

An International Conference in Govan, Glasgow, Scotland mounted by the Govan Folk University partnership

# Kandinsky in Govan

Art, Spirituality and the Future

Programme: 21-23 October 2011 **v.final**

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**Part 1: Friday 21<sup>st</sup>** (p. 2) – **The Opening Day**

Local Tours, Lunchtime Exhibition Opening & Sharings (by donation, sign-up on the day at Pearce Institute)

**Part 2: Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup>** (p. 7) - **Keynote Speakers Day**

International experts at the Pearce Institute & Ceilidh (**the main day** - advance-buy tickets to avoid disappointment)

**Part 3: Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup>** (p. 10) - **Closing Reflection Day**

Russian liturgy Govan Old option, In-depth Closing Circle (by donation, turn up on the day)

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Kandinsky was a founder of modern art. He set out to confront the crass materialism of his era and stands in the Russian tradition of "Art as service" – art that has the sacred at its core. He advanced his ideas in a short book - *Concerning the Spiritual in Art*. This was completed in October 1911. Our conference celebrates that centenary. Govan is a hard-pressed part of Glasgow, and from its Pearce Institute we will ask: "How might Kandinsky's ideas speak to burning need in the world today?" Presenters include international and local artists, art historians, theologians, social activists, environmentalists, and the Chief Medical Officer for Scotland. This is a conference to challenge the function of art and to do so from a very deeply rooted part of the world.

*There is a fire in Govan that burns off pretentiousness*

**The Govan Folk University is an ad hoc partnership of the Centre for Human Ecology (event curation), Fablevision, the GalGael Trust, Govan & Linthouse Parish Church and the Pearce Institute**

click logos for links



[The Pearce Institute](#)



Govan & Linthouse Parish Church



## Part 1 – The Opening Day - Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October

### Tours, Exhibition Launch and Workshop/Seminar Sharings

**Session 1 - 0945 or 1030 – 1115** (note optional start times) – **History, Art and Spirituality in Govan: the Ancient Carved Stones of Govan Old Parish Church** with the **Rev Dr Moyna McGlynn** and welcome by conference curator, **Alastair McIntosh**.

This will comprise a tour and sharing by Moyna, optionally preceded by Govan Old’s short daily service under the auspices of the Church of Scotland. Please feel at ease either to come for the tour only at **1030**, or to experience the service which starts promptly at **1000** gathering from **0945** where you will be welcomed at the door by Alastair. This event will give a flavour for the ancient context of art and spirituality in Govan as an ancient sacred site which, linked to the Pearce Institute and the new Transport Museum immediately across the River Clyde offers contemporary inspiration for pilgrimage, scholarship, worship and action. Some of the dozens of carved stones displayed inside the church date back to the first millennium and are one of the finest though least known collections in Scotland.

**Govan Old** is down the short leafy lane immediately on the west of the Pearce Institute (our main conference venue). It is diagonally opposite to the Govan subway and bus station. It takes 3 minutes to walk from the subway to the church – ask anybody on the street if lost.

**Session 2: 1130 – 1230 Art, Spirituality and the Future in Govan: a Tour of the Workshops of the GalGael Trust with Co-Founder Gehan Macleod & Tam McGarvey, one of the directors.**

Either go direct to the GalGael’s workshops at 15 Fairley Street, G51 2SN, or join the group leaving from Govan Old Parish Church at 1115 prompt and travel by subway to Ibrox. Turn right out of Ibrox subway station and Fairley St is first left and no. 15 at the end on the right (4 minutes from subway). The GalGael Trust shows how creativity, often linked to the ancient stones and spirituality such as is evident at Govan Old can rekindle human community and help to re-shape lives broken by poverty, addictions and violence. After the tour we will return to the Pearce Institute by subway to the station at Govan in time for the 1300 opening of the Kandinsky in Govan exhibition, where more of the GalGael participants’ art work may be viewed.

**Tam McGarvey** is the GalGael’s Progression Support Officer and also an artist in metal and music. He has been involved since the project’s beginning in the 1990s and is skilled at drawing out the creativity of others and using this to forge a deepening sense of community of place. **Gehan Macleod** is the co-founder of the GalGael with her late husband, Colin. While much of her work these days is necessarily administrative as the Project Coordinator, she is an amazing artist at heart. This shows profoundly in the unique ethos of the GalGael towards people-centred regeneration.

			
Govan Old Parish Church – an enthralling site of early Christianity	Serpent stone carving in Govan Old	The Pearce Institute (PI), 840-860 Govan Road, Govan, G51	The GalGael Trust’s workshops at 15 Fairley Street, Ibrox, serving the Greater Govan area & beyond

“Govan Old Church has no equal when it comes to telling the story of Scottish Christianity” – *Britain’s Holiest Places*

**Session 3: 1300 – 1415 – Opening of the Kandinsky in Govan Exhibition in the Billiard Room** of the Pearce Institute with a welcome by conference curator Alastair McIntosh and curator Belinda Gilbert Scott. Sign-up sheets for the afternoon workshops will be on the wall outside and the presenters will identify themselves. The conference exhibition is in 4 parts and will be open over the course of the weekend during daytime when the building is open:

- **In the Billiard Room ...** This hall at the top of the main stairs on the first floor of the Pearce Institute will be filled with an installation being the culmination of twenty people's paintings from classes that have extended over a 6 week period. The paintings from each week will be brought together showing all the variants of one colour on one large art piece on one wall of the Billiard Room, showing how colour can enliven the creative spirit.



