

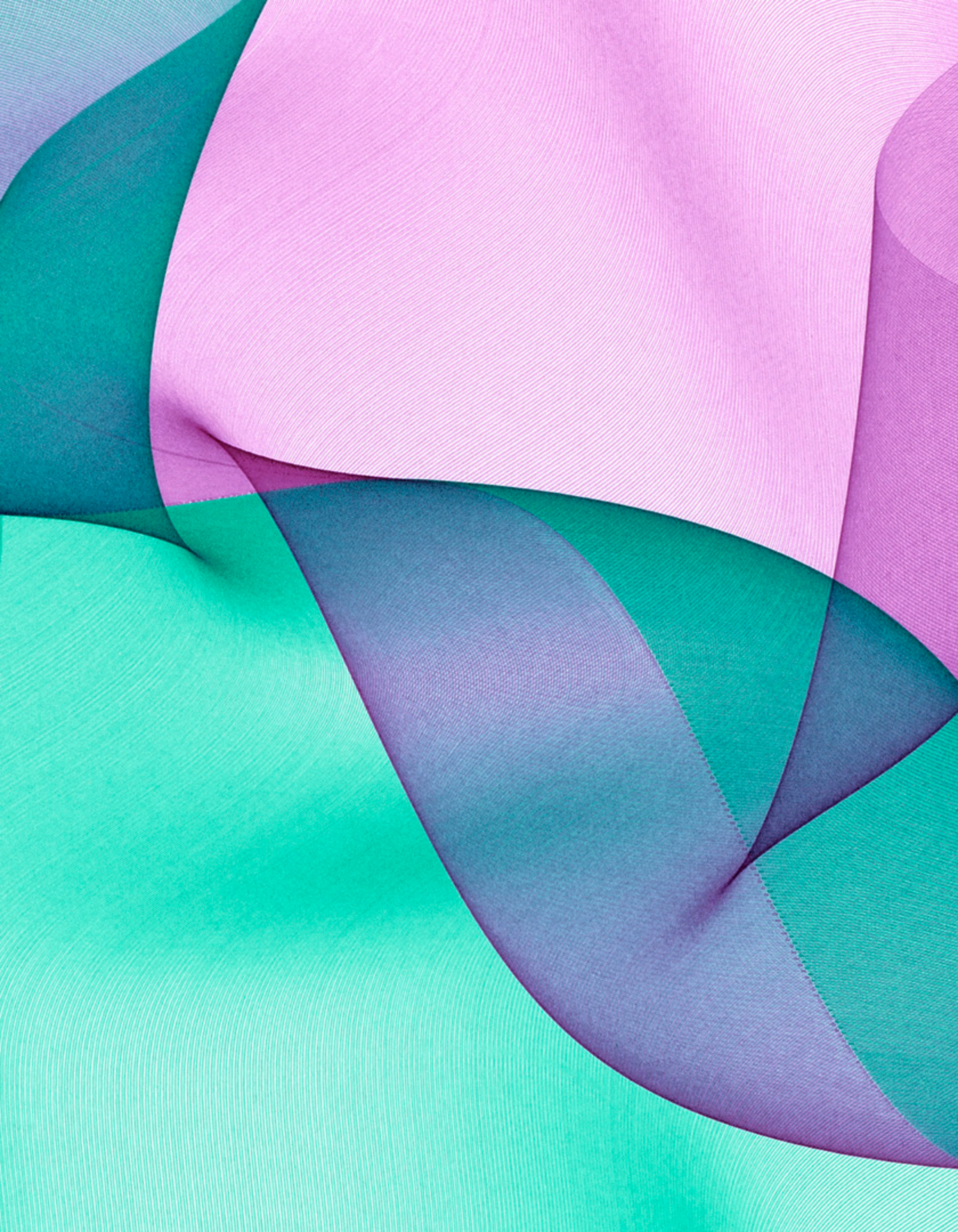
FLOWERS OF LEARNING

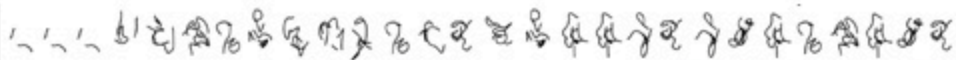
HORTUS CONCLUSUS NAZARENUS



Seven cyberflowers as an enclosed garden by Roman Verostko

SPALDING UNIVERSITY ACADEMIC CENTER
Louisville, Kentucky





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

On behalf of the Spalding University Community I welcome this mural honoring the deep history and tradition of innovative learning, teaching, and exploration that is at the core of the Spalding University experience. We are honored to accept this work on behalf of all educators, past, present, and future, who bring this ideal to actualization. By illuminating our academic learning space the presence of this work contributes to our mission. I wish to express our sincere gratitude to our generous benefactor, Alice Wagstaff Verostko, who made it possible for us to become the stewards of the Flowers of Learning, and the artist, Roman Verostko, who created this work.

