

Christine Candolin: Crossing the borders in Life and Art / reflecting the archaeology of otherness
WHERE AM I ?

Cogito Ergo Sum- I think-I-therefore, exist. This famous sentence of Rene Descartes makes me ponder about my own existence 300 years later.

Since then many cultural eras have come and gone. The eras of enlightenment and rationality. The socio-cultural structures have changed when the new science emerged when eventually disconnected from the chains of the controlling Church: sociology, psychology, biology, astrology, physics, and even arts, were seen, studied and interpreted in new ways and by new means. The world changed when we changed and vice versa. New perspectives and interpretations emerged and transcended old world views:

– By Descartes era, the earthcentric universe had already been transcended by the heliocentric universe. However, the existing world was still considered to be, outside us, pre-given, constant, god made, and eternal. All fixed mechanisms were only waiting out there to be found by us .

As we are now living in the 21st century, we are about to transcend and include the postmodern era. Therefore my existential question is:

WHERE AM I, what is my frame of reference, my worldview, culture, my mindset; in other words; WHAT IS MY COSMIC ADDRESS?

From my point of view; -when I think, and therefore exist,- I´m interpreting the world from the perspectives of my historical era combined with my socio-cultural background, my gender and my level of consciousness. These factors determine how I experience and interpret the world and WHAT and WHO I am.

After having survived my childhood, I have both transcended and enfolded several developmental stages. This process is continuing even in adulthood; I can still develop my conscious self, according to the good news from the latest research in developmental psychology.

Therefore, the question of WHERE I AM is as relative, as are the determine factors of mass, energy, speed and space/time, in Einsteins special theory of relativity.

Here again; its a question of perspectives: I cannot anymore be defined as a constant subject viewing constant objects. In the trans modern world, my perspective is viewing other perspectives; as all perspectives are embedded in bodies and in cultures.

-So, as all perspectives arise in humans, then all knowledge arises from the intersubjective relations in a culture.

This idea of developing perspectives might sound challenging; I take a simple example: -From one point of view, a virus influenza in a sick patient can be interpreted as the evils work, and so the sick person can by stigmatization be

pushed into otherness; while an other, a much more modern interpretation is just stating: that a virus infection is disturbing this persons everyday life.

Theres a huge time gap between these two perspectives: ca. 40 000 years; and yet, these world spaces both still almost exist side by side enveloped in our trans modern era! Then from a future perspective our own concept " the global ecosystems " might sound like this: "the energy sinks of dark matter controlling acces to an 10th dimensional hyperspace"? Do we understand this – NO, its far beyond our heads! And our 21st century concept " the global eco systems" will by then be considered as nonsense.

The culture I previously mentioned, that, -with the stigmatized sick person,- has started ca. 50 000 years ago, and its called the Magic-Animistic era. About 40 % of the worlds population is still reflecting this worldview. After this, an other worldview emerged, and overlapped the former; the Ethnocentric era, that has manifested ca. 10 000 years ago. Tribal thinking and hierarchical societies, centered round a sovereignty, warlords, and mythical gods,- are forming the perspectives reflected in humans at this stage. The worldview, that also breeds fascism even today,- creating nationalist wars and disasters. 50% of humans are representing these perspectives in the world at the moment.

Yet, new eras have emerged, the rational era 300 years ago, the world centric era, only 60 years ago -already 20% of humans are reflecting this postmodern era. And even after this, 2% of the leading edge of humans have already evolved even further..

-And, -simultaneously,- the human consciousness is evolving towards lesser egocentricity, and this expanding identity is directly reflected in moral awareness.

This is good news! Will I be responsive to this development, am I open enough, brave enough, free enough of prejudices, to react to the pull of the emerging era. – Or will my life remain permanently on a developmental stage, where the dominating beliefs and ideas will chain my further development, instead of – breaking free,- towards a wider, a more global vantage point to life.

It is always up to my openness and attitude, whether I decide to live as a member of a tribal culture, or as a member in the global world.

In the end, – in all human development,- its always the matter of bravery, openness, curiosity, perseverance, compassion, honesty, and a wide heart.

But WHAT AM I?

The quantum physichists have revolutionized our, at one time, secure, simple, and – very mechanical theories of physics,- which still prevailed in Descartes era. They have brought us uncertainties: Matter can simultaneously manifest both as a particle and energy; it can exist in several places at the same time; our presence in a scientific test can alter the manifestation of matter.

Therefore its relevant to ask: As I´m made of this matter, what am I then? What are the constituents of my body, mind and my awareness?

-Einstein has stated beautifully: ” -we are all but a brief condensation of cosmic matter in the vastness of the universe”.

If I somehow, can be able to understand which worldviews reflect in me, then I can also state, that the light of the stars exist, because I can see it. My sensing relationship to the world is affecting my identity. If my constituents were different, then my identity and my relationship with the world would be completely another.

It has been stated that the consciousness is the openness, the clearing, in which phenomena arise, and that reality is not merely a reflection in me, but it is in interaction with me.

This makes sense: worlds emerge through consciousness – structures which we, the sensing beings create.

-This is real quantum physics of the mind!

So I´m greeting Descartes, from my transmodern world: I´m thinking, therefore I create: I keep sketching my allotted part in this confusingly changing scene of a world.

ABOUT ART

As I keep navigating with my altering position in space and time, I also have to comprehend my past. I would not be here, if I wasn´t aware of both my biological and historical origins.

My installations are allegorical interpretations and questions about the mysteries of life. My works are both manifestations of my worldview, and reflections of an era. -A piece of art is not only an object, it reflects its creator, being as real as is the artist´s perception of reality. And this perception is as valid as any scientific study of a phenomena.

Through ages the artist has served her community as shaman and seer; as a kind of an interpreter of the collective consciousness. This activity has traditionally happened in the margins of the society, acting at the same time as a sign of its sanity; the societies have always needed their artists as they have needed their madmen..

At the moment our crazy world, – wants to tame the artists. Today their work is needed on the market as commercial products,- conditioned to the pleasures of the,- profit seeking collectors. But an artist´s task is not to please, her task is to act as an independent interpreter of her time. She must proceed on her own,- uncorrupted, independent, and, sometimes, – lonely path. Quoting the words of the finnish philosopher Janne Kurki: ” The truth will always be found in the salon of the refused artists; arts and philosophy investigate the unseen and the mysterious. The

way the mystery is confronted depends on the artist: CLAUDE MONET saw the light and color, for CEZANNE it was the perception and identification. The true artists salon is not a narcissistic magic circle to look at your self in the mirror. Art has to continue with the quest of NEWTON, EINSTEIN AND DARWIN: the truth must not follow the man, the man must follow the truth.”

And,- finally: “THE TRUTH” will always reveal to us only those microscopical parts currently corresponding to our comprehension.