

APRIL 2017

ETERNITY



Acrylics 40 x 60 cm

Which colour can one assign to the term 'eternity'?

With black one hits maybe the eternal Nothing, Nirwana, the end of all existence; but eternity starts here and now, it flows endlessly with time without disappearing into a black hole.

With the white colour one associates more dissolution of matter and spiritual and ecclesiastical immortality. The Greek gods proved that material immortality does not last for ever; they are leading a miserable existence in dusty school books. At least they 'wrote history' as the Germans so nicely incline to put it. But these days they only serve for double-syllable words in crosswords puzzles. Hence a dubious immortality. The concept of immortality and the hope of one's own immortality derives probably from the awareness that we waste our time on the planet instead of making good use of it, hoping for a bonus in the 'after life', posthumous glory and honor.

At some stage the blue eventually offers itself as the colour for eternity. The colour of distance and expanse should never end, but here, too, is a boundary to cross. It is the boundary in between the comprehensible and experience on this side and the incomprehensible and the beyond on the other. It is the big treshold where our imagination is no longer sufficient to do the next step. 'Eternal' might be a well-known word but we can not imagine it real. Though we use the term 'the infinite' in mathematics and we even have a sign for it " ∞ ", but nevertheless our imagination stops short at the boundary of the finite. We require substitute concepts, models, pictures and special symbols, we want imagination, fantasy and creativity to comprehend an ordinary and trivial term like 'eternity'. The blue colour is as well only an illusion.

Music, painting, lyric and film are trying continously to get close to such terms, and by doing so creating extraordinary works, but none will last for ever.