

FLOWERS OF LEARNING

HORTUS CONCLUSUS NAZARENUS



Seven cyberflowers as an enclosed garden by Roman Verostko

SPALDING UNIVERSITY ACADEMIC CENTER

Louisville, Kentucky

FLOWERS OF LEARNING



Project model

Seven pen and ink drawings were created in memory of the Sisters of Nazareth who were the first generation of college teachers at Spalding University. Each of these drawings exhibits colorful forms the artist calls "cyberflowers". Below each cyberflower the artist has drawn glyph-like characters that are coded quotations from different fields of learning and culture. Alice Wagstaff, who graduated in 1941 when Spalding was known as Nazareth College, helped choose the coded texts associated with each flower. As a memorial she has also identified teachers to associate with each cyberflower. While each cyberflower has been identified with a teacher in her living memory the ensemble of forms is dedicated to all the educators, past and present, at this University.

The flowers are framed as a "*hortus conclusus*", an enclosed garden. The tradition of enclosed gardens is found with varied and rich meanings in cultures that reach back to pre-history. The artist presents the *hortus conclusus* here as one embracing the highest aspirations symbolized in gardens of many cultures – a Paradise of peace and tranquility, the Garden of Eden, the Elysium fields, a utopia of brotherhood, sisterhood and well being – the place we seek yet a place of fullness beyond our reach that beckons us to reach ever higher. This garden honors those at Spalding University, past and present, who have dedicated their lives, as teachers, to help us acquire the tools for our journey.



"... humanity also needs dreamers." Madame Curie ca. 1921"

