

The Aesthetic Development in Psychoanalytic Thinking

Continuing Professional Development programme at the Tavistock Centre, London

This series of talks by **Meg Harris Williams** focuses on the psychoanalytic theories of Wilfred Bion and Donald Meltzer and on the links which they had begun to establish between psychoanalysis and the arts.

Bion and Meltzer were at the forefront of enabling psychoanalysis to acquire an aesthetic dimension in terms of both the psychoanalytic encounter and the model of the mind employed. They considered it of vital importance that this dimension should be recognized and its rich and dynamic potential fully utilized.

These lectures are designed for clinical practitioners who are interested in exploring Bion's question 'What sort of artists can we be?' and also for those who wish to pursue the fundamental humanistic implications of this interdisciplinary area that spans psychoanalysis, the arts and aesthetic appreciation.

The material used as a basis for the course will include the writings of Bion and Meltzer, some examples from poetry and philosophy and some writings on aesthetics, in particular those of Susanne Langer and Adrian Stokes.

PROGRAMME

Monday 27 April 6.00 – 7.30 pm

The vertices of science, art and religion

This talk considers the implications of Bion's 'three vertices' which both he and Meltzer saw as existing in a creative tension that needed to be integrated.

Monday 11 May 6.00 – 7.30 pm

Aesthetic concepts

Meltzer's 'aesthetic conflict' and Bion's 'catastrophic change' are discussed in relation to their poetic-philosophical forebears.

Monday 8 June 6.00 – 7.30 pm

Symbols, dreams and inspiration

Susanne Langer's definition of an 'art-symbol' is related to the processing of dreams in poetry and psychoanalysis.

Monday 22 June 6.00 – 7.30 pm

Psychoanalysis as an art form

This talk focuses on the nature of the psychoanalytic dream evoked by the transference-countertransference, described through analogy with other art forms.

Monday 6 July 6.00 – 7.30 pm

Bion's Dream

Bion's *A Memoir of the Future* is discussed in terms of a personal dream intended to symbolise an archetypal process of self-analysis.

Fee: £30 per seminar (£130 for all 5 seminars)

FURTHER INFORMATION

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