



**John Lane** is a painter, writer and educator and lives in Devon, in the south of England. He was Chairman of the Dartington Hall Trust, founding director of the Beaford Arts Centre, and instrumental in the creation of Schumacher College. He lectures and conducts workshops on the subject of the arts and spirituality worldwide. His books include *The Living Tree: Art and the Sacred*, *A Snake's Tail Full of Ants: Art, Ecology and Consciousness*, *Timeless Simplicity* and *Timeless Beauty*.

John Lane believes that beauty is the nourishment of the soul. It is something that gives us dignity as a species. He calls us to awaken to the possibilities of a culture that recognizes the importance of beauty, and to recognize that we are only fully human in contact with the beautiful.



**Werner Schmidt**, born in Berlin and living in Switzerland, is a painter, educator and a founder of Fondation Lascaux. His art works are present in numerous official and private collections and are regularly shown in exhibitions. His intention in his work is the constant tuning in to humility and wonder in the face of creation.



**Dr. Joan Davis** came to Switzerland after her doctoral studies in biochemistry in the US. For thirty years she carried out research into water at the Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science & Technology, and taught at several universities in Switzerland and Germany. She is a member of several commissions and boards of environmentally orientated institutes and organisations. Her international activities are associated mainly with sustainable development.

Her interest in the way nature functions goes beyond what science usually considers. 'Beauty' plays a role in this connection: the strong link between «form» and «function» is known to reveal that nature's wisdom can go further than science's knowledge.

**Maya Farner** trained as an oriental dancer and learned from dancing dervishes in Turkey and Egypt. She studied comparative religion, specialising in Sufism and trance dance as well as dance culture. Maya's creative work combines the language of oriental dance with a contemporary understanding of the art. She teaches classic oriental dance and offers workshops in dervish dance in her studio in Zurich.

## Symposium

### Timeless Beauty in Art and everyday Life - A Celebration!

22 and 23 August 2009

«Seehof» in Kuesnacht  
(Switzerland)



FONDATION LASCAUX



# Timeless Beauty in Art and everyday Life - A Celebration!



With **John Lane (GB)** and **Joan Davis (CH)**, hosts **Barbara Diethelm and Werner Schmidt (CH)**, and a dance performance by **Maya Farner (CH)**

During this weekend we want to honour and celebrate Beauty! Beauty is pervasive, unattached and subtle. Beauty moves us from within as it is the current in the river of life. Beauty moves along invisible paths – to perceive this we need to cultivate sensitivity and awareness. In order to experience beauty we need to be profoundly present.

Our global crisis (environmental, financial and aesthetic) is accompanied by a crisis surrounding the nature of beauty. Materialism dulls and anaesthetizes our desire and closes our senses to the face of beauty. In turning away from beauty we turn away from all that is wholesome, harmonious and true. However when we awaken to beauty, it keeps our desire alive in freshness, passion and creativity.

## This symposium will:

- deepen our understanding about: what timeless beauty is; why beauty is important to us as individuals and as a society; what we mean by beauty; what place beauty should have in our lives; why we have lost beauty in our lives.
- increase our awareness that beauty can: act as a bridge to our souls; be a reminder of our common spiritual heritage; offer us an invitation to order, coherence and unity; bring a sense of completion and sureness.
- celebrate beauty! And experience the gift that beauty means for our daily lives.



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## Location:

The «Seehof» manor house lies directly on the shores of Lake Zurich, in a secluded old estate. This beautiful atmosphere serves as a conducive environment for this symposium. The main program will be held in the «Festsaal».

We will be inspired by the wisdom and authenticity of speakers whose lectures, which are filled with warmth and humour, will be accompanied by discussions among participants. In-between, room will be provided to experience beauty in silence in the ambient environment: the rose garden, the lakeside and the medieval «Kellersaal» where a collection of art, craft and objects of nature will be displayed.



Maya Farner

## Saturday's program will include:

- lectures by **John Lane**: Beauty in nature, from an «artist's point of view»
- lecture by **Joan Davis**: Beauty in nature, from a «holistic scientist's point of view»
- a celebration dinner with vegetarian delights in the garden (or in the «Sala Terrena» if the weather is bad)
- a whirling dance by **Maya Farner**, with percussionist Kamal Essahbi

## Sunday's program will include:

- the opportunity to deepen the experience of the previous day and experience the surroundings and exhibition in silence
- Time to attend the following workshops:

### Workshop 1:

«Open discussion group about beauty» with **John Lane** and **Joan Davis**.

Relating to the issues which arose the previous day, topics relevant to the group will be discussed.

### Workshop 2:

«Follow the movement of your eye and your hand will become a butterfly» with **Werner Schmidt**. Becoming aware of beauty through drawing. Beginners welcome.

### Workshop 3:

«Whirling beauty» with **Maya Farner**. By experiencing the whirling dance, you will experience the peaceful, beautiful and renewing quality of being centred within yourself. Beginners welcome.

*The symposium will be held in English without translation.*