

IN MEMORIAM: KEITH CRITCHLOW
(March 16, 1933 – April 8, 2020)



‘A Geometer and Contemporary Pythagoras’

Keith Critchlow’s publications include *Order in Space* (1969), *Islamic Patterns* (1976), *Time Stands Still* (1979), *The Hidden Geometry of Flowers* (2011) and *Golden Meaning* (2014).

In 1981 Keith Critchlow was, along with Brian Keeble, Kathleen Raine and Phillip Sherrard, a founder of the review *Temenos*, out of which grew the Temenos Academy, established in 1991. He was President, and later President Emeritus, of the Temenos Academy; he was also a Fellow, served for a time on its Academic Board and its Council. All of those involved in Temenos looked up to him as a source of inspiration.

Professor Critchlow founded the Visual Islamic Arts Studio with Paul Marchant in 1984 at the Royal College of Art, which developed into the Visual Islamic and Traditional Arts (VITA) department; it later moved to The Prince of Wales’s Institute of Architecture, with Keith as Professor and Head of Research, and is now incorporated into The Prince’s Foundation School of Traditional Arts, in Shoreditch, London. He was awarded a Higher Doctorate by the Royal College of Art in 1991.

Critchlow was the architect of the Krishnamurti Centre, Brockwood Park, Hampshire, and the Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Medical Sciences in Puttaparthi, India, a hospital that is free to all inmates. Another important project was the charity KAIROS, which organised visits to sacred sites such as Chartres Cathedral and published a newsletter, full of Critchlow’s ideas and research, and worksheets of practical geometry.

Remembering Keith Critchlow

By Brian Keeble

I had the honour and privilege to know Professor Keith Critchlow for nearly fifty years. It was the painter Cecil Collins sometime in the seventies who alerted me to this 'brilliant speaker' who, without notes, could talk for over an hour and using two screens on which were projected an astonishing range of images. Some years later I published Keith's paper, 'The Soul and Sphere and Androgyne' in the booklet series of Golgonooza Press. Later still, Keith, with Kathleen Raine, Philip Sherard and myself formed the editorial team that gave birth to the journal, *Temenos*. Thereafter, Keith was never far away as teacher, collaborator and revered friend.

Early in 2019 he asked me if I had a poem about trees. I was bound to say I had not. The next morning without any premeditation 'Ancient Trees' arrived quite spontaneously. I sent it to him. He replied, 'How do you do it?' I prefer to think, because it was summoned by him.

Ancient Trees

For Keith [I.M.]

Great trees endure
As in rebuke
Of all we've made,
Their rooted stand
Transposing earth
And water to bring
Down light where light,
Much needed now,

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