**Belinda Gilbert Scott** is an painter and teacher. In her paintings she builds up layers of colour to create depth and movement. Although rooted in the tradition of painting her practice is broad and fluid, exploring the language and processes of painting, which can lead to working with film, installation, performance and events. As a teacher Belinda believes that everyone has the ability to draw and to understand colour. Belinda teaches both an analytical and intuitive way of looking. She believes that drawing is about discovering what you see, rather than relying on assumptions, and formulae. The Painting course is about the experience of colour, and the variety that can be found in one colour. Like her drawing course she aims to demystify the language of paint and colour making it available for everyone to learn.

- **In the Lithgow Hall ...** This runs parallel to the Billiard Room and will exhibit work that is mostly by participants in the GalGael Trust. The GalGael is a community group comprised of many who wrestle with problems of addiction, mental health, homelessness, refugee status, violence and long-term unemployment. The Trust uses artistic and traditional artisanal skills to draw out the creativity that is in everybody, rekindling the inner life to find expression in creating community and reconnection with identity and sense of place. This part of the exhibition is compered by Matthew Donnelly and will focus on the magic of rustic art, mostly made from natural materials by people local to Govan.

**Matthew Donnelly**, a graduate of the Glasgow School of Art and a helper at the GalGael Trust. He writes: "My current work explores the role of the artist as shaman and the relationship between performance art and shamanic 'performance'. I focus on the use of magical tools and props, storytelling, and shamanic song, emphasizing the role of shaman in urban society."

- **In the Café ...** Govan is a part of Glasgow that has strong historical connections with Scotland's Outer Hebrides and the Gaelic west coast. The Pearce Institute's café on the ground floor will exhibit the photo art of Rhona MacKinnon of North Harris, who presently lives in Glasgow's south side. Her work is entirely based on nature photography and is exhibited here because of its Kandinsky-like quality.

**Rhona MacKinnon** says of her work: "I am a self-taught artist and photographer, raised on the Western Isles of Scotland. I have long been drawn to the land and seascapes that surround me, and my work is an exploration of those places I have grown up with, played in, and now contemplate in my images. This collection explores shape, texture and movement, but also emotion, the inner landscape we can all explore."

- **In the Minister's Room ...** *Liminal* by Glasgow-born artist Douglas Strang - a series of light-box art pieces which document our changing relationship to the natural world from the "cup and ring marks" of Galloway to Picasso's "Guernica" critique of war. Accompanied during the 2 Friday performances on the Scottish harp by Wendy Stewart.

**Douglas Strang** did not go to art college, spent four years as an apprentice working in a garage in Partick directly across the river from Govan, moved to the Isle of Iona, and studied folklore and traditional cosmology at Edinburgh University's School of Scottish Studies.

**Wendy Stewart** is an acclaimed harpist from Dumfries & Galloway.



# Kandinsky in Govan

Art, Spirituality and the Future

21-23 Oct 2011

## Sharings –Workshops and Seminars on Friday Afternoon – Pearce Institute

All workshops are free but donations will be welcomed at the event. Spaces on some are very limited so sign-up sheets will be posted outside the Billiard Room during the 1 p.m. lunchtime exhibition launch. Presenters may also identify themselves at this point. Full event and presenter details are on pp. 5-6.

Time	No.	Event	Venue
1300 - 1415		Opening of <b>Kandinsky in Govan Art Exhibition</b> with Belinda Gilbert Scott and others and nibbles	Billiard Room (first floor)
1415 – 1530	1	Helen Kyle & Norman Bissell on <i>The Concept and Practice of Kenneth White's Geopoetics</i>	Mary Barbour Suite (ground floor)
	2	Brian McQuade in conversation with Alastair McIntosh – <i>Kandinsky: an artist in decline?</i>	CHE Library (2 <sup>nd</sup> floor north end)
	3	Davy Forsyth on <i>The Spiritual in Matter</i>	Fairfield Hall (1 <sup>st</sup> floor north end)
	4	Liz Gardiner and distinguished visiting colleagues on <i>Cultural Planning: Scotland &amp; Sweden</i>	Macleod Hall (ground floor)
	5	Douglas Strang in the experience of <i>Liminal</i> with the Scottish harp played by Wendy Stewart	Minister's Room (off main stairway)
	6	Exhibition open and chill-out space in Café (all afternoon)	Billiard Room, Café & Lithgow Theatre
1545 - 1700	7	Joseph Montville on <i>Respect, Spirituality, and the Art of Community-Building from the Village to the Global Commons</i>	Mary Barbour Suite (ground floor)
	8	Nic Green in <i>Ice and Sapphire Conjure Flame</i>	CHE Library (2 <sup>nd</sup> floor north end)
	9	Matthew Donnelly on <i>Social Sculpture</i>	Fairfield Hall (1 <sup>st</sup> floor north end)
	10	Liz Gardiner and colleagues on <i>Cultural Planning: Scotland &amp; Sweden</i> (continued)	Macleod Hall (ground floor)
	11	Douglas Strang in the experience of <i>Liminal</i> with Scotland's harp played by Wendy Stewart (repeat)	Minister's Room (off main stairway)
	12	Exhibition open and chill-out space in Café (all afternoon)	Billiard Room, Café & Lithgow Theatre

