

CHESELYN AMATO

Reflections on *The Tree of Life Chronicles*

The Tree of Life Chronicles is a series of collages made with assorted papers largely based on the Sefirotic diagram delineated by the Ari as presented in Aryeh Kaplan's translation of and commentary on the *Sefer Yetzirah*. Colors associated with each Sefirah are based on the descriptions given by Cordovero as presented by Aryeh Kaplan. In some of the diagrams, color, pattern, texture and image are determined by a complex dynamic between revelation, poetics, aesthetics, intuition, chance, and accidental and incidental phenomena. These images are made as tools for meditation, prayer, and awe; and as a celebration of Shekinah, Indwelling Presence, via visual aesthetic experience. Da'at, which is not an official Sefirah, is to me the heart of knowledge, that place where the Tree of Life and the Tree of Knowledge meet. This is the poignancy of human being and of being human. *The Tree of Life Chronicles* diagrams are about our unfolding as and through the Sefirot including Da'at where each of us as an eternal tree of life meets time and the temporal via the tree of knowledge, our everyday lives lived every day.

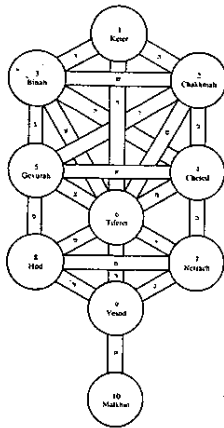


Figure 4. The 32 paths as depicted by the Ari.

Colors and the Sefirot

Sefirah	Color
Keter-Crown	blinding invisible white
Chokmah-Wisdom	a color that includes all colors
Binah-Understanding	yellow and green
Chesed-Love	white and silver
Gevurah-Strength	red and gold
Tiferet-Beauty	yellow and purple
Netzach-Victory	light pink
Hod-Splendor	dark pink
Yesod-Foundation	Orange
Malkhut-Kingship	Blue

Cheselyn Amato is an interdisciplinary artist, educator, Kabbalist, and nomadic temple builder. She has been receiving the mystical way of Torah over the last twenty-five years both by conscious pursuit and by miraculous gift. These works on paper are offered as cues or props for spiritual and mystical receptivity, prayer and celebration. Cheselyn is Adjunct Associate Professor at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago since 1985. She lives in Evanston with her husband who is also a visual artist and educator, and their two lovely sons.