

Holy Trinity, Headington Quarry

Art and Contemplation

Lent Talks 2018



Jesus falls for the second time.

Robert Wright 2015

"Contemplation is really simple openness to God at every moment...."

Thomas Merton

"one should not approach art by means of reasoning and understanding, but through the soul, through experience." Kandinsky

21st February. Week 1

Art is the ability to see not merely what is apparent to the senses but the inner radiance of Being. Thomas Merton

Merton held that in the “tremendous action of contemplation”, it is not so much what you do that counts as what you allow to be done to yourself.

1. art and contemplation



radiant darkness

Robert Wright 2016



simply to live, surrender to God,
and to love Robert Wright 2015

2. a way of silent prayer

28th February. Week 2

St John of the Cross writes: “How gently and lovingly you wake in my heart,... how tenderly you swell my heart with love.” *The Living Flame of Love.*

Have you ever experienced this?

What does this mean to you?

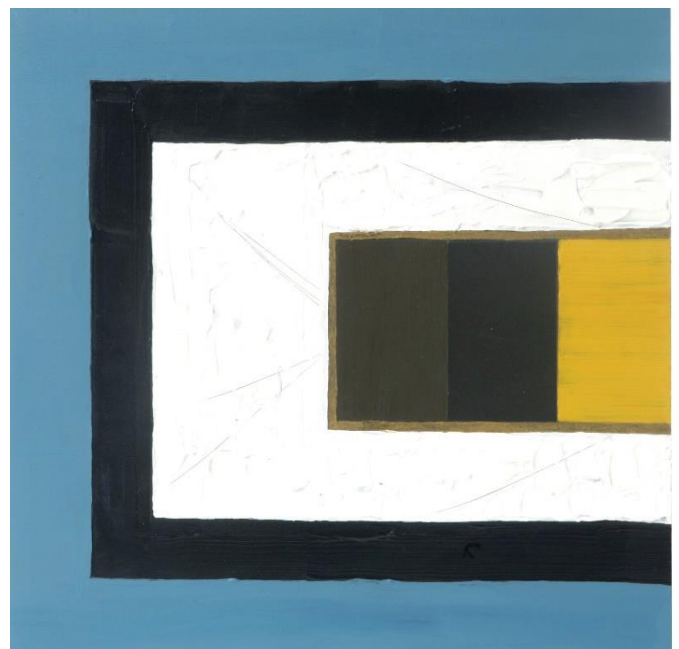
14th March. Week 3

“You have to imagine
a waiting that is not
impatient
because it is timeless.”

R S Thomas [*The Echoes*](#)

[*Return Slow*](#)

*3. a library of great truth – a
further look at abstract art*



our real journey in life is interior.

Robert Wright 2009

Robert was invited to show this painting, *courteous love*, in June 2014 as part of an exhibition in Norfolk celebrating the life of the 14th century English mystic, Dame Julian of Norwich. The painting invites you to ask “Is this *courteous love*”? “If this doesn’t represent *courteous love* for you, what would?”



courteous love

Robert Wright 2014

contemplation doesn't mean learning about contemplation; silence isn't thinking, learning, talking about silence.