# Friday Workshop Presenters/Presentations

(see timetable on previous page)

1. **Norman Bissell & Helen Kyle** on *The Concept and Practice of Kenneth White's Geopoetics*. Geopoetics is the term developed by the Glasgow-born poet Kenneth White for a "higher unity" of geography and poetry: "Geopoetics is concerned, fundamentally, with a relationship to the earth and with the opening of a world .... [a] movement involving the very foundations of human life on earth."

Helen is director of the Govan-based community organisation, [Scotland in Europe](#), which has generously sponsored this event. Norman is the director of the [Scottish Centre for Geopoetics](#). He was born in Kelvinhaugh, loved growing up in Partick and now lives on the Isle of Luing in Argyll. His poetry collection *Slate, Sea and Sky* reflects these contrasting environments and he is currently working on a feature film screenplay about George Orwell's last years on Jura.

2. **Brian McQuade** in conversation with **Alastair McIntosh** on *Kandinsky: an Artist in Decline?* Alastair will discuss with Brian why he declined to make a programme on Kandinsky for Sunny Govan Radio because he considers him "an artist in decline". Alastair will also share his enthusiasm and criticisms of Kandinsky's ideas on art and spirituality.

Brian is Sunny Govan Radio's arts critic and author of *Sir John Lavery Photography: Glasgow International Exhibition of 1888* (TH.A.H.M. van Asperen, 2006). He is a [local historian of Govan](#) and specifically, historian to the GalGael Trust. His past art exhibitions in the Pearce Institute have all sold out. He is currently working on a new book, *Seven Artists Who Changed the Course of Art History*. Alastair is curator of the Kandinsky in Govan conference (see p. 8).

3. **David Forsyth** on *The Spiritual in Matter*. Whilst it is more common to have awareness of a spiritual or 'other' aspect to the natural world that surrounds us, it is less easy to imagine this in relation to the human made. What might we find if we look for this? Might this change the way we look at art that has 'no soul'? After a short introductory session we will have the chance to explore these and other questions and also share our own experiences.

Davy Forsyth began life in the remotest north-west Highlands of Scotland which gave him an acute sense of reverence and sensitivity to nature. Moving into the city, he experienced the man-made environment as an assault on this sensitivity. His journey to make sense of this has included an MSc in Human Ecology and he is currently exploring the medium of sculpture at Edinburgh College of Art. He is self employed as a joiner.

4. **Liz Gardiner** and **colleagues** on *Cultural Planning: Scotland & Sweden* (double session – all afternoon). Cultural Planning is a culturally sensitive approach to planning and policy - supporting local people and communities to identify their resources and build on them creatively for the future. Artists who use their abilities and expertise in service of the spirit of people and place are key to a cultural planning process. Govan, and neighbouring Govanhill, are two local communities where these kinds of creative approaches in regeneration are being developed at the grass roots. In the last decade, many cities in Sweden have adopted and are supporting the development of cultural planning approaches at policy level. Our seminar will bring together policy makers, academics, artists, clergy and cultural planning experts from the "Govans" and from Orebro in Sweden to share learning and explore questions like: "what might be possible for our communities if grass roots and policy combine in support of cultural planning where it is happening on the ground?"

Chaired by Liz Gardiner, a leading exponent of cultural planning in Scotland, Associate Lecturer with the University of the West of Scotland and Executive Director of Fablevision in Govan. Supported by **Lia Ghilardi** (director of Noema Research and Planning and Research fellow with City of London University), **Phil Hanlon** (Professor of Public Health with the University of Glasgow) and the **Reverend Russell McLarty** who will share the discoveries he has made in various communities throughout Scotland where he has used cultural planning methods in service of his ministry.

5. **Douglas Strang** on *Liminal*. Please see description at the foot of the previous page. Douglas's exhibition can be viewed on its own, or with with harp music performed live by **Wendy Stewart** on the Friday. Wendy plays in Ceolbeg and tutors in the Scottish Harp at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama in Glasgow. During Friday afternoon they will offer 2 live performances and *Liminal* will remain set up over the weekend.

6. **Chill-out in the Café** – the Pearce Institute's café has convivial space for small group discussions. It will not be serving food because our chef, Haggis from the GalGael, will be preparing lunches, but we'll try and have an urn of tea available. Rhona MacKinnon's pictures will be on exhibit in the Café and she will be present over the weekend to discuss her work and for any purchase enquiries. Some of the GalGael art may also be available for purchase. Also, for part of the weekend at least there will be a hands-on small exhibition of material from Glasgow Museums which Jenny McCarty and others from the GalGael have been trained to present.

