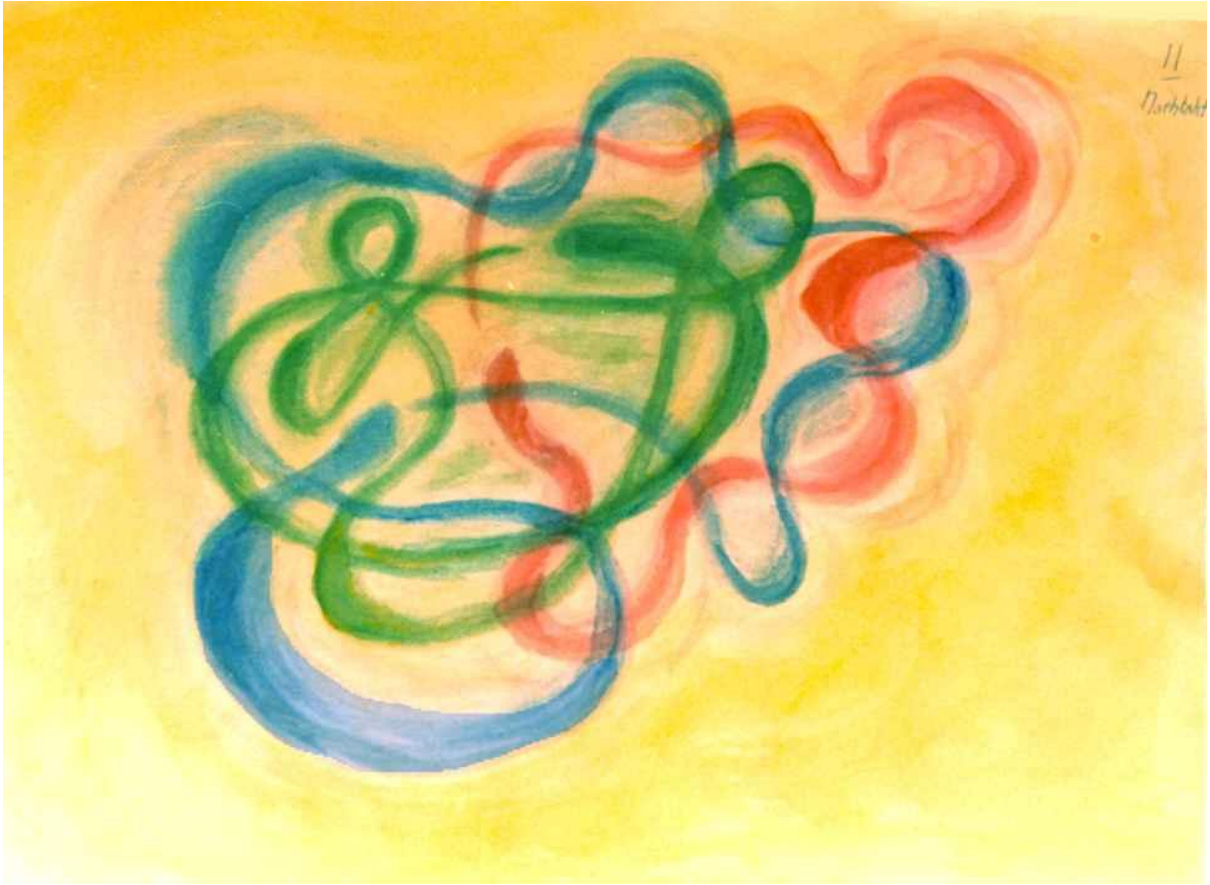
The paintings that follow are based on Rudolf Steiner's choreography, for three eurythmists, of **the Soul Calendar verse for the second week in June.**

*In this the sun's own hour, it is for you
To understand its sounding, wisdom-filled:
To beauty of the world surrendered,
And with inward feeling, experience this:
The human I can lose itself
And find itself anew within the cosmic I.*

The first painting shows the patterns of movement, seen from above, performed silently before the text is heard. The second painting shows the movement during the text. The third painting shows the silent movement after the text. The colours in the paintings are based on Rudolf Steiner's indications for the coloured veils to be worn by the eurythmists.

The photographs are by Edith Bierman of her own watercolour paintings, and have been enhanced for digital reproduction.





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