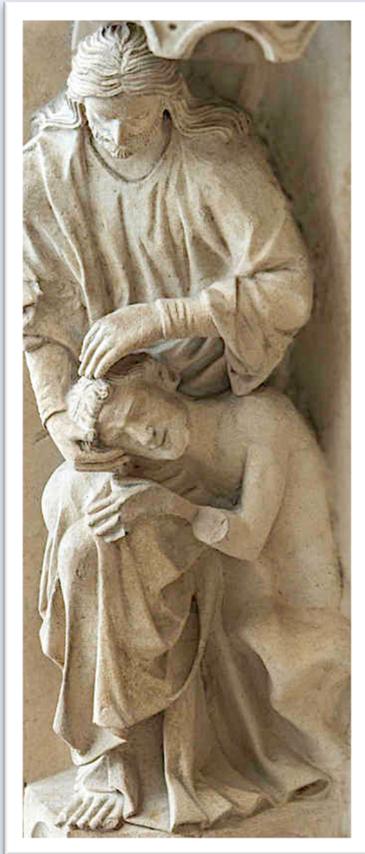


# The 4 Ethers and Universal Beauty

If beauty lies in the eyes of the beholder, what then is Universal Beauty? For it to be universal, beauty must be able to transcend fashion, style or ideology and pass the test of time, as many examples of art and architecture have done for centuries and continue to do, uplifting us every time we open ourselves to their presence.



*Chartres Cathedral,  
God loving Adam into being*

What is their secret? Does this mean Universal Beauty is destined to remain an historic phenomenon of the past?

How would we recognize newly created beauty that hasn't had the opportunity to stand the test of time? And what is more, what would it take to create it?

One thing many people would agree on is that in this day and age timeless beauty is rare indeed to find. Our urban landscapes range from colourless, utilitarian industry hubs to brash commercial and tourist centres vying for our attention, forever trying in ever new ways to dazzle, impress and fascinate --- instead of support and uplift.

Universal Beauty always uplifts and supports and helps us recognize our own humanity, even if only for short moments.

The questions about beauty are less controversial when moving from human creations to the forms of nature. Most forms of nature seem to have a purpose, life and beauty of their own which is timeless and not subject to debate or interpretation.

Why is that? The answer to this depends on our world view. If we see nature as the ensouled expression of an underlying world of soul and spirit, then its timeless beauty can ultimately be traced back to this world.

Herein lies the link to the 4 Ethers.

If the 4 Ethers are the 4 great artists that give expression to the creations of beings from higher worlds invisible to our senses, the 4 Elements furnish the required energy, paint, clay and ground to stand on. As nature's universal artists, the 4 Ethers dance, paint, sound and sculpt, each in their own way and in accordance with the inspirations from above. No wonder then that nature's creations continue to inspire and uplift.

But then why is it that the mere copying of nature cannot impress and inspire us in the same way? This is because we are on different spiritual pathways.

Unlike human Beings, Nature has no moral dimension and cannot be judged by moral standards. As Human Beings on the other hand we are moral beings who are free to work with, for or against nature. We cannot escape our moral responsibilities in anything we do or create. The word *moral* here should not be confused with *moralistic*. The latter comes with rules and norms, while the former is an expression of universal truths and values, encapsulated by the ideals of "*Goodness Truth and Beauty*".

For the purposes of Transformative Art & Architecture, beauty becomes universal when it bears within itself a moral dimension; put simply, when it contains a spiritual spark from a higher realm of "*Goodness Truth and Beauty*". *It is this spiritual element which has transformative power*. Why? Because as we resonate with a work of art that is elevated by the presence of Goodness, Truth and Beauty, we have mirrored before us a part of our own humanity, which hails from the same realm.

But this does not mean that we cannot learn from nature. The 4 Ethers are the 4 artisans of NATURE'S LANGUAGE OF FORM which is the LANGUAGE OF LIFE. If as artists we wish our creations to be as vibrant and meaningful as nature's forms, we would do well learning to read and speak her language. Yet while the language may be the same, our human purposes are different to those of nature, which is why copying nature may be a useful exercise to practice our artistic skills, but does not create transformative art.



**Universal Beauty and its connection with the 4 Ethers**  
is the subject of an online Seminar held in early 2022

**between 22<sup>nd</sup> January and 20<sup>th</sup> February 2022,  
over three alternate weekends**

with Lectures by Johannes Schuster in the mornings  
and Art practice with Sue Schuster in the afternoons

For more information download the Flyer or go to the website

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