7. **Joseph Montville** on *Respect, Spirituality, and the Art of Community-Building from the Village to the Global Commons*. This workshop explores basic human needs and particularly the craving for respect that is the central plea of the Abrahamic traditions and the essence of healthy societies. It examines the destructive nature of “market fundamentalism”, and ways that art—especially theatre and film, can help heal the wounds of ethnic and social conflict.

Joseph Montville is the former career State Department Foreign Service officer who defined the concept of “Track Two” nonofficial diplomacy, and is an acclaimed expert on the interplay of diplomacy, non-violent conflict resolution and religion. He has held a range of university posts and The International Society of Political Psychology has honoured him with its prize “for distinguished professional contribution to political psychology.” He is coming to Scotland specially to attend our Kandinsky conference, and we are honoured that he has agreed to offer this seminar while here.

8. **Nic Green** in *Ice and Sapphire Conjure Flame* - a performative presentation of the journeys and practice of Nic Green as an artist.

Nic is a graduate of the Centre for Human Ecology where work on Kandinsky and the spiritual set this conference alight. “Sometimes you see a piece of theatre that makes your heart sing, makes you feel good about all of humanity, and makes you want to stand up and be counted. Nic Green’s *Trilogy* is such a work.” - The Guardian.

9. **Matthew Donnelly** on *Social Sculpture*. This workshop will explore the inter-relationships between art, spirituality and the re-building of communities from the inside out. Matthew will provide participants with ‘invisible materials’; reflective and connective exercises that will equip folk with creative and spiritual tools to take action and sculpt their vision of a humane and sustainable future.

Matthew Donnelly is a graduate in Environmental Art at Glasgow School of Art and is involved with the GalGael. His current work explores the relationship between performance art and shamanic ‘performance’, emphasising the urban.

10. **Liz Gardiner & Colleagues** ... continuation of the Cultural Planning workshop.

11. Repeat of **Douglas Strang’s** *Liminal* (see 5 above).

12. **Chill-out in the Café** continued (see 6 above).



The Kandinsky-reminiscent nature photography of **Rhona MacKinnon** will be exhibited in the Pearce Institute Café over the conference weekend

## Part 2 – The Keynote Speakers Day

Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2011

(full details on the next 2 pages)

0900 - **Registration**, and Exhibition Viewing in the Billiard Room, Lithgow Theatre, Minister's Room and Café. The conference is in the Macleod Hall.

0945 – **Councillor John Flanagan's** *Welcome to Govan* followed by conference curator **Professor Alastair McIntosh** setting the context for the day on the theme: *There is a Fire in Govan that Burns Off Pretentiousness*.

1015 – **Professor Sir Harry Burns**, Chief Medical Officer for Scotland, *Setting Out a New Agenda: Art, Health and the Human Condition in Scotland*.

1115 – Short break.

1130 – **Professor Christina Lodder**, *Wassily Kandinsky: Lifting the Spirit*

1215 – **Rick Visser**, *Kandinsky and the Spiritual Task of the Artist Today*

1300 – Buffet Lunch and Exhibition Viewing

1400 - **Thomas Block**, *Kandinsky's Legacy to Prophetic Activist Art*

1445 – **Rev Dr Georgii Zavershinsky**, *Kandinsky and Buber: Aesthetics of Dialogue*

1530 - Short break.

1545 – **Helen Kyle** chairs a panel on *Where Now for Govan - Art, Spirituality and the Future?* With special guest **Mark O'Neill** of Glasgow City Council and local arts, religious and community visionaries **Liz Gardiner**, **Tam McGarvey**, **Rev Moyna McGlynn**, **Brian McQuade** and **Angela Ross**.

1645 – **Curator's closing remarks**, exhibition viewing and chill-out in the café.

1900 – 2300 – **The Blue Riders' Ceilidh** in the MacLeod Hall ... on a donation basis to those with tickets for the full-day event, and to our ane local folks. The Blue Riders, *Der Blaue Reiter*, were Kandinsky's Russian emigrant circle in Munich, 1911-14: 'The Blue Riders believed that colours, shapes and forms had equivalence with sounds and music, and sought to create colour harmonies which would be purifying to the soul.' Compèred by GalGael's **Tam McGarvey**, we'll start with traditional singer **Mairi Campbell**, then **Duncan MacKinnon** skirling the bagpipes, the Cameron Brothers Band and other GalGael folks, ending with chart-topping hip-hop-folk musician **Luke Concannon** of *Nizlopi/JCB Song*. This event is alcohol-free for accessibility to all, but Brechin's Bar is over the road.

**"A terrific program, really special. Congratulations on the event."** - Donald Kuspit,  
Distinguished Professor of Art History & Philosophy, State University of New York

## Presentation and Speaker Profiles (in the order as programmed)

**John Flanagan** - A *Welcome to Govan* from Glasgow's Convener of Planning and Chair of The Pearce Institute.

**Alastair McIntosh** –as the conference's curator will set the theme with a short presentation: *There is a Fire in Govan which Burns off Pretentiousness*. How might Kandinsky speak to pressing social and environmental issues in places like Govan, and how might Govan challenge the mainstream world of art?

Alastair is a Fellow of the Centre for Human Ecology, a founding director of the GalGael Trust and Visiting Professor of Human Ecology at the University of Strathclyde. His books include *Soil and Soul*, *Rekindling Community* and *Hell and High Water: Climate Change, Hope and the Human Condition*. He has lived in Greater Govan for the past 7 years.

