

COLLISIONS AND TRANSITIONS

Festschrift in Honour of

JAN VALENTIN SAETHER

on the Occasion of his 70th Birthday on March 18 2014

Editors:

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Solveig Naomi Socolnikov Saether



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THE AUTHORS
Short Biographies

Ingrid Allen is a painter based in Los Angeles who grew up in a family of artists and was raised at the Bruchion School of Art. There, she studied old-master techniques taught by her step father, Jan Saether. She furthered her studies at the Charles Cecil Studios in Florence Italy. Her work has recently been shown in Australia, New York, San Francisco and Los Angeles. As well as being a painter, Ingrid is often called on to make costumes for artists such as Kanye West, Rihanna, Gnarls Barkley, Lady Gaga and David Lynch. Ingrid teamed up with Aaron Rose in 2008 to develop an after school art program for teenagers called *Make Something!!* Since its inception, more than 2,000 high school students have participated. *Make Something!!* workshops have been held in New York, Los Angeles, Paris, San Francisco, Miami, London and Tokyo.

Roshi *Robert Joshin Althouse* is a fully empowered Zen teacher in the White Plum lineage and a fully ordained Zen Buddhist Priest. Roshi and his wife, Rev. June Ryushin Tanoue, co-founded the Zen Life & Meditation Center of Chicago, located in Oak Park, Illinois. Roshi is the Abbot of the Zen Center.

Althouse began teaching in Hawaii where he and his wife co-founded the Zen Center of Hawaii in 1993. He has been teaching for over 20 years and has lead countless meditation retreats, workshops, and classes.

Terje Dahl Bergersen (b. 1972, in Oslo, Norway) has participated in the communion of the Gnostic Church since August 1995. Receiving instruction and ordination into the minor orders of Ecclesia Gnostica by Jan Valentin Saether. Ordained to the major order of Deacon by Bishop Tau Stephanus, Stephan Hoeller at the Capella Sancta Sophia in Oslo, Norway, August 2nd 2003. His interest in the sacramental and sapiential praxis of the Gnostic Church concerns the integration of the experience of Gnosis into life.

Charles Cameron's HipBone Games are his attempt to make Hermann Hesse's Glass Bead Game from the Nobel-winning novel of that name playable. They developed out of some creativity classes he led at Bruchion in the 1980s, were

played by email and on mailing lists in the 1990s and have been used more recently in teaching by Howard Rheingold at Stanford and Berkeley. They have been further developed by an Australian friend, Cath Styles, under the name *Sembl*, and should soon be available for web-based play. Charles is a poet and game designer who blogs on religion, war and peace at *Zenpundit*.

Charles Coffman, born in Los Angeles in 1950, is a figurative painter and jazz alto saxophonist; he is also the author of two unpublished novels and an adaptation in English hexameters of the first 300 lines of Homer's *Odyssey*. He studied painting with Jan Saether in Los Angeles from 1988-89, and music with Warne Marsh in Pasadena from 1974-1977. He also has worked as a professional art model for more than twenty years. Charles now divides his time between figure drawing, playing and writing music, and his work at the Beverly Hills Public Library. He resides in Venice, California.

Ole Harald Dahl, born in Telemark, Norway, 1959. Grew up the same place. Studies at the University of Bergen and the University of Oslo, with a Cand. Philol. degree in literature. Studies at the antroposophical School of Spiritual Science, Goetheum near Basel in Switzerland, and later at the Nordic Institute of Stage and Studio in Oslo, concentrating on theatre, acting and stage productions. Dahl has worked as a teacher in Norwegian schools for ten years, has seven years work experience at different psychiatric hospitals, and has also worked as a carpenter and lock keeper. – For the last ten years he has established himself as a writer at the creative work collective Sagene Kunstsmie in Oslo. He has been an active coworker in running the think tank Forum Cogito for the last twenty years. Dahl has also been a member of and active participant in the Antrophosopical Society in Norway for thirty years. – Father of four grown-up children.

David Engström is a Metastabilian artist~scientist, writer and musician, and co-founder along with Dražen Pavlović of a new art movement called *The Metastabilian Movement*. He is co-author along with eminent neuroscientist J. A. Scott Kelso of a popular science book called *The Complementary Nature* (MIT Press, 2006). This book presents a philosophy of complementary pairs grounded in the science of coordination dynamics, and introduces the use of the squiggle sign “~” to communicate the complementary nature of given complementary aspects, and describes the importance of metastability to viable systems. David is also a life-long guitarist, singer and songwriter, painter and digital artist. In 1993, he left academia to travel Europe as a troubadour, and eventually settled in Denmark, where he continues to work as a professional live musician. For many years now, he has been writing and developing an automythic epic called *The Dialogue Of Clockmasters*, including related visual

art, music and lyrics for a rock opera. More recently he has also been doing web design, an example of which, <http://themetastabilianmovement.com> is an entire website not only dedicated to the pursuit of *The Metastabilian Movement*, but also treated as metastabilian artwork itself.

