

CECIL COLLINS CENTENARY CONFERENCE

THE MUSIC OF DAWN



Saturday 26th April 2008

St Ethelburga's

Centre for Reconciliation & Peace
78 Bishopsgate, London EC2N 4AG

THE MUSIC OF DAWN

*Radiant with your waves,
Flowing again with your waters of light,
O world heart,
O fountain of dawn.*

(Cecil Collins 'In the solitude of this land' in *The Vision of the Fool and other writings* Ed. Brian Keeble. Golgonooza Press. ©Tate 2002)

This conference celebrates the centenary of Cecil Collins - British visionary painter, poet and philosopher. Born in 1908, Cecil Collins lived in a century of tremendous change in art forms and movements. After a period of identification with British surrealists, Cecil turned to his inner vision and developed timeless paintings on such themes as the Angel, the Fool and the Lost Paradise.

The conference will throw light on the relevance of Cecil's vision for us today and the importance of his teachings. Talks will be given by speakers who knew Cecil personally and who have a particular insight into the artist and his world. Two documentary films - *Hymn of Light* and *'Fools and Angels'* will be shown.

Speakers

Chair: Stella Astor, MA

Michael Chaitow

Michael Chaitow is a painter whose work has a symbolist quality through themes developed from nature and natural forms, as well as the human figure. He studied at Central St.Martin's under Cecil Collins followed by a two-year commonwealth painting scholarship in India. He carries on the teaching methods of Cecil Collins, running courses and lecturing at Cardiff and Swansea Universities.

Harry Marshall

Harry Marshall, CEO, Icon Films, was born and brought up in India. In 1980 he won an open scholarship to Oxford University where he read English. In 1990 Harry founded Bristol based independent Icon Films with his partner Laura Marshall. In addition to directing key productions, Harry acts as executive producer across all Icon commissions and directs the development team. Icon Films are currently working on 20 hours of network production for the BBC, National Geographic, PBS, Channel Five and Discovery/Animal Planet.

Brigitte Norland

Artist, musician and teacher, Brigitte studied with Cecil at Central St Martins and at the City Lit. An in-depth study of Cecil's teaching has informed her work as an educator and facilitator for the School of Homeopathy in Devon. She is also a regular contributor to Resurgence Magazine.

Professor Robert Temple

Writer and scholar, and close friend of Cecil and Elizabeth Collins since 1966. Visiting Professor of the History and Philosophy of Science at Tsinghua University, Beijing, China. Robert's books have been translated into 44 languages. His translation of the Epic of Gilgamesh was published in 1991 and staged at the Royal National Theatre in 1993.