**Harry Burns** – The conference's opening keynote address - *A New Agenda for Health, Art and the Human Spirit in Scotland*. Kandinsky saw art as "the child of its age and, in many cases, the mother of our emotions." Its function is to "feed the spirit." Here the the Chief Medical Officer for Scotland (the Scottish Government's most senior advisor on public health), will set out his views on the roots of health in the human spirit and the need to understand art's place in its nourishment.

Professor Sir Harry Burns has been the Chief Medical Officer for Scotland since 2005. He was educated at St Aloysius College in Glasgow and after graduating in medicine from the University of Glasgow, became a consultant surgeon in the Royal Infirmary and then Director of Public Health for the Greater Glasgow Health Board. He is Visiting Professor in Public Health Medicine at the University of Glasgow. He was knighted for his services to Scottish medicine in 2011.

**Christina Lodder** - *Wassily Kandinsky: Lifting the Spirit*. Confronted by the rank materialism of his day, Kandinsky was concerned to promote spiritual values. The realist and figurative artists valued by Russian society at the time produced worthy "sermons in paint", portraits of important individuals, or unidealized depictions of the reality around them, including poverty and terrible working conditions. Kandinsky rejected this kind of art. He didn't want to make an explicitly political art, but an art that would change every man by speaking to his soul (linked to his studies of Russian shamanism). To do this, he rejected descriptive art and turned to abstraction, using myth and the power of colour and line to speak directly to the human spirit and in this way contribute to creating a better society and a better world.

Professor Lodder is an Honorary Professorial Fellow at the University of Edinburgh and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. She is a specialist in Russian art and has published numerous articles and books, including *Russian Constructivism* (1983); *Constructing Modernity: The Art and Career of Naum Gabo* (2000, with Martin Hammer); *Constructive Strands in Russian Art* (2005); and *Rethinking Malevich* (2007). She has also been involved with exhibitions such *From Russia: French and Russian Master Paintings 1870-1925* (Royal Academy, 2008).

**Rick Visser** - *Kandinsky and the Task of the Artist Today*: The cornerstone of Kandinsky's revolution in art is his concept of *inner necessity*. Visser connects this key concept to Keiji Nishitani's concept of *fundamental imagination* and Paul Tillich's concept of *ultimate concern*. In doing so, he draws out a number of implications for the practicing artist, including the dimension of absolute emptiness, the quality of beginner's mind, the centrality of life as shipwreck, a call to "love each mark," and an engagement with the world that balances the needs of creativity with the needs of humanity.

Rick, from Colorado in the USA, is a widely exhibited artist. He is a recipient of the NeoData Endowment for the Arts Fellowship and has received numerous awards for his work. His career has been marked by a broad range of explorations, including poetry, video, installations, photography, and painting.

**Thomas Block** - *Kandinsky's Legacy to Prophetic Activist Art*. Building on Kandinsky's ideas that artists play a prophetic role in society, Thomas Block has developed an art/activist model entitled *Prophetic Activist Art*. Block moves beyond the Modernist belief in the intrinsic transformative power of art to posit that art must be a catalyst for specific and quantifiable social change - that contemporary prophecy is one of activism and struggle, using art as the generative power. Block will discuss his theory as well as show work from his own Prophetic Activist Art projects.

Tom is an artist, writer, and activist who has painted several series of works dealing with mystical traditions in Judaism, Islam, and Christianity. He produced the Iraq History Project Art Festival at Depaul University's International Human

Rights Law Institute and worked with Amnesty International to produce the Human Rights Painting Project, as well as being the founding producer of the first ever Amnesty International Human Rights Art Festival. He has just published *Shalom/Salaam: A Story of a Mystical Fraternity*, which traces the influence of Islamic mysticism on Jewish mysticism over more than 1000 years. See also [a short video](#) of Tom's work on human rights and Amnesty International.

**Georgii Zavershinsky** - *Kandinsky and Buber: Aesthetics of Dialogue*. The paper introduces dialogue as a mode of human being that had initially been presented by Buber and his followers from a very human perspective. People always exist personally, in a dialogical realm which was viewed by Buber through the prism of the word pair “*I and Thou*” and later rediscovered ethically by Levinas as “*I for Thou*”. The above human approach to dialogue is now complemented with a sort of aesthetical dimension, which, though not absent from the work of Buber and Levinas, had, strictly speaking, never been viewed from the perspective of “spiritual aesthetics”, presented by Wassily Kandinsky. This is the context in which the term “aesthetics of dialogue” has been developed in the current paper.

Fr Zavershinsky is theological scholar and a Russian Orthodox priest serving Glasgow. By arrangement with the Church of Scotland his community makes use of St Constantine's Church, also known as Govan Old Parish Church, which is alongside the Pearce Institute and which houses the ancient Celtic stones which have long inspired local groups like the GalGael Trust. On the Sunday morning of the conference Fr Zavershinsky will welcome conference participants to Govan Old to share in a Russian liturgy that will give religious context to the world of Kandinsky. There will also be a non-religious option on offer at this time – see p. 10.

