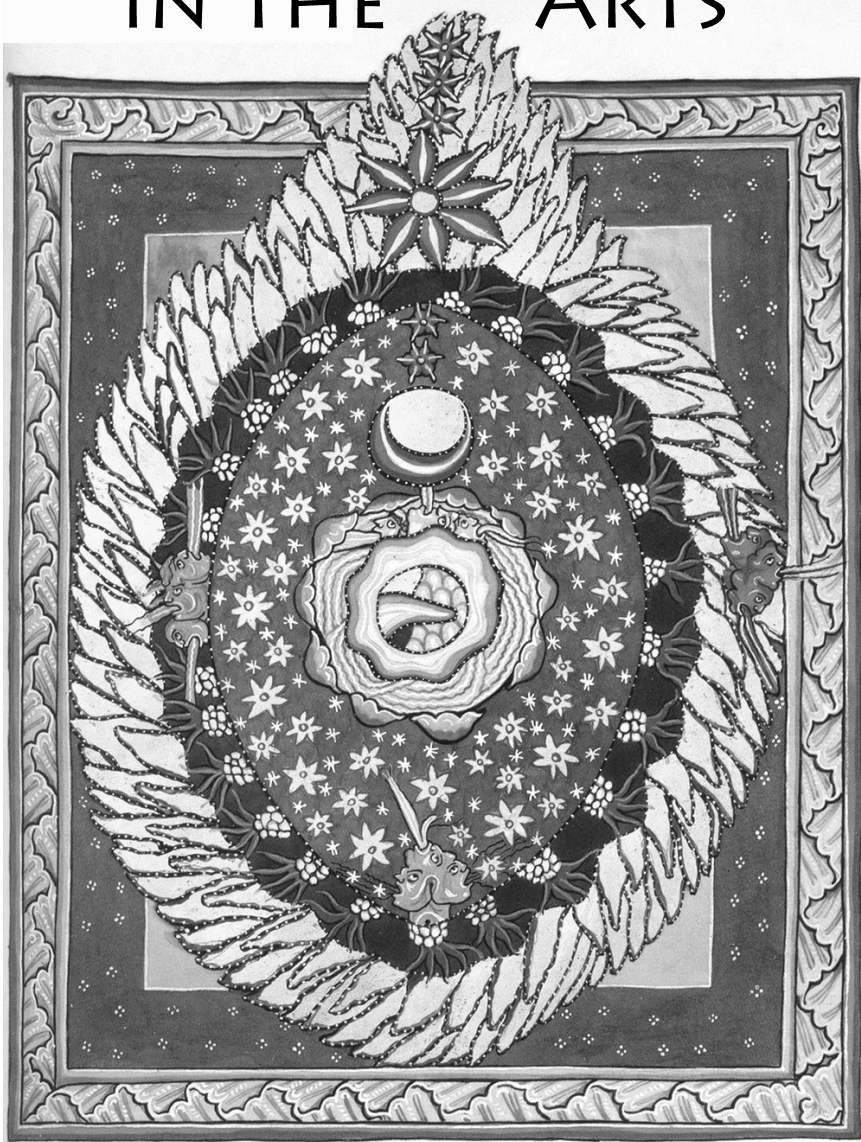


# WOMEN IN THE ARTS



Hildegard von Bingen

## 2. BEHIND THE VEIL

September 30, 2024

# BEHIND THE VEIL

THE FIVE FEATURED ARTISTS HERE—Hildegard von Bingen, Teresa of Avila, Plautilla Nelli, Juana Inés de la Cruz, and Corita Kent—span nine centuries and five countries: Germany, Spain, Italy, Mexico, and the United States. Far more than nuns who happened to compose, write, or paint from their convent cells, all of them had the courage to challenge current norms and demand reform, fighting both for spiritual commitment and recognition of a woman's place in society. The time we can devote to each may be brief, but their stories and those of other artists we encounter along the way will have a cumulative power. Together, they show that arts created behind convent walls need neither be parochial nor confined to religious subjects. *rb.*

### A. ABBESS OF EVERY ART

**Hildegard von Bingen**, called in her lifetime “The Sybil of the Rhine,” and her remarkable body of work in virtually every medium.

