Cosmic Play in a Symbolic Universe...

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Question:

How to combine Science and Art?
Herman Hesse’s Nobel Prize Winning Novel,

**The Glass Bead Game** (GBG)

lays the foundations for an Artistic/Conceptual Game, which integrates all fields of Human and Cosmic Knowledge through forms of Organic Universal Symbolism, expressed by its players with the Dynamic Fluidity of Music.

The Glass Bead Game is an Age Old metaphor for what has been called, the “Divine Lila” (Play or Game of Life). This metaphor has been expressed by every great Wisdom Tradition known to man, and its players, the Magister Ludi (Masters of the Game), use as their instruments Ancient and Modern modes of Symbolic Wisdom traditionally presented through Sacred Art, Philosophy, Magic and Cosmology.

[source http://www.futurefi.net/archives/000221.html]
Hesse himself calls the GBG “an eternal idea”, and tells us:

*This same eternal idea, which for us has been embodied in the Glass Bead Game, has underlain every movement of Mind toward the ideal goal of a universitatis litterarum, every Platonic academy, every league of an intellectual elite, every rapprochement between the exact and the more liberal disciplines, every effort toward reconciliation between science and art or science and religion.*

Hesse’s game is a formalization of something that poets, artists and philosophers have been working towards for many centuries and in a wide variety of cultures.

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**The Glass Bead Game can be played in two modes:**

**The informal mode of play:**
The informal mode is a play of genius with genius across time: in other words, to play the Game in the informal manner is to juxtapose thinkers rather than thoughts -- though the thoughts in question will naturally interact with one another, and that interaction is the basis of the informal Game.

**The formal mode of play:**
There is also a more stringent Game, and in it, the persons of the “worthies” and “saints” fall away, while their ideas remain “in play” -- and that play of ideas is given pattern. In this mode, GBG is a Game played with ideas for game pieces -- markers, counters -- and it is played across the entire gamut of ideas...
The informal mode of play ('thinkers'):
The formal mode of play (‘thoughts’):

The thoughts can be of any sort:

The thoughts with which GBG is played may not only be drawn from any discipline, art or science -- they can also be expressed in musical, mathematical, textual, visual or choreographic form. The Game is not a Game of words only, but of thoughts, theories, concepts and ideas of all sorts, musical, verbal, numerical, visual, kinaesthetic...

And this breadth of ideation, this willingness to include pictorial, sculptural, architectural and even choreographic ideas within the scope of the game is important, because it returns the Game itself to the body, heals the Cartesian split between body and mind and returns us to an earlier unity.

Thank you for your attention
**HISTORICAL MAGISTER LUDI** (source http://www.glassbeadgame.com/)

**Leonardo Da Vinci**
Leonardo was a Magus and Grand Master of a Secret Esoteric Society, and his art is filled with codes and allusions to the Sacred Sciences, if you know how to look.

**Raymond Lully**
This 13th century philosopher & mystic developed a Cosmological Art using geometric logical calculators to symbolically represent all Universal Knowledge.

**Giordano Bruno**
This famous 17th century Mystical Cosmologist & Hermeticist developed a systematic philosophy of nature represented in geometric images, signs & symbols.

**Robert Fludd**
Fludd was an exponent of Renaissance Neoplatonism, and produced a cosmology using Musical Harmonics as a model of Universal Order.

**Athanasius Kircher**
A true Renaissance Man with one of the most all-encompassing minds ever known, producing scientific & encyclopedic works and diagrams in every known field.

**John Dee**
Renowned Magus, & court astrologer to Queen Elizabeth, Dee discovered the Monus Hieroglyphica, a symbolic hieroglyph expressing the unity underlying the Cosmos.

**Joseph-Marie Hoene-Wronski**
Teacher of Balzac & Eliphas Levi, Wronski perceived a Universal vision integrating all science & philosophy into a unified system. He produced famous mathematical theorems, & the Nazis stole his work during WW2 hoping to produce advanced weapons from his illumined insight.

**R.A. Schwaller de Lubicz**
Master Alchemist, Egyptologist, Pythagorean, & one of the greatest thinkers of the 20th century. Schwaller completely deciphered and unveiled the scientific Symbolique and Cosmology of Ancient Egyptian.

**William D. Gann**
Qabbalist, Astrologer, Natural Cosmologist, Hermeticist, Gann integrated the esoteric & scientific systems & found an unusual application in financial markets forecasting using sacred geometric & numerical calculators.

**GLASS BEAD GAME SCHOOLS** (source http://www.glassbeadgame.com/)

**Rishis of the Rg Ved**
The Seers of Ancient India concealed in their Sacred Vedic Scriptures numerical, geometric & astronomical codes revealing the natural order of the universe.

**Chinese I-Ching Sages**
Heavily drawn upon by Hesse in the GBG, this Ancient Chinese Tradition uses a sophisticated system of symbolic hexagrams to reveal the hidden patterns of consciousness.

**Ancient Egyptian Priesthood**
The most scientifically & technologically advanced civilization on Earth, the Ancient Egyptians possessed an unfathomable insight into Universal Cosmology coded in advanced Hieroglyphic & Architectural Symbolique.

**Pythagorean Brotherhood**
An Egyptian Temple Initiate, Pythagoras presented the first Western system of Cosmology, the Quadrivium: Arithmetic, Music, Geometry, & Astronomy, which has provided the primary inspiration for all Western Scientific & Esoteric traditions since his time.

**Platonic & NeoPlatonic Academies**
The works of Plato are written in a geometric cosmological code based upon Egyptian & Pythagorean Cosmologies, known only by the most advanced Esoteric Schools, & provide a wealth of universal insight if one has their keys.

**Jewish Qabbalists**
The oldest Biblical writings possess astrological codes interpreted through arithmetical & geometric keys passed down through the mystical tradition of Qabbalah.

**Freemasons & Cathedral Builders**
The Great Gothic Cathedrals are Cosmologies in stone, designed according to harmonic proportions symbolizing the ordering system of the Cosmos, & built by a secret order of Freemasons tracing their origin back to King Solomon.

**Medieval Alchemists & Hermeticists**
The symbolic systems of mysticism and cosmology encoded by these secret orders into organic and pictorial forms of symbolism represent the most advanced science of spiritual & material transmutation known to the world.