Jo Ann Rooney, J.D., LL.M., Ed.D.
President, Spalding University
October 27, 2006

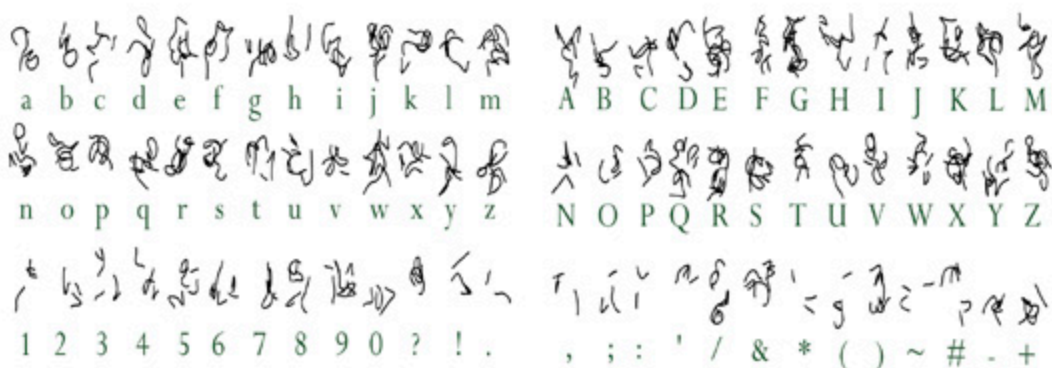
The Flowers of Learning: *Hortus Conclusus Nazareus*
Spalding University
Academic Learning Center
845 South Third Street
Louisville, Kentucky

Graphics & editing: Roman Verostko, www.verostko.com, copyright RV 2006

Flowers of Learning

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.





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 own "form-generating" ideas. An algorithm is a detailed recipe written in an appropriate code. One might think of a musical score as an algorithm for a musical form. Today's technologies make it possible to implement visualizing algorithms at ever more intensive and extensive levels.

Roman has created an original program of procedures for generating his visual form ideas. With relatively elementary programming languages, he taught himself how to write coded instructions for a pen plotter, a drawing machine 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 creating this alphabet were similar to those used for the flower forms. The characters translate quotations arranged without spaces in 3 columns. These texts provide a glimpse into the wide world of learning and culture nurtured at Spalding University.