**Mark O'Neill** – will anchor the day's closing Panel chaired by **Helen Kyle** (see p. 5) with reflection from local Govan arts thinkers on the theme *Where Now for Govan - Art, Spirituality and the Future?* Govan has been a crossroads for spirituality and the arts in the past. How can the City of Glasgow, local people and organisations work to develop this reputation for our common future?

Mark O'Neil has served as director of Glasgow's museums and galleries, and is now Director of Policy, Research and Development at Culture & Sport Glasgow, the body responsible for Glasgow Life. In 1999 he earned the respect of some of today's organisers of *Kandinsky in Govan* for the dignified manner in which he administered the difficult decision to repatriate the [Lakota Sioux Ghost Shirt](#).



Volga Song, Wassily Kandinsky, 1906

## Part 3 – The Closing Reflections Day

### Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> October

1000 – The Pearce Institute is open for viewing of the exhibitions all day. There is a “sacred” and a “secular” option for the morning – see A and B below. All gather in the Pearce Institute Café for departures at **1040 prompt**. You may want to bring packed lunches to have prior to the commencement of the afternoon workshop.

1040 - **Option A** from Pearce Institute, for 1100 at Govan Old: **Russian Orthodox Divine Liturgy** of the [Russian Orthodox Parish of St Kentigern](#) in Glasgow led by Fr Georgii Zavershinsky in Govan Old Parish Church, adjacent to the Pearce Institute. This option is offered for those who, having heard from Fr George and other speakers in the previous two days’ workshops and lectures, would like to experience the religious context out of which Kandinsky’s art developed.



St Constantine’s Sarcophagus, Govan Old Parish Church



Glasgow’s new Riverside Museum

1040 **Option B** from Pearce Institute: **A Whistlestop Tour of Glasgow Museums & Galleries by Foot from Govan** (free). Led by Glasgow Life’s Crawford McGugan, this will take [the new Clyde Ferry at 1055](#) (£3 rtn (£1.50)) from Water Row, east side of the Pearce Institute, over to the new [Riverside Museum of Transport](#) and on to [Kelvingrove Art Gallery & Museum](#) – about 2 miles of walking. Pictures at Kelvingrove include Salvador Dali’s *Christ of St John of the Cross*, voted Scotland’s favourite painting.

1400 – **Conference Closing Panel** with our American speakers moving to a **Conference Closing Circle**. This will be a chance to explore in more depth issues raised yesterday by our American speakers, Tom Block and Rick Visser, while we have got them with us in Scotland. It will move to a closing circle with reflections on the weekend from participants, aiming to wind up at about 1630 with a closing Vote of Thanks from **Luke Devlin**, a graduate and now a director of the Centre for Human Ecology. We will hold this session in the Pearce Institute Café or the adjacent conference suite depending on numbers, finishing around 1700.

## Part 4 – General Information

### Kandinsky Centenary and *Exploration in Colour* Painting Course

As far as we can see from the Internet as of August 2011, *Kandinsky in Govan* is the only major event in the world celebrating the centenary of the artist's book *Concerning the Spiritual in Art*, though there may be further bites of the cherry as publication of the book was rolled after the manuscript's completion in October 1911.

What is so significant about this event is that it is set up to assess the importance of Kandinsky's contribution from the reference point of a hard-pressed community in Scotland a century later, and to do so in a manner consistent with Scots internationalism.

The 3-day conference with the main focus on the Saturday (which is when we expect most people to come) is only part of our celebration. We also have artists preparing work beforehand for the exhibition, and at the Kinning Park Community Centre (in the Greater Govan area) Belinda Gilbert Scott is organising a painting class running for six weeks with afternoon or evening options, each class able to take 10 people. The flier for this free course is on the back page of this programme.

### **Ticket Pricing – Important - Please Look After This Event!**

We are deeply grateful to those who have funded this celebration and whose logos are acknowledged on the lower right of the front page of this programme. However, a significant slice of our money for running the event still needs to be raised for ticket sales, and that presents us with a problem in a low income community. We have therefore made roughly half the tickets available at a concession price of £5, but please only buy at this rate if you really can't afford to pay the normal price of £20, or the organisational price of £60. We don't want anybody not to come because they can't afford it, so we are not going to be checking on your entitlement to a concession ticket, and we accept that some organisations will not be able to afford £60, so they can pay normal rate. We do, however, ask you pay what you can to make this work well for us all.

### **Booking and Payments**

The easiest way is **booking online** using the PayPal system (incl. credit cards). This is set up on the website of Alastair McIntosh, the conference curator, at the following link which also carries updates of this programme and links to study material relating to the conference:

<http://www.alastairmcintosh.com/Kandinsky.htm>

If you wish to **pay by cheque**, please use the booking form overleaf.

## Booking Form for Postal Ticket Orders

### Kandinsky in Govan- Saturday 21<sup>st</sup>

Please use this form if booking tickets **by cheque** for the Keynote Speaker Day, Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> October, in the Pearce Institute, Govan. For link to [online booking option click here](#).

Centre for Human Ecology  
(Kandinsky in Govan Bookings)  
Pearce Institute  
840-860 Govan Road  
Glasgow G51 3UU

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#### Numbers of Tickets required:

..... organisational tickets at the full price of £60 each £.....