- ♫ **Kassia:** *Hymn*
- ♫ **Hildegard:** *Lament*
- ♫ **Trotta:** *Vision* (2009), film trailer and two excerpts
- Hildegard:** illuminations from *Scivias*
- ♫ **Hildegard:** motet, “O frondens virga” (Chanticleer)
- ♫ **Hildegard:** *Ordo Virtutum*, excerpt (The Song Co.)

### B. THE STUDIO CELL

Although she was famous in her time, the works of **Plautilla Nelli**, who ran a large studio in her Florence convent, might not be so well-known today without the work of the American **Jane Fortune** and her foundation, *Advancing Women Artists*.

- Ormani:** *Self-Portrait* (from a breviary of 1453)
- Nelli:** *Pentecost* and *Saint Catherine of Siena*

- ♪ **Video:** *Plautilla Nelli: Convent Art and Devotion* (AWA 2015)
- Nelli:** *Lamentation* (Museo di San Marco)
- Fra Bartolommeo:** Two Saints (drawing)
- ♪ **Nelli:** *Last Supper* (Florence, SM Novella)

## C. ANGEL VOICES

Two composers of sacred music from around 1600.

- ♪ **Aleotti:** *Ego flos campi* (Marian Consort)
- ♪ **Cesis:** *Angelus ad pastores* (Cappella Artemisia)

## D. ENCOUNTERS WITH DIVINITY

Poet, mystic, and reformer **Saint Teresa of Avila**.

- Bernini:** *Ecstasy of St Teresa* (1652, SM della Vittoria, Rome)
- Saint Teresa:** various writings
- ♪ **Berkeley:** "Shepherd, hark that calling" (1947, Kathleen Ferrier)

## E. TO ARMS, WARLIKE SPIRITS!

Two aspects of the composer **Isabella Leonarda**, whose numerous publications include both secular instrumental works, and vocal pieces that employ dramatic approaches to setting sacred text.

- ♪ **Isabella:** *Ad arma, o spiritus rebelles*
- ♪ **Isabella:** *Sonata Duodecima* (Rachel Podger & Daniele Caminiti)

## F. WITH BLOOD, WITH INK

The work of **Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz**, whose cell became the premier literary *salon* in Mexico until her bishop forced her to abandon writing in an oath signed in her own blood.

- Miguel Cabrera:** *Sor Juana Inéz de la Cruz*
- Juana Inés:** *First Villancio*, extract
- ♪ **Crozier** and **Krask:** *With Blood, With Ink*, Sc.6 (Fort Worth Opera)

## G. RULE OF ENGAGEMENT

The work of the printmaker and activist **Sister Corita Kent**, finally driven out of her California convent by a cardinal who found it blasphemous.

- ♪ **Video:** *Introduction to Corita*
- Corita:** *The Woman at the Well* (serigraph, 1955)
- Corita:** *Benediction* (serigraph, 1955)
- Corita:** *Gloria* (serigraph, 1960)
- Corita:** *Pentecost* (serigraph, 1955)
- Corita:** *Green Up* (serigraph, 1966)
- Corita:** *Only You and I* (1969)
- Corita:** *It Can Be Said of Them* (1969)
- ♪ **Joan Baez:** *Where Have All the Flowers Gone?*

Raffaella **Aleotti** (1570–1646, *Italian composer*), Fra **Bartolommeo** (1472–1517, *Italian painter*), Lennox **Berkeley** (1903–89, *English composer*), Gianlorenzo **Bernini** (1598–1680, *Italian sculptor*), Sulpitia **Cesis** (1575–1625, *Italian composer*), **Corita** Kent (1918–86, *American artist*), Daniel **Crozier** (b.1965, *American composer*), Jane **Fortune** (1942–2018, *American philanthropist*), **Hildegard** von Bingen (1098–1179, *German polymath*), **Isabella** Leonarda (1620–1704, *Italian composer*), Sor **Juana Inés** de la Cruz (1648–95, *Mexican poet and mystic*), **Kassia** (810–65, *Greek composer*), Peter **Krask** (b.1965, *American writer*), Plautilla **Nelli** (1534–88, *Italian painter*), Maria **Ormani** degli Albizzi (1428–70, *Italian artist*), Saint **Teresa** of Avila (1515–82, *Spanish writer and mystic*), Margarethe von **Trotta** (b.1942, *German film director*)

The course website is [www.brunyate.com/WomenArts](http://www.brunyate.com/WomenArts)  
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