



Chantal Bernard & Janny Mager

Inspired by Johann W. von Goethe, Rudolf Steiner
and Liane Collot d'Herbois

Color and the Human Being

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Three artists, three researchers and the mystery of color: Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, Rudolf Steiner and Liane Collot d'Herbois revisited.

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, 1749 – 1832

Above the sum of all his experiences in his theory of color, Goethe proposes a revolutionary method of approaching the colored phenomena which integrate the observer in the experience. What many scientists refuse to do in general, to consider the observer as subjective – so subject to the error –, he makes a formidable tool of knowledge out of it.



Liane Collot d'Herbois, Circulation of Money, Late 1980s, watercolor on paper

Rudolf Steiner, 1861 – 1925

Finding in the Goethean method the founding elements of a new theory of knowledge Rudolf Steiner will: «... seek strictly in the world of the senses the unique object of science.» Among his many fields of investigation, he gives a privileged place to the search for the sensible-supersensible nature of color and of the human being, revealing thus a large part of the mysteries linking these two entities. Alongside their work as scientists, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe and Rudolf Steiner have also developed a significant body of artistic work. Both have painted, drawn, written poems and theatre plays.



The First Goetheanum nearly completed opened September 20, 1920; burnt down December 31, 1922.

Liane Collot d'Herbois, 1907 – 1999

As a painter, but also as a researcher, Liane Collot d'Herbois adds a new dimension to the search of these brilliant predecessors. Her intimate knowledge of the laws acting in the background of the appearance of color allows her to create a new way of painting. Her intimate knowledge of these same laws acting in the background of our constitution allows her to create a new way to heal with color. Liane Collot d'Herbois collects in a decisive way and a remarkable unity the different similarities existing between the being of color and the human being. She shows in a masterly and marvellous way how, during his whole evolution, the human being is accompanied by color. She will also extend this knowledge into the field of therapeutics.