Rev. *John F. Goelz* has worked with Stephan Hoeller since 1974 and has been a priest under his episcopate since 1985. He studied painting with Jan Saether at Bruchion and worked with him in the Ecclesia Gnostica. He is a student of the Western Magical Tradition and teaches classes in Qabalah and ceremonial magic from a Gnostic perspective, as methods to explore and experience the deeper reaches of our consciousness.

Jonathan Hirschfeld began his artistic career in Los Angeles in the late '70s, where for several years he was co-director of the Venice Painting Drawing and Sculpture Studio. His early work consisted primarily of semi-abstract sculptures and portrait heads. Among the most noteworthy were *Eric Hoffer*, the *Longshoreman Philosopher* 1981 Bartlesville Oklahoma, and *Epidaurus* 1983, Mission Viejo, California. In 1985 he established a studio in Paris, and began to focus on bas-relief, which became his preferred form. He has completed numerous private portrait commissions as well as installations in the US and Europe, including his *Fragment of Heraclitus* 1994, marble and bronze, Patmos, Greece, *The Rabin Peace Memorial* 2004, monumental bas-relief, UCLA Hillel and *The Daniel Pearl Memorial*, 2005, granite bas-relief, Mount Sinai Cemetery, Los Angeles. He divides his time between Venice, California and Paris, France.

Tor Kaare Kvaal (1945-1994) was a well known editor at the publishing house Solum Forlag in Norway. He was also a doctoral candidate at MF Norwegian School of Theology, working on his thesis on early Christianity and Gnosis when he passed away in 1994. Kvaal's unfinished dissertation remains unpublished, due to his personal wishes, but he remains one of the finest scholars on the topic in Norway to this day.

Richard Lees, Artist and classical instrument builder specializing in Lutes and Vihuelas.

Studied fine arts with Edward Biberman, Edward Vartanian, and Joseph Mugnaini, and studied Flamenco guitar in Spain with the venerated master of Moron de la Frontera, Diego del Gastor.

Also while in Spain he spent several years learning about the luthier's art with many of Spain's finest builders such as Manolo Contereas builder to Andres Segovia, the greatest master of the Madrid school Arcangel Fernandez de la Mata and his contemporary Marcelino Lope Nieto who has long been

considered as being among the finest builders of the classical guitar. He has also studied lute construction with the English master David Van Edwards.

Richard served as a Supervisor of Technical Operations for KXNT/KCBS Television for many years and has also been a consultant for many companies specializing in high end audio design world wide. He has taught composition, landscape painting and portraiture for a number of years at Art Center College of Design in Pasadena California and also teaches privately.

Gage Mace teaches painting classes at the Multnomah Arts Center in Portland, Oregon, and works at the Portland Art Museum. Gage has exhibited his work at a number of notable galleries and museums in the Pacific Northwest, and enjoys painting landscapes, cityscapes, portraits, and the figure. He is also a writer and published an essay in *The Frozen Moment* anthology in 2011.

Nils Ole Oftebro (born in 1944 in Sarpsborg, Norway) is a Norwegian actor and illustrator. He worked for Fjernsynsteatret from 1969 to 1971. From 1971 he works at Nationaltheatret. He was artistic director at Torshovteatret from 1987 to 1989. He received the Amanda Award for Best Actor in 1986, for his role in the television production *Du kan da ikke bare gå*, and in 1998 for Best Supporting Role in *Thranes metode*. Among his films are *Du Pappa*; *Dagny* and *Blood of the Railroad Workers*.

Hanne Storm Ofteland, Cand. philol. Art Historian, currently working as Head of the Library and Archive Section at Oslo National Academy of the Arts. Ofteland ran the independent art gallery nordic art info from 2003-2006, and was editor of Norway's first online journal for art criticism, BarokkMinimalist in the period 2001-2003.

Beate Petersen graduated from The National Academy of Fine Art in Oslo in 2001. She works with drawing and video, and is also a writer for the periodical for visual artists, *Billedkunst*.

These last years she has been making documentaries, from Russia, Afghanistan and Iran, to mention some countries. Her interest in other ways of understanding the world – politically, socially and religiously – is a common denominator for these works. Her latest film is the 58 minutes long animated documentary *Nasseredin Shah and his 84 wives*, which has been shown at numerous festivals and has won 6 awards, among these the Autumn Exhibition Award at Kunstnernes Hus in September 2012. She is represented in the collections of The National Museum of Art, Architecture and Design in Oslo and at Sørlandets Kunstmuseum in Kristiansand, Norway.

Arvid Pettersen (b. 1943) painter since 1967, numerous soloshows, groupshows and semiretrospective shows in Scandinavia and Europe, Asia and Africa. Professor at the painting department at The National Art Academy, Oslo from 1983-85 and from 1993-2003. For a three year period rector at the newly established Oslo National College of the Arts. Living in Bergen, Norway – working as hard as he can with new projects – and still going strongly and wrong.

Drey Saether is a Los Angeles based musician and poet. He makes experimental music, and has been performing live in the LA area since 2011. He's currently studying composing as well as classical guitar and cello play at the Los Angeles Community College.