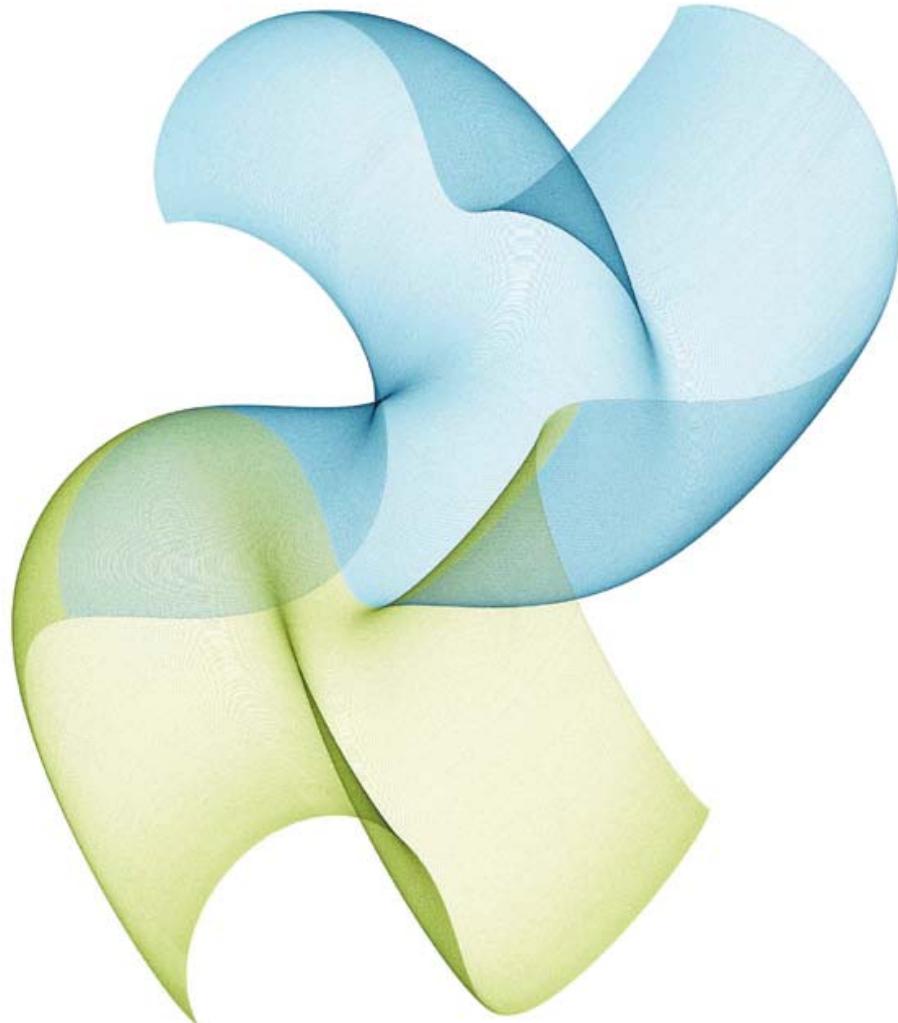


These *Flowers of Learning* embody ideas that have occupied Roman since 1969 when he first saw visual forms generated with algorithms using computing power. Since then he set out to create his own personal expert system: algorithms to implement his “form-generating” ideas. With relatively elementary programming languages, he taught himself how to write coded instructions for drawing with pen plotters, drawing machines used by engineers and architects. Through trial and error he learned to write code for drawing marvelous arrays of form nested in his mind’s eye. Years of experimentation with “form-generating” algorithms have led him to create a series of colorful forms he has referred to as “cyberflowers”.

The *Flowers of Learning* at Spalding University present the state of his art at this time. Seven visual blossoms, born in cyberspace, drawn with pen and ink on paper, framed and mounted as an enclosed garden, celebrate this institution as a venerable garden of learning.

TEXT: Each of the glyph-like characters is a letter clothed in linear forms created for this project. Algorithms for this alphabet were similar to those used for the flower forms. The characters translate selected texts arranged without spaces in 3 columns. These texts provide a glimpse into the wide world of learning and culture nurtured at Spalding University. The *Nazareth Alphabet* below was generated for this project. The glyph characters present the texts below the drawings *without using any spaces*.

a b c d e f g h i j k l m	A B C D E F G H I J K L M
n o p q r s t u v w x y z	N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 ? ! .	, ; : ' / & * () ~ # - +



πολλὰ δέ τε πόνα τοιούτα πάσαι
διεπέπειν τούτης της ουρανού πάσαι
μετέπειτα τούτης της ουρανού πάσαι
πεπάντα τούτης της ουρανού πάσαι
καὶ πάντα τούτης της ουρανού πάσαι

τοῦτο τούτης της ουρανού πάσαι
πεπάντα τούτης της ουρανού πάσαι
μετέπειτα τούτης της ουρανού πάσαι
διεπέπειν τούτης της ουρανού πάσαι
πολλὰ δέ τε πόνα τοιούτα πάσαι

τοῦτο τούτης της ουρανού πάσαι
μετέπειτα τούτης της ουρανού πάσαι
πεπάντα τούτης της ουρανού πάσαι
διεπέπειν τούτης της ουρανού πάσαι
πολλὰ δέ τε πόνα τοιούτα πάσαι

Homer: In memory of Sister Mary Emily Keenan

Text Source: Homer, *the Odyssey*, Trans. Samuel Butler, Book XXIV [520], *Great Books of the Western World*, Encyclopedia Britannica, Inc., Chicago, 1952, Volume 4, p.322

Ulysses and his son fell upon the front line of the foe // Minerva raised her voice aloud, and made every one pause. 'Men of Ithaca,' she cried, 'cease this dreadful war, and settle the matter at once without further bloodshed.' – Homer



人間社会に於ける實業家は、必ずして
其の本心は、實業の發展を目的とする
事である。實業の發展は、必ずして、
社會の進歩を促進する。實業の發展は、
必ずして、社會の進歩を促進する。實業の發展は、
必ずして、社會の進歩を促進する。

Madame Curie: In memory of Sister Mary Simeonette Savage

Text Source: *Madame Curie*. A biography by Eve Curie translated by Vincent Sheean, p.336. (Doubleday 1937). Quoted from notes she wrote after her return from America in 1921.