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

Homer

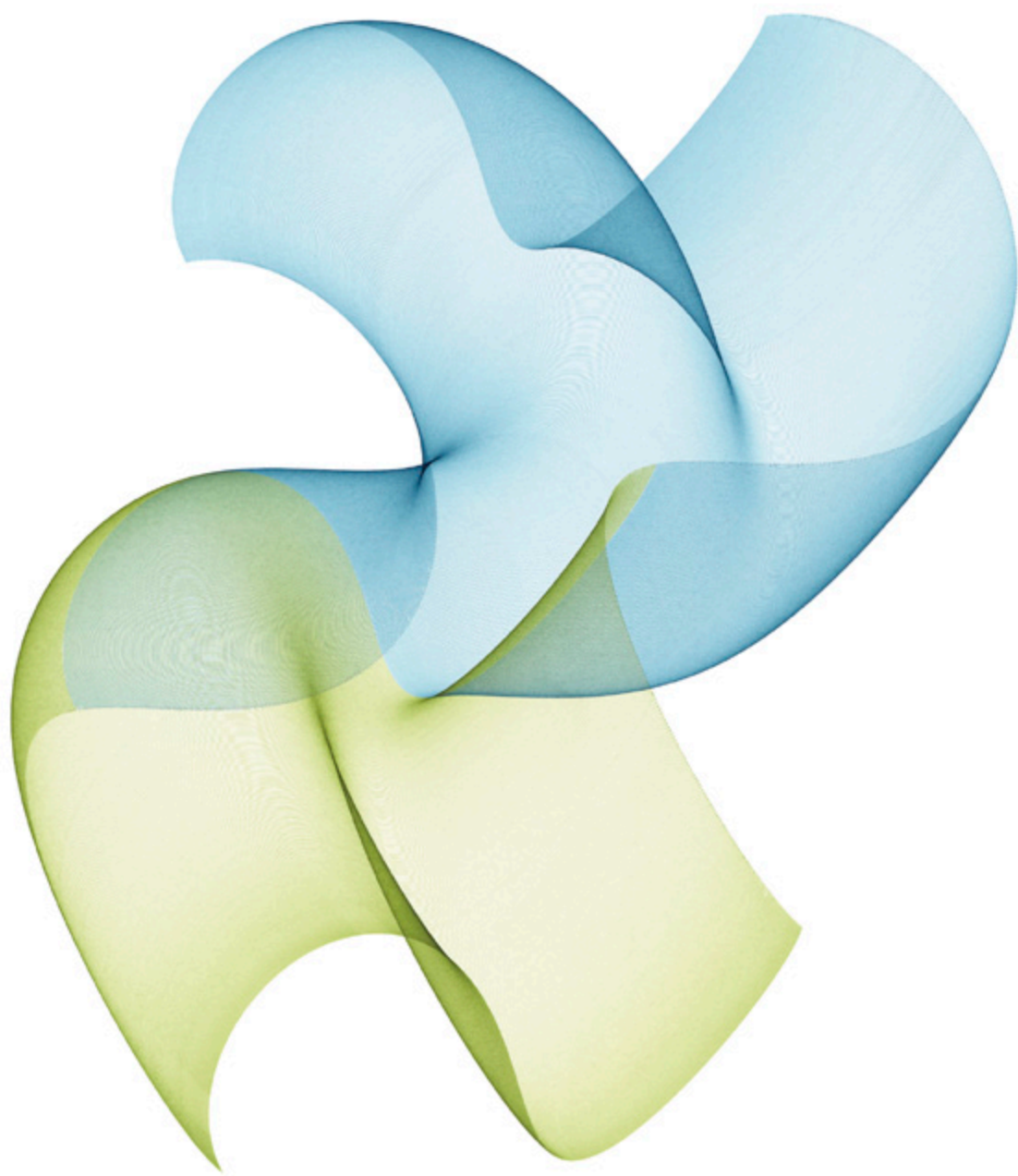
In memory of Sister Mary Emily Keenan (1902-1983)

Text Source: Homer, *The Odyssey*, Trans. Samuel Butler, Book XXIV [520].

Edition Source: *Great Books of the Western World, Encyclopedia Britannica, Inc., Chicago, 1952, Volume 4, p.322*

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Madame Curie

In memory of Sister Mary Simeonette Savage, SCN (1895-1960)

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*

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Lao-tzu

In memory of Sister Mary Charlotte Fowler, SCN (1899-1997)

Text 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

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此乃天啓之靈，非人力所能及也。其理之深，非筆墨所能形容。然其意之廣，則足以包羅萬象。故君子觀之，必能悟大道之玄妙，而達於無極之境。此誠天授之寶，不可不察也。



Black Elk

In memory of Sister Mary Augustine Porter, SCN (1892-1974)

