

Vermeer, Orpheus and 'The Blues'

a journey into creativity

Dr Michael Parsons
Dr Mark Howard

Saturday 23rd May, 2009
The Treacy Centre
126 The Avenue,
Parkville, Melbourne
8.30 am – 5.30 pm



BOOKING ENQUIRIES

Freud Conference Administrator
PO Box 2125
Wattletree Rd Post Office
East Malvern 3145
Phone: 03 9513 9080
Mobile: 0411 556 205

www.freudconference.com

IMAGE: Johannes Vermeer 'The Milkmaid', c 1658-1661, oil on canvas

ORGANISED BY REPRESENTATIVES OF

- Australian Association of Group Psychotherapists •
- Australian Psychoanalytical Society •
- Victorian Association of Psychoanalytic
Psychotherapists (for the Psychoanalytic
Psychotherapy Association of Australasia) •

about the presenters

DR MICHAEL PARSONS is a Training Analyst of the British Psychoanalytical Society and an IPA member.

His original studies were in philosophy, classical literature & history, Oxford University, followed by medicine, psychiatry and later psychoanalysis. He works in full time private psychoanalytic practice, London, and has served on both the Ethics and Education Committees in the Institute of Psychoanalysis. Michael has strong links with psychoanalysis in Europe and America, is internationally known as a teacher and lecturer. In 2004 he was Visiting Professor at the San Francisco Psychoanalytic Institute. Michael is the author of *The Dove that Returns, The Dove that Vanishes: Paradox and Creativity in Psychoanalysis*, 2000, Routledge, and co-editor of *Before I was I: Psychoanalysis and the Imagination. Collected papers of Enid Balint, 1993*, Free Association. He has also published extensively in the International Psychoanalytic Journals.

DR MARK HOWARD is a Training Analyst of the Australian Psychoanalytical Society who works in private practice in Sydney. He trained in the Humanities, mainly philosophy, prior to studying medicine, psychiatry and psychoanalysis. Mark's clinical areas of interest include psychosis, and symbol formation. His other interests include the history of ideas, and analytic conversations with the creative arts. He has presented at several national conferences and provided outreach public lectures with the Sydney Branch of the APAS.

8.30 AM
8.50

Registration & coffee
Welcome and Introduction

morning sessions DR MICHAEL PARSONS

9.00 – 10.30 KEEPING DEATH ALIVE

A willingness to face what disturbs our usual thought processes is a necessary part of independence and what it means to be creatively alive. I will discuss the notion of independence as implying a readiness to encounter what cannot be encompassed by one's familiar ways of thinking, as well as a need for openness to the experience of one's own death.

10.30 – 11.00 Morning tea

11.00 – 12.30 WHY DID ORPHEUS LOOK BACK?

The present, and encounter between past and future, will be explored and linked to notions of time and timelessness. Vermeer's painting *The Kitchen Maid*, or the telling of a dream, are both understood as intersecting time and timelessness. Through the myth of Orpheus and clinical examples, I will show why and how failures at that intersection can occur.

12.30 – 2.00 Lunch

afternoon session DR MARK HOWARD

2.00 – 4.45 DIDDLEY BO: music, poetry and the analytic experience

I use the diddley bo, a single stringed 'Blues' instrument, to explore music as a symbol, and its meaning for us. Mourning, reverie, and early bodily experiences are related to music. A patient's response to Aboriginal Dot paintings provides a frame to link these ideas together in Bion's Grid. I explore meaning in contemporary music, through states of mind found in two poetic traditions, *The Ancient Mariner*, and *Stagolee*. Along the way, a wide range of music is played, ending with a raw 'Blues' song by Eddie 'One String' Jones.

4.45 – 5.30
5.30 – 6.30

PANEL DISCUSSION WITH SPEAKERS
Drinks and nibbles at the Cunningham Dax Gallery

Readings Bookstore will be at the Conference

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Surname Title

First Name

Profession

Address
..... Postcode

Contact phone no

I enclose a cheque for \$ made payable to:
Freud Conference Fund

please tick if attending 'Gallery' drinks and nibbles

Send completed registration form and cheque to:

Freud Conference Administrator,
PO Box 2125, Wattletree Rd Post Office, East Malvern, 3145.

COST: \$190
\$140 concession (Pension card holders and full-time students – written verification with registration required). GST not applicable.

EARLY BIRD (received by Friday 6th March):
\$165.00 / \$120.00 concession
All other registrations by Monday 18th May.

Costs include lunch, morning and afternoon tea
Limited accommodation available for \$55.00 B&B
– apply direct to Treacy Centre, tel: 03 8359 0101

Conference enquiries:

christine.hill@med.monash.edu.au
Phone: 03/ 9513 9080
Mobile: 0411 556 205

Please note:

No registrations accepted on the day.

Cancellation Policy:

Refunds (less \$30.00 administration fee) will only be given for cancellations received by Friday 1st May 2008. No refunds after this date.