Elisa Saether is a painter, designer, and dragon maker. She studied painting and drawing with the Master Jan Valentin at the Bruchion School in Los Angeles. Her nomadic escapades between Norway and California during the nineties culminated in tented parties fit for magicians, not kings. *The Circus No Purpose* originated in the fortress town of Fredrikstad, Norway in the late 1900s. It was there, in an attic of an old wooden house, while playing hookie from puppet school that the name was happened upon during a costumed clowning. She is currently working on her version of *la Grand'Goule* for Maison Phénix and hosting her wedding this fall in Joshua Tree, California. She has a BA in Art Practice and Theater from UC Berkeley and holds an MFA from Claremont Graduate University.

Solveig Naomi Socolnikov Saether is a spiritual anarchist & creative wage slave residing in the Southern California area with her husband, Lennart and son, Rafael. Solveig has had a variety of occupations throughout the course of her life, ranging from office management to elder care, which have been focused around human interaction and communication. Born in Oslo, she has lived there as well as Los Angeles, California and Seattle, Washington. Solveig's creative endeavors throughout the years have been varied and include writing, singing, songwriting, acting, playing guitar and most recently, capturing and manipulating digital images.

Tristan Saether is a skateboarder, photographer, indy skate filmmaker and bartender, living and working in Los Angeles, CA. He is editor of the zine *Suspect: A Collective Journal*. He is also founder of the *Cha Cha Lounge Independent Skateboard Film Festival* (CCLISF).

Cecilia G. Salinas is currently a PhD research fellow at the Department of Social Anthropology at the University of Oslo. She holds a master degree in Social Anthropology, at the same department, with the thesis *Wistful Hope: local responses to neo-liberal politics: Uruguay and the pulp industry* (2010) and published with Antropofagia (2011) as *Añorada Esperanza: respuestas locales a las políticas neoliberales: Uruguay y la industria de la celulosa*. Her current project is about nature conservation in the Atlantic Parana Forest in the province of Misiones, Argentina. She conducted more than a year fieldwork in that country living among Mbya-guaraní and tobacco growers.

Øystein Sjøstad is a lecturer in art history at the Dept. of Philosophy, Classics, History of Art and Ideas, University of Oslo, from where he also received his PhD degree in 2010. He is as well Editor-in-Chief of the journal *Kunst og Kultur*, published by The National Museum of Art, Architecture and Design, Oslo. Sjøstad has been a Fulbright scholar at University of California, San Diego and visiting scholar at University of California, Berkeley. Sjøstad received the Edvard Munch Stipend in 2008, and he has published a number of articles and catalogue essays on nineteenth century painting, as well as on the relationship between comics and contemporary art. His most recent publications are *Christian Krohg. Fra Paris til Kristiania* (2012) and *A Theory of the Tache in Nineteenth-Century Painting* (2014). Sjøstad is currently working on a book entitled *Christian Krohg's Naturalism* and a monograph on Jan Valentin Saether.

Anne Spilling is a former actress, writer and independent art curator who has lived and worked in Oslo, London and Los Angeles. Born in Norway, and inspired by her beloved grandfather's tales of his travels in north and central America, a yearning for adventure became the guiding beacon in her life. This, combined with an insatiable curiosity, adaptability and appetite for life experience led to studies in dramatic art and later opportunities in film, theatre, art, advertising and television. In the mid-90s, returning to London from Los Angeles, Anne met and married the love of her life, Jeremy. She spent the next years working in British television and running SI-Art Ltd, and later SM Galleries; promoting international contemporary artists. In 2006 Anne and Jeremy left London for rural Poitou-Charentes, to start a new life in what friends recently named "the best little house in France."

Lars Svendsen (b. 1970) is Professor of Philosophy at the University of Bergen, Norway. Among his publications are *A Philosophy of Boredom* (2005), *Fashion: a Philosophy* (2006), *A Philosophy of Fear* (2008), *Work* (2008), *A Philosophy of Evil* (2010) and *A Philosophy of Freedom* (2014). His books have been translated into 27 languages.

Katinka Vivendel – emerging from a strange silence. Diverse art schools. Graduated from The National Academy of Fine Art, Oslo in 2002.

Heather C. Williams, HWM, earned her High Watch Mentor degree in 1978 through The Prosperos School of Ontology. She earned this degree by emptying some of her own concepts/percepts about herself/others/life, etc., into the practice of two transformational tools known as Translation and Releasing the Hidden Splendour. She teaches these classes online and hosts a free, online bi-monthly Sunday Meeting for The Prosperos. She is the ART Teacher at VIDA (Vista Innovation and Design Academy) a middle school located in Vista, California. She is the author of the book, *Drawing as a Sacred Activity*, published in 2002 by New World Library.

Hanne Kjersti Yndestad is a Norwegian singer/performer of folk music, a music teacher for music students as well as in elementary school since 1999, textile craftsman (educated from The National College of Arts and Crafts, Oslo). She is currently working as a native language teacher in Stockholm for children with Norwegian speaking parents.