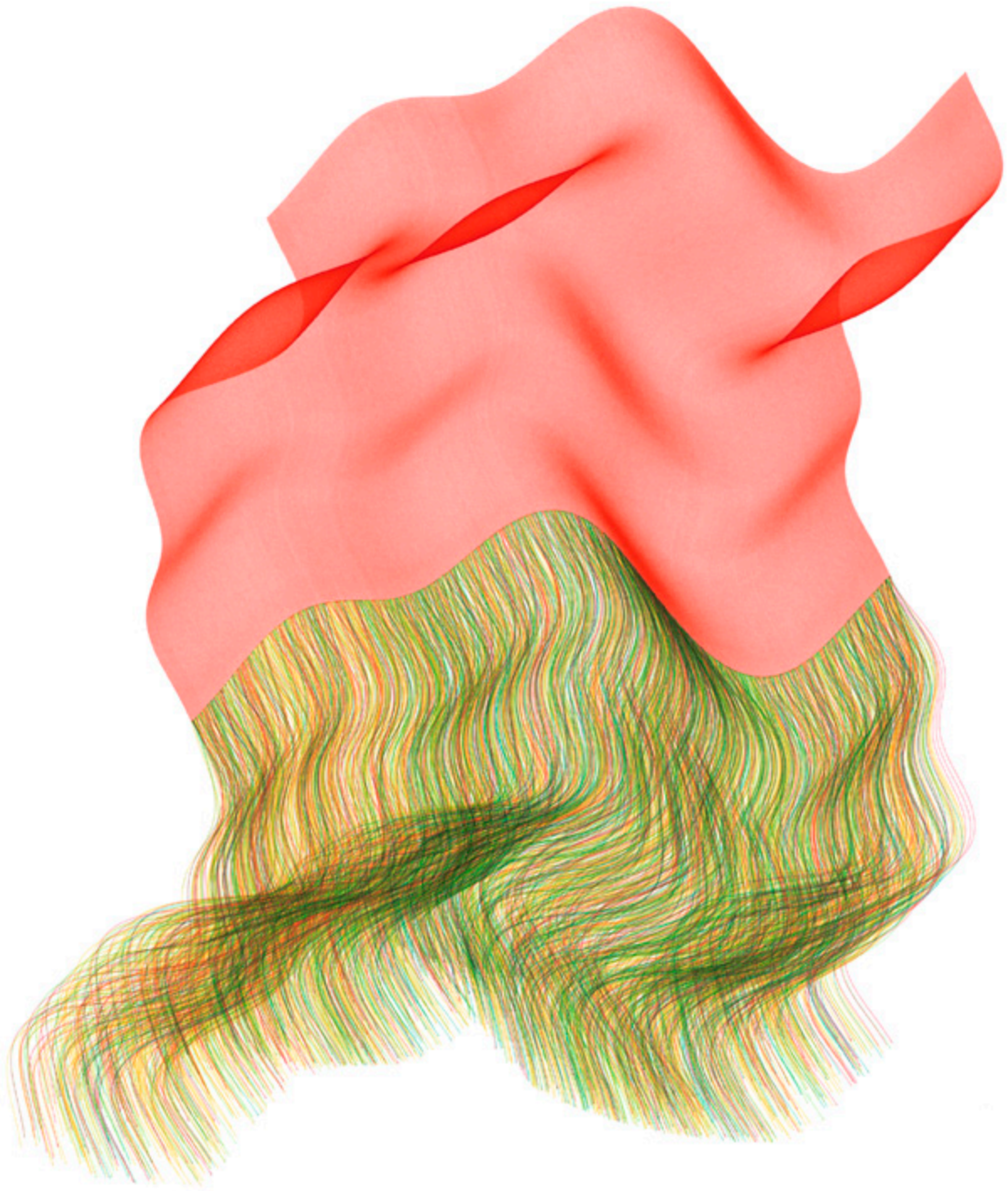
Text Source: *Black Elk Speaks: The Life Story of a Holy Man of the Oglala Sioux*. As told through John G. Neihardt by Nicholas Black Elk. Quoted from Chapter III, "The Great Vision", 1932.

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

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Hildegard von Bingen

In memory of Sister Mary Ramona Mattingly, SCN (1893-1994)

Text Source: Hildegard von Bingen (1098-1179)

Hymns. De Virginibus [Responsorium] O nobilissima viriditas.