..... normal priced tickets for individuals at £20 each £.....

..... concession tickets (very low incomes) at £5 each £ .....

**Total amount** ..... **£**.....

**Cheques payable to: *The Centre for Human Ecology***

**Your Email** .....

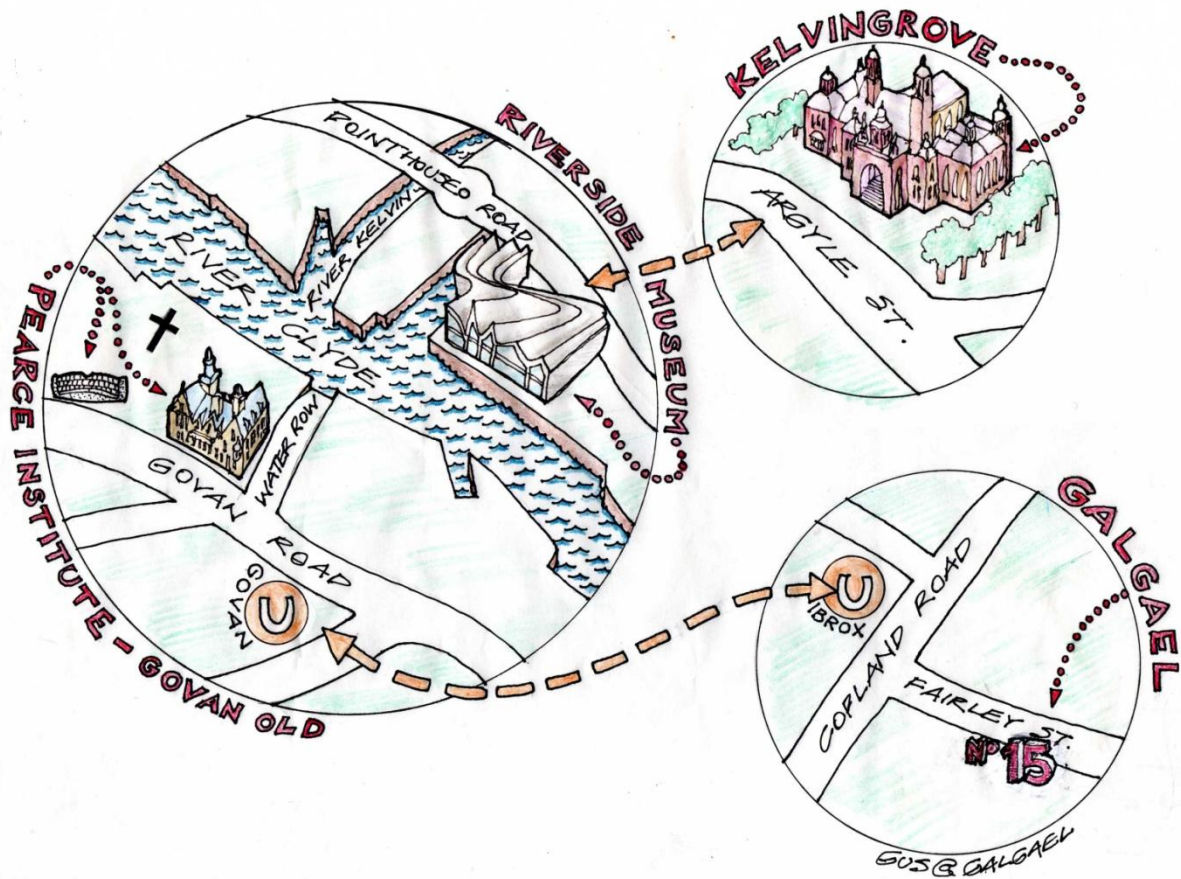
**Your Telephone**.....

**Your Address**.....

..... **Thank You.**

Tickets will be available to be picked up at the Registration Desk in the Pearce Institute between 0900 and 0945 on the Saturday. We will send you email confirmation of your ticket purchase, which you should bring with you to register. If you require postal confirmation please send a stamped addressed envelope with this form and your cheque. Refunds can only be given up to 48 hours before the event. Tickets will only be available on the door if there are any left. No tickets are needed for the events on the Friday and Sunday or for the *Exploration in Colour* painting classes.

## Venue Map for Kandinsky in Govan



### Transport and Venue Links

The new passenger ferry shuttle service that links Water Row in Govan to the Riverside Museum means that it and the Kelvingrove are now within easy walking distance of Govan. Likewise, the conference facilities of the Pearce Institute and the daily 10 a.m. services at Govan Old Church and the tours of its architecture and ancient Celtic stones can be accessed by foot from the West End as well as by subway. The GalGael is close to the Ibrox subway station, the next stop from Govan.

