

THE BEING STONE

My enthusiasm for the world of stones started to grow few years ago when I discovered that stones represent a specific form of consciousness. As a professional sculptor I was since ever interested in the beauty and strength of stones. But I did not have an intimate relationship with them. Even if I appreciated them as part of nature, as I do appreciate trees or landscapes, they somehow existed besides and outside of me.

This situation changed after I realized that stones, besides being hard and cold, know also another dimension of their existence that can be best compared with the quality of consciousness as I know it from animals, plants, or fellow human beings. I discovered that with my imagination I can enter the power field of a stone and move relatively free inside it as if I would move within the stone itself. The best way to describe my experience of the consciousness of stones is to compare it with a cloud of information that partly permeates the stone and partly reaches also beyond the physical body of the given stone.

After having the experience in contacting the consciousness layer of different stones I realized that they know also an individual characteristic. But this does not depend on their different geological origin. The same kind of stones can show different quality of consciousness. This realization led me to the discovery of what I call "the elemental being" of a stone; which means that stones are not only physical objects, also not only a form of consciousness but, also a kind of intelligent beings as plants, animals and human beings are. They are of course different kind of beings but I perceive them in a similar way as individual beings having an excellent capacity to store information and their own kind of language to communicate with their environment. Even if it seems for the human eyes as if they would stand still similar to a piece of dead matter, I can see with my inner eyes that their minute particles are in constant movement like a swarm of bees. I call the being of a stone "elemental" because its consciousness and presence is closer to the basic level of life as the human consciousness is.

I believe that one of the roles of artist is to open door to those dimensions of life that human culture is not yet familiar with. So I decided to dedicate part of my art work to the task of making visible those aspects of nature that are presently invisible to the human eyes and perhaps also lost to the human awareness. For this purpose I trained myself in the direction of being able to see stones and other beings of nature at different levels of their existence in a conscious way. I share also the knowledge gained in this way with interesting people in the form of workshops. They are dedicated to perceiving trees, stones and landscapes in their multidimensionality.

I found stones that I show in the exhibition during my field work connected with the mentioned workshops or simply while walking through a place. For example I found the Neolithic stone axe while walking over a parking lot in the Slovenian town of Ptuj that was in the process of construction. Gravel was brought in masses from the nearby river and among it also the axe. Since it is partly broken I can imagine that its owner threw it some seven thousand years ago into the river as useless. Now trucks brought it to the future parking lot to appear under my feet.

This is the first time that I show some of my beloved stones to the public. I thought that it would make more sense if I show my drawing of the elemental being of a particular stone in the presence of that stone itself. So the spectator can compare the stone with my drawing of its elemental intelligence or perhaps even get one's own insights into the secret of the exhibited stone.

Marko Pogačnik, Šempas, July 3rd 2017

Marko Pogačnik (1944) UNESCO Artist for Peace

Marko lives in Slovenia working world-wide on promoting cooperation between nature, the Earth and human culture. He has developed methods of ecological healing, such as "lithopuncture" (Earth acupuncture) and Gaia Touch exercises. Marko is founding member of two art collectives, Group OHO (1965-71) and Šempas Family (1971-79). His art works have been exhibited in different museums since 1967, including the international selection of Venice Biennale 2017. His books in French: *Déclaration d'amour à la Terre, Géographie sacrée, Paris entre visible and invisible, Le langage des cosmogrammes.*