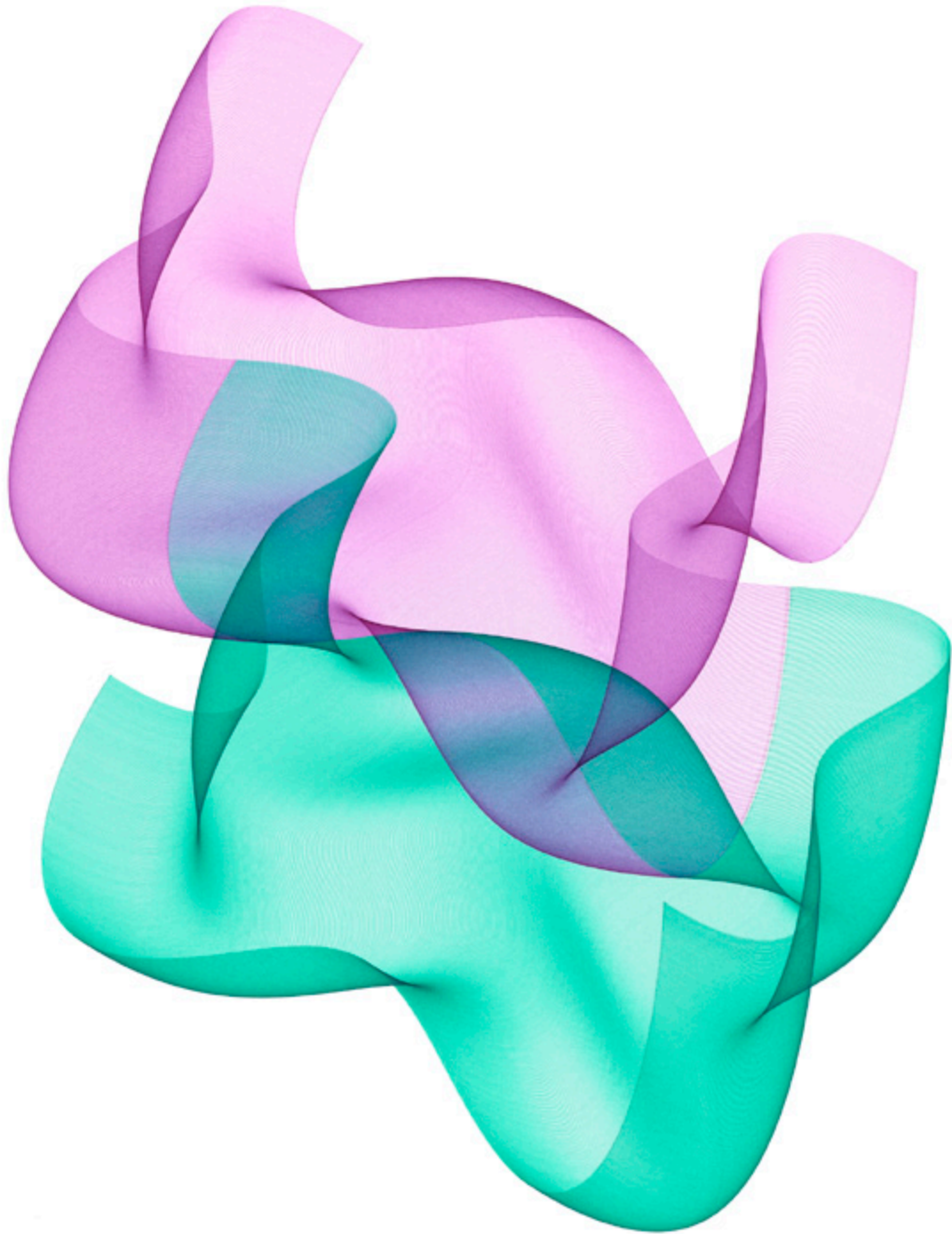
*O most noble greening power,
rooted in the sun,
who shine in dazzling serenity
in a sphere
that no earthly excellence
can comprehend.
You are enclosed
in the embrace of divine mysteries.*

You blush like the dawn // - Hildegard von Bingen

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Shakespeare

In memory of Sister Mary Eunice Rasin, SCN (1880-1963)

Text Source: William Shakespeare, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

*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)*

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| Iknowabankwhe | ows , Quiteover | witheglantine |
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Darwin

In memory of Sister Mary Charles Morrison, SCN (1895-1953)

