ST MORITZ ART MASTERS - 2008 - CHRISTINA OITICICA

ARTIST STATEMENT

Since 2002 I have been laying my work in Nature. In 2002 and 2003 in the Pyrenees, in 2004 in the Amazonian jungle, in 2005 in India and from September 2006 onwards in Santiago's Way.

This partnership with nature in a way came out of necessity - I went to live in the Pyrenees and at first I didn't have any space to work since I lived in a hotel. All was extremely difficult and given that I had an exhibition called "Parcours, Recoltes" in a Parisian gallery, I had to find a way to produce large canvases. That's when I started to bring my canvases to the forests. I started noticing the leaves falling in my paintings and soon enough I decided to integrate this in my technique.

Yet this necessity - in my eyes - was not accidental. Normally, things do not happen in the conscious plan, they happen unconsciously.

The bridges that enable us to enter this realm are symbols. They talk directly to our hearts and tell us what is truly necessary. They constantly remind us that we need to be able to open the doors of perception, through our intuitive side.

I always worked with feminine symbols, namely symbols of nutrition, of fecundity and of motherhood. Hence no surprise that earth – The Mother - imposed itself as the very core of my present work.

By offering my works to Nature, I realised that the freewill of the waters and of the winds, as well as the mystery of stones and of the earth, were shaping in an unmistakable way my canvases as well as myself.

My paintings go back to the earth and once they are retrieved, they have accomplished a circle of pregnancy inside the land. To work with the earth is for me to work with the sacred, with the Great Mother, with the Immaculate Conception.

Depending on the soil, the time and the energy of the places in which I bury my canvases, the results differ immensely. The places where I leave my works are all unique and I always feel the need to discover the stories, the myths, and the history of these sites.

Now that I set myself to leave canvases in the soil of St Moritz, I felt I had to learn more about this land. Very quickly I came upon the Sun of St Moritz. This celestial symbol - that I have always taken as a masculine symbol - caught my imagination. Intuitively, I wanted to bring it back to the bosom of the earth, to associate the masculine with the feminine.

In the alchemic tradition – this alliance is the perfect one, since it allies opposites and hence creates completeness.

I was nevertheless surprised when I discovered that actually the Sun in German was a feminine word: *Die Sonne*. Apparently in Celtic and German traditions, the Sun was adored as a Mother and seen as the great provider of life.

Once more the richness of symbols opened my eyes: even before allying the masculine with the feminine, I realize that the golden globe has already taken in its bosom the high lands of St Moritz.

I will also bury in the mountains a copper plate. Once more I was guided to copper by intuition. I felt the need to migrate from the canvas to metals and by "chance" found copper. I found out that this mineral was named after the island of Cyprus, motherland of Goddess of Love – Aphrodite. The symbol of copper was then in alchemy the same as the feminine symbol.

The correspondences that symbols rely upon are at the very center of our imagination and they emerge from the natural elements. As Bachelard would say – the four elements are the "hormones of imagination".

When I lay my work in the fields, in the forests, in the river beds, it not only captures the physical element, the space, but the energetic element. The roots, the branches and the leaves that intertwine with the paint – manifest the unseen.

So, the proposal of my work is to go beyond the four sheltering walls, to take the space and go beyond. To go beyond and be affected by the weather conditions, by the circumstances, as Ortega y Gasset used to say.

Nature's print lingers then not only on the canvases but also in our common imagination.

Christina Oiticica