

ISAPZURICH

Blum Collection

In Spring of 2024 Sarah Blum donated a sequence of 43 oil-based crayon paintings—her late husband David Blum’s psychological legacy—to ISAPZURICH. This illuminating series is this autodidactic painter’s self-exploratory journey, his individuation process, as he grapples with cancer. Through his dreams he meets his inner guide, a Wise Old Dog, his own inner wisdom, that supports and comforts him on his ultimate transformative journey.



Madonna of the Grotto (1995)

In David’s own words,

“At a time of crisis or challenging life transition, any powerful image that arises spontaneously from within oneself—in whatever form—brings with it a creative potential”



The Golden Eagle (1987)

“...I am guided by The Wise Old Dog towards a full understanding and inner acceptance of the healing process whose goal, in the end, is not confined to getting well physically.”

David Blum (1935-1998) was an extraordinary conductor and writer on classical music. He founded the Esterhazy Orchestra in New York giving groundbreaking tours throughout the U.S. and Canada. Here a quote by his friend, Yo-Yo Ma,

“The unique painting David Blum created throughout his life, and increasing during his battle with cancer, are a window into his spiritual journey. The Wise Old Dog, who came to David in dreams, was his guide and comfort. Through these images and David’s insightful commentary, we are reminded of the resilience of the human spirit, the power of art to help us understand life, and the role creativity can play in healing and transcendence.”



The Sacred Marriage (1997)

To receive David’s psychological legacy is a great treasure and enriches the young, yet growing collection of pictures at ISAPZURICH. The pictures have undergone a journey themselves. With devotion they were bequeathed, with care packed into bins and carefully loaded into a climate-controlled truck that is made its way to a Boston storage, where the Collection was then repacked into crates before taking flight for Zurich to find a new home in the ISAP Library.

Read and hear more about this remarkable journey:

Blum, David. (2020). Appointment with the Wise Old Dog: A Bridge to the Transformative Power of Dreams”, Asheville, N.C. Chiron Publications.

Blum, David. (1998). “Appointment with the Wise Old Dog: Dream Images in a Time of Crisis”;
<https://vimeo.com/420851794>

Your Donation of Pictures:

The ISAPZURICH Picture Collection is a collection and database of materials from clients who have been in analysis with a therapist or analyst trained in the tradition of C.G. Jung's analytical psychology, in acknowledgement of the historical, research, and clinical value of pictures and picture series (and their respective data) created by Jungian analysts and their clients as part of the therapeutic process. Contributors may remain anonymous.

We would like to encourage you to help the Picture Collection grow by donating pictures from completed analyses. If you would like to donate images to ISAP, our archivist will be happy to assist you. She will clarify the anonymization and confidentiality and how the images may be brought to ISAP and will record any information you have about the painter and the images.

The aim, in addition to keeping and protecting the artistic creations in both material and electronic form, is to make such valuable material available to ISAPZURICH analysts and students for learning, teaching and research purposes.

The pictures provide both students and analysts with examples of individual symbols, soul creativity, and representations of the individuation process. The collection will help to solidify and discuss the therapeutic significance of creative work in psychotherapy. Students are encouraged to use the database for their research and to illustrate seminar papers, theses, and lectures (as permitted by donors) for educational purposes. Users can view and search through the digitized images using keywords, during ISAPZURICH library hours.

The Picture Collection, supported by ISAPZURICH and its Picture Department, is coordinated by Kathrin Schaeppi, Paul Brutsche, Carol McGinty and Barbara Jarrett. An anonymous donation from a private source makes it possible to cover the costs of equipment and staff.

We would also like to ask you to consider making personal arrangements for the transfer of analyses and pictures and/or of your own pictures to the Picture Collection in case of death. Of course, we wish that event to be in a very distant future.

Above all, we hope to have aroused your interest and to have inspired you to contribute to this important project.

If you are interested in viewing existing images or in donating images to the ISAPZURICH Picture Collection, please contact the archivist Carol McGinty for an appointment at: library@isapzurich.com ; picturecollection@isapzurich.com