[The Cross-Clyde ferry to the Riverside Museum – Glasgow Museums’ Page](#)

[Glasgow Cycle Route-planner](#)

[Glasgow Subway and Glasgow Bus timetables \(do not confuse Govan with Govanhill\)](#)

Govan Taxis (ring buzzer in same block as the Brechin Bar or call 0141 440 0001)

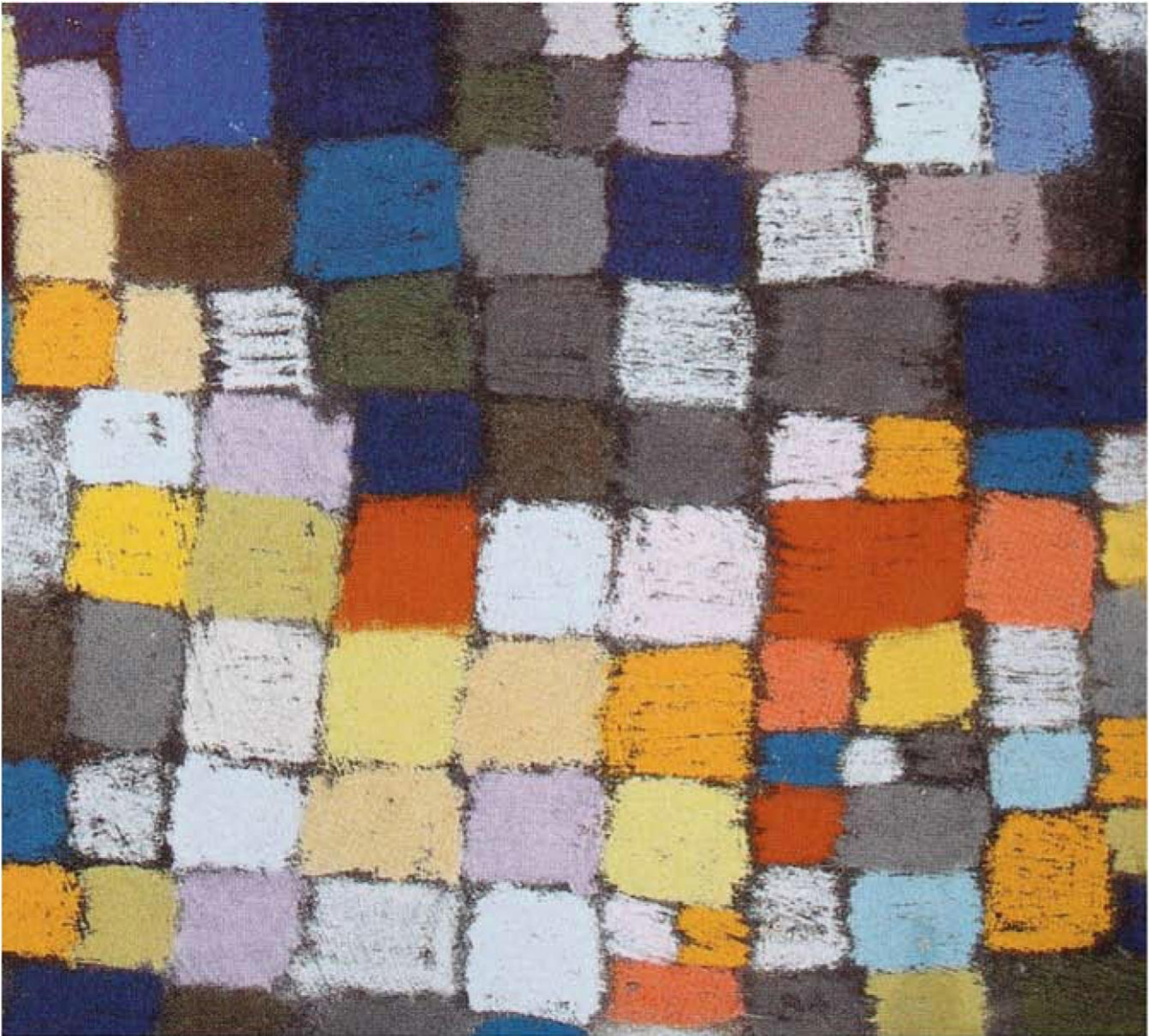
[Govan Old Church tours timetable – Friends of Govan Old](#)

[Riverside Museum: Scotland’s Museum of Transport and Travel](#)

[Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum](#)

[The Pearce Institute - conference facilities and venue hire](#)

[GalGael Trust – thanks to Gus at GalGael for drawing the groovy map](#)



*Image: "Colourful Harmonious" by Paul Klee*

## EXPLORATION IN COLOUR

**This free six week course** explores one colour each week.

Using paint we will study the range and application of one colour and its impact. At the end of the course all the artwork will be brought together creating one large installation, and by doing so bring together the spirit of collective creativity.

The installation will be exhibited in the Billiard Room at the Pearce Institute as part of the 'Kandinsky in Govan: Art, Spirituality & the Future' weekend being held at the Pearce Institute **21 - 23 October** by the Centre for Human Ecology as part of the Govan Folk University. Details at [www.GovanFolkUniversity.org](http://www.GovanFolkUniversity.org)

Classes will be held at **Kinning Park Community Centre, 43 Cornwall Street, G41 1 AH** starting **8th September** 2-4 pm and 6-8.pm. Spaces are limited to 10 people per class.

If you are interested and want further information please email [belindagilbertscott@hotmail.com](mailto:belindagilbertscott@hotmail.com) or phone 07986811548