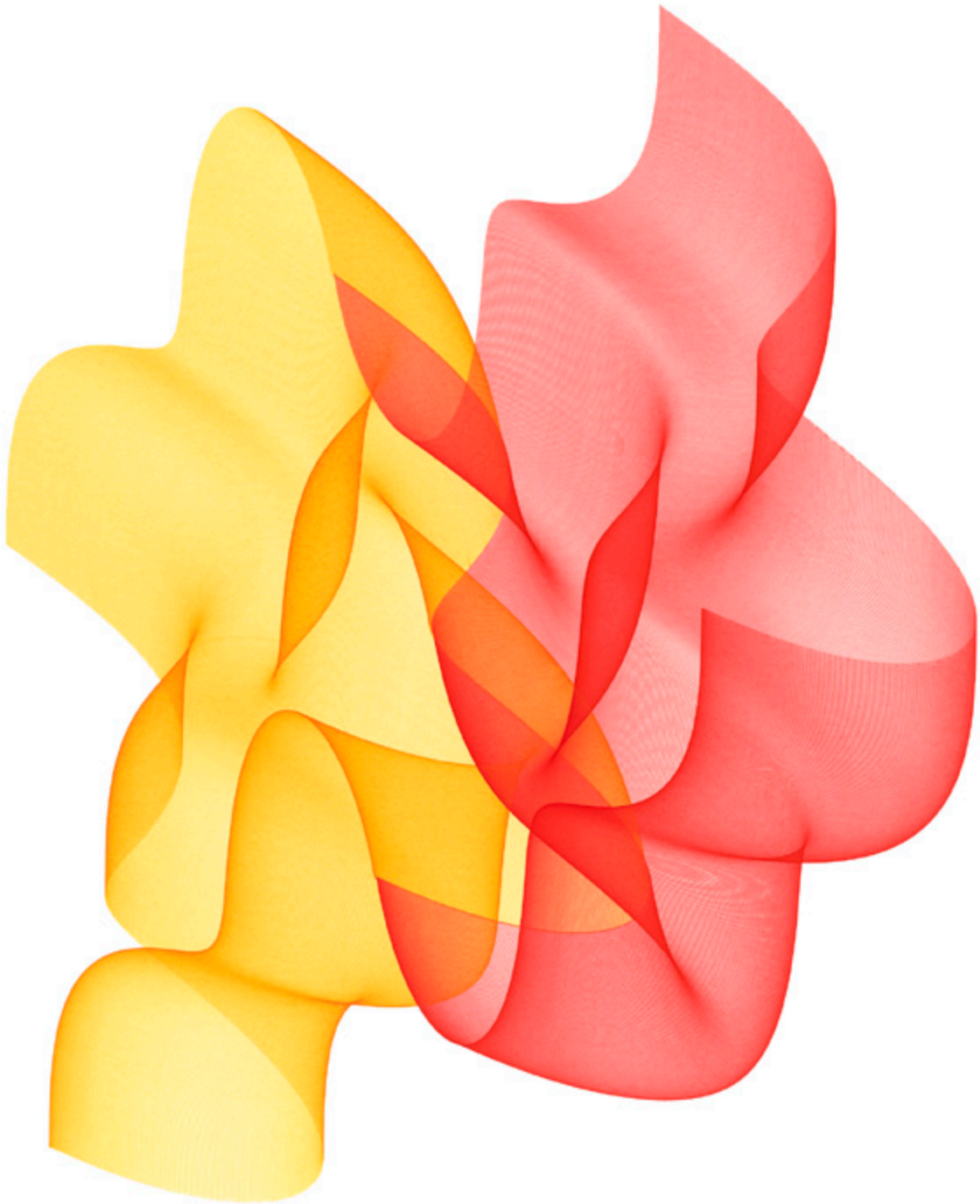
Text Source: *Origin of Species*, Charles Darwin quoted from the last paragraph of the conclusion.

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

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Sister Mary Emily Keenan, 1902-1983, born in Hampton, Virginia, professed 1921, MA 1933 and PhD 1935 at Catholic University, taught religion and Latin at Nazareth 1935-1978.



Sister Mary Simeonette Savage, 1895-1960, born in San Francisco, professed 1920, MS 1941 at Catholic University, taught Biology at Nazareth 1933-1955.



Sister Mary Charlotte Fowler, 1899-1997, born in Mechanicsville, Maryland, professed 1920, MA and PhD 1937 at Catholic University, taught physics and mathematics at Nazareth 1937–1961, and president of Nazareth 1961-1969 when it became Spalding College.



Sister Augustine Porter, 1892-1974, born in Atlanta, Georgia, professed 1912, MA at Fordham, 1948, taught history at Nazareth 1936–1943.



Sister Mary Ramona Mattingly, 1893-1994, born in Mattingly Settlement, Ohio, professed 1917, MA 1928 and PhD at Catholic University 1936, dean and taught church history at Nazareth 1936–1942 and 1945-1948.



Sister Mary Eunice Rasin, 1880-1963, born in Helena, Montana, professed 1900, MA 1920 and PhD at Fordham, 1929, taught English and was Registrar at Nazareth 1920 – 1925, head of English Department 1929 – 1958.



Sister Charles Mary Morrison, 1895-1953, born in Hyde Park, Massachusetts, professed 1918, MA at Fordham, 1925, PhD at Catholic University, 1931, taught Latin, Greek, Mathematics, German at Nazareth 1922 – 1950.



FROM LOG CABIN TO UNIVERSITY

To meet “the needs of our time” Spalding University has grown from a log cabin academy to an urban university with “Centers of Excellence” addressing issues related to our changing global environment. While the colorful *Flowers of Learning* memorializes an early generation of Nazareth College teachers, it also celebrates the vigorous learning environment nurtured by today's faculty .