Humanity certainly needs practical men . . . But humanity also needs dreamers, for whom development of an enterprise is so captivating that it becomes impossible for them to devote care to their own material profit – M Curie 1867-1934

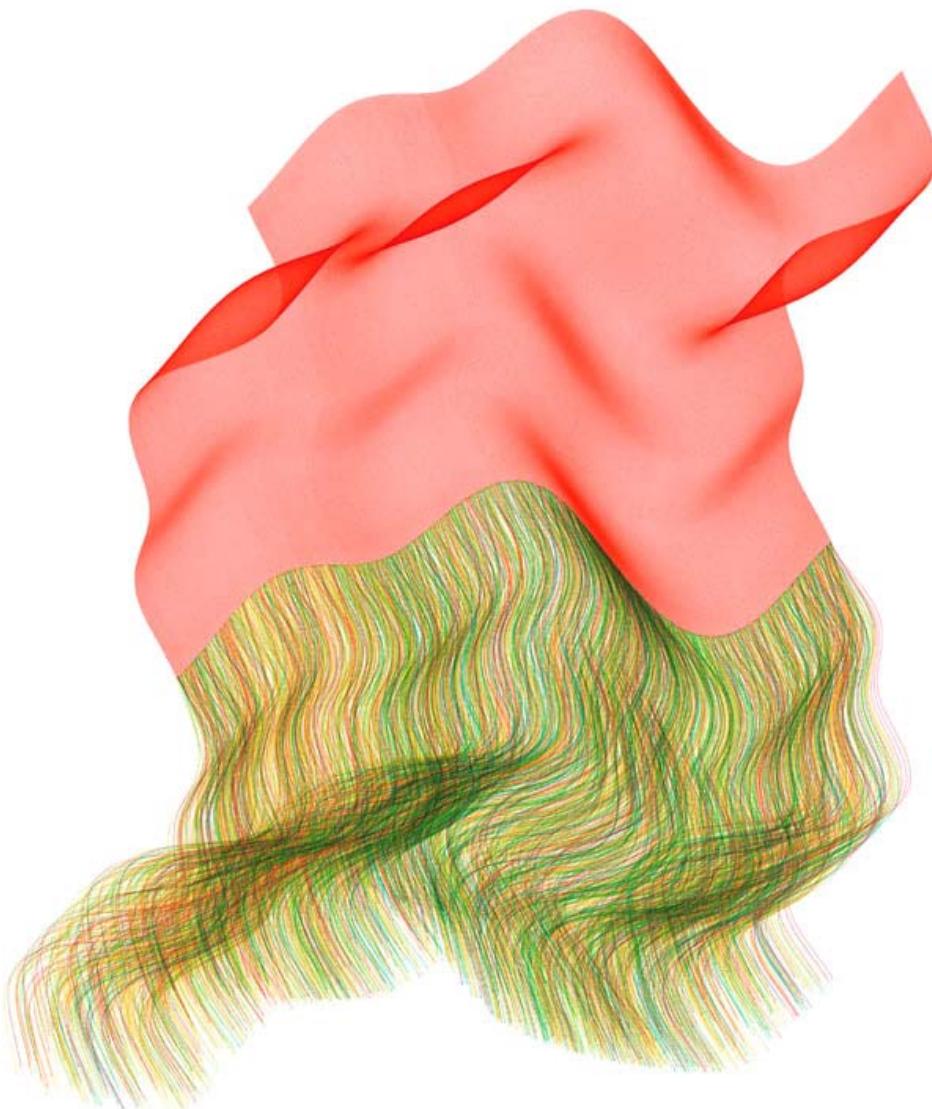


天下皆知美之爲美，斯惡已。皆知善之爲善，斯不善已。故有無相生，難易相成，長短相消，高下相盈，音聲相和，前後相隨。是以聖人處物，無往而不樂者也。

Lao-tzu: In memory of Sister Mary Charlotte Fowler

Source: Lao-tzu, *Tao Te Ching*, J. Legge, Translator [Sacred Books of the East, Vol. 39] [1891]

All in the world know the beauty of the beautiful, and in doing this they have [the idea of] what ugliness is; they all know the skill of the skilful, and in doing this they have [the idea of] what the want of skill is /// Lao-tzu, Tao Te Ching