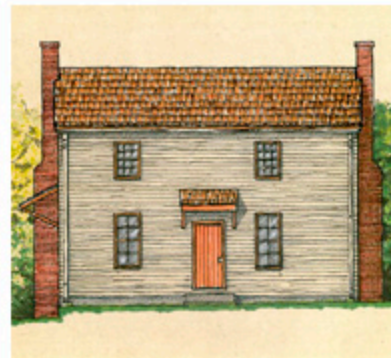
Their mission embodies the same one that drew 19 year old Catherine Spalding, in 1812, along with 5 other young women, to dedicate their lives to address “the needs of the time”. Catherine Spalding knew, in order to succeed, they needed to provide education for children. Under incredibly impoverished circumstances they opened an Academy in 1814 in a log cabin named Nazareth 3 miles South of Bardstown. By 1822, with 25 students, they moved the academy and, keeping the name Nazareth, established a motherhouse on a farm nearby. With awesome resourcefulness they grew to staff schools, hospitals, and orphanages – all the time staying tuned to changing times.

Those changes included the remarkable growth of Louisville and a growing need for more qualified teachers and nurses. The Sisters of Charity addressed the growing demand boldly. In 1918 they purchased the elegant Rankin mansion, an Italian Renaissance home located in the heart of Louisville. They refurbished the house, sent Sisters to graduate school and, by 1920, opened Nazareth College. Within a decade the college grew, educating its first generation of professional women who served Louisville well during the depression years and WWII. In 1969 the Louisville campus incorporated the Bardstown campus and was renamed Spalding College. With expanding programs, it became Spalding University in 1984 growing to more than 2000 students with seven masters degree programs and two doctoral programs.

The *Flowers of Learning* pays tribute to all the educators in the history of Spalding University. The colorful forms may be viewed as the bloom of education nourished in this venerable institution. Reflecting on her Nazareth College years, Alice Wagstaff, class of 1941, identified seven of her teachers as *Flowers of Learning*. Surely every Spalding graduate, now and in the future, will identify another seven *Flowers of Learning*.



Mother Catherine Spalding 1793 - 1858



The 19th C. log house near Bardstown, where Nazareth was founded. (restoration drawing).



This 1871 Mansion became Nazareth College in 1920. (National Registrar of Historic Places)

Benefactor



Alice Wagstaff, PhD
Class of 1941
photo ca. 1938

Alice Wagstaff, class of 1941, who studied with Carl Rogers at the University of Chicago, became an early advocate of “client centered” therapy that revolutionized the treatment of mental illness both in this country and abroad. She carried this torch to Duquesne University as chairperson of the Graduate School of Psychology and later to Minnesota as a Senior Consulting Psychologist at the Ramsey County Mental Health Center in St. Paul. As mentor for graduate students both in psychiatry and psychology she has helped shape the present generation of therapists.

Recalling her Nazareth years she reflects on the limited resources and the sacrifices of Nazareth’s first generation of college teachers. For young Louisville women like Alice an education and career would have been out of reach without the gift of a scholarship and the immense dedication and sacrifice of those Sisters.

In appreciation, she has provided support and patient nurturing for this project over a period of several years and a scholarship for undergraduate women. Now, the permanent installation of these Flowers of Learning memorializes seven of those educators but is dedicated to all of them. It is an artistic tribute to all who taught here in the past, are here now, and will be here in the future. For Alice, these Flowers symbolize and celebrate the bloom of education.

Artist



Roman Verostko, a founding member of the algorists, graduated from the Art Institute of Pittsburgh in 1949 and later earned an MFA at Pratt Institute. An exhibiting painter since 1963, his early experiments with programmed works were electronically synchronized audio-visual events (1967-68). Aware of the awesome power of algorithmic procedure coupled with computing power, he experimented with coded procedures for creating art and, by the early 1980’s, exhibited his first algorithmic art.

Recognized internationally for his algorist work, his paper on “Epigenetic Painting Software as Genotype” identified the biological analogues to generative art (Utrecht, *FISEA 1988*). Recipient of the 1994 Golden Plotter First Prize (Germany), his work has been included in many international exhibitions including the *The Algorithmic Revolution* (ZKM, 2005), the *Ars Electronica* shows on *Code: the language of our time* (2003) and *Genetic Art-Artificial Life* (1993).

More at: <http://www.verostko.com>