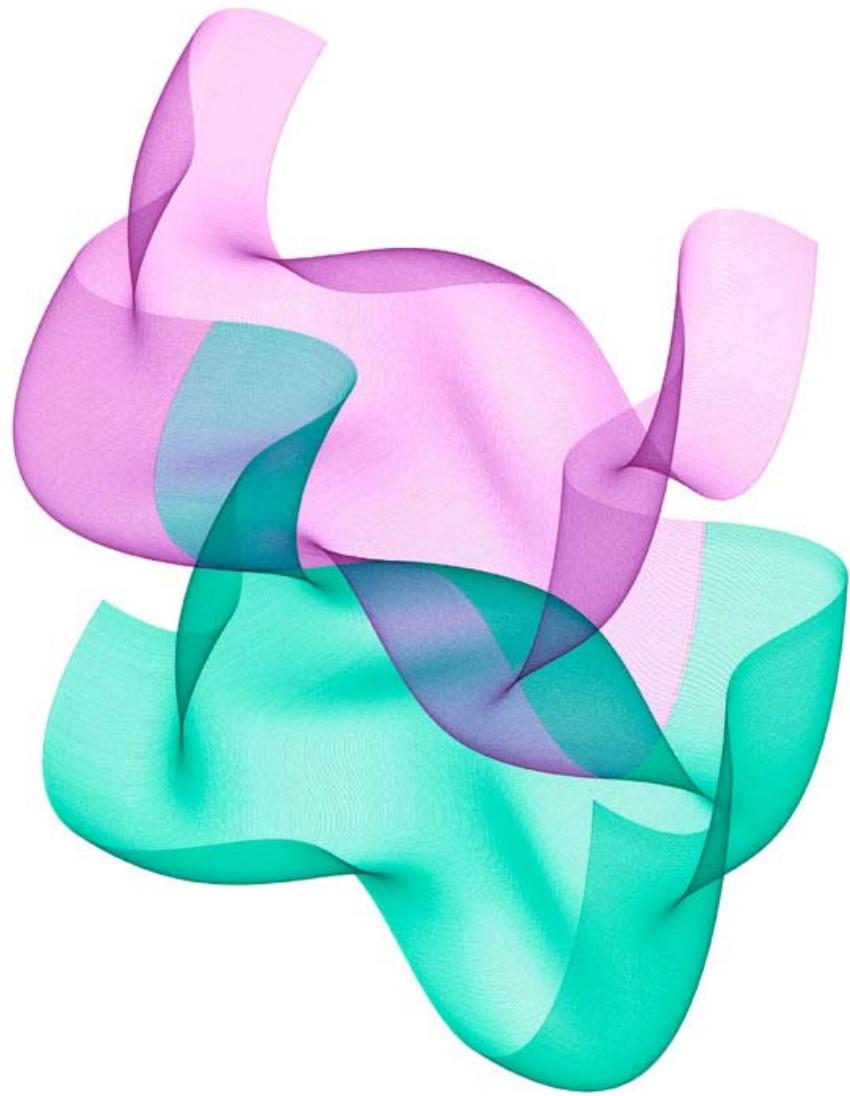


大山之巅，万物生长，天地同乐。
此山巍峨，直插云霄，日月同辉。
山间绿草如茵，繁花似锦，鸟语花香。
山脚下，溪流潺潺，瀑布飞泻，山泉叮咚。
山之南，阳光灿烂，万物生长；山之北，阴云密布，万物生长。

Black Elk: In memory of Sister Mary Augustine Porter

Source: *Black Elk Speaks: The Life Story of a Holy Man of the Oglala Sioux*. As told through John G. Neihardt by Nicholas Black Elk. Quoted from Chapter III, "The Great Vision", 1932.

Then I was standing on the highest mountain of them all and round that made one circle, wide as daylight and as starlight, and in the center grew one mighty flowering tree to shelter all the children of one mother and one father - Black Elk



中興之時，方始復興。故其後雖有
數次之變，而未嘗不以爲主。惟是
時人不知此，故每謂之爲亂世。
蓋不知亂世者，必無中興之時。
中興之時，必無亂世也。

Hildegarde: In memory of Sister Mary Ramona Mattingly

Hildegard von Bingen 1098-1179. Source: Hymns. De Virginibus [Responsorium] *O nobilissima viriditas*

*O most noble greening power, rooted in the sun,
who shine in dazzling serenity in a sphere
that no earthly excellence can comprehend.
You are enclosed in the embrace of divine mysteries.
You blush like the dawn// - Hildegard von Bingen*



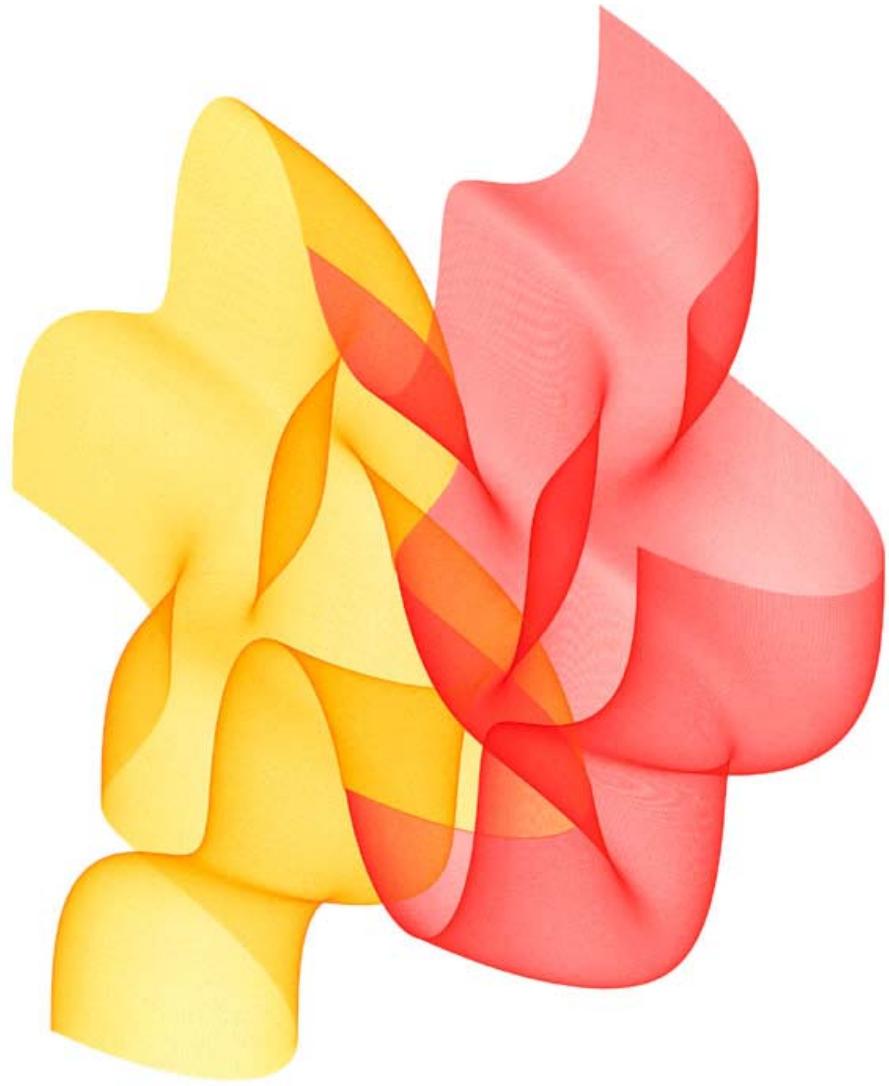
在那裏，野薑花在草地上
在那裏，野薑花在草地上
在那裏，野薑花在草地上
在那裏，野薑花在草地上
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在那裏，野薑花在草地上

Shakespeare: In memory of Sister Mary Eunice Rasin

Text Source:

William Shakespeare, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* [2.1.255-60]

*I know a bank where the wild thyme blows,
Where oxlips and the nodding violet grows,
Quite over-canopied with luscious woodbine,
With sweet musk-roses and with eglantine:///*
Shakespeare in A Midsummer Night's Dream [2.1.255-258]



此爲我所見之最古之書也。其文體古朴，其字形亦與今之通行字體有異。其內容則多記述當時社會生活之各方面，如農業、手工业、商业、交通、政治、法律等。其文字雖已難以辨認，但其結構嚴整，筆法流利，顯示出高超的文學藝術水平。

Darwin: In memory of Sister Mary Charles Morrison

Source: *Origin of Species*, Charles Darwin quoted from the last paragraph of the conclusion.

There is grandeur in this view of life // having been originally breathed by the Creator into a few forms or into one // from so simple a beginning endless forms most beautiful and most wonderful have been, and are being evolved. — Darwin