

DREAMBODY – INTERVIEWS

ANNIE

*Rocking feathery, no constraints
Dancing on tenderness, never afraid
There is no going back to that quiet feast
But why am I drawn to where I have been*

The river is
a strong father, a caring mother
and a playful child

The river has many voices
sometimes comforting
sometimes pushing you to be stronger
sometimes calling you to adventure

One wave can throw over everything that you deem important

The Rhine is proud
Proud about the pleasure it brings to people
To have them enjoy swimming, sailing, fishing, help them to find peace, to breathe
The Rhine IS

The Rhine doesn't have to put an effort
We have to work to feel proud about ourselves; the Rhine doesn't
We have to work to get things done; the Rhine simply is the Rhine

Be in the moment - This is what is
Hear the wind through the leaves, Hear the water
Feel the sunlight on your skin
Nature around you
No worries about tomorrow

*Flow falters
Sadness overcome
So beautiful that it hurts
Stone smoothened by hard water
With some sharp edges
When the flow falters
Each polishing wipe one of life's doldrums
Like a current it passes by
Accelerates
Twirls you around and around
Until tickle death follows
Plays with you, rocks you
Suddenly slams you onto basalt blocks
Pain drowns anger
Until you understand, and learn, and conciliate
Life is not merely to float
In a bath with rose petals
Rest only waits at the end*

HUGO

I like to think of the river as a person. River goddesses or nymphs always are women – that's why I think of her as a woman. Except when she is threatening, then she becomes a man.

On this side of the river, which is the more lush side compared to the dryer, sandy Wageningen side, the river shows her femininity through the blossoms on the fruit trees and through her fertility.

Here, I sense the seasons very strongly, and therefore I also sense the seasons within myself.

The river stands for the connection with the rest of the world in a very literal way. When the snowline rises in the Alps, the water level rises here. The world actually flows through. The feeling that I am part of this world makes it spiritual in a way.

To me, the river is not earthly; it is too lively to be considered earthly. She is a dancing woman.

You ask me, how do I see the river? But... river "how do you see me?"



MARK

I'm working in my atelier at the Rhine for three years now. That's just a coincidence, if coincidence exists, of course.

The presence of the river influences my mindset when I enter my atelier. It's never the same. The floodplains, the river... every day different.

My work is about nature, about energy, about flow. Via Energetica, road of energy. The river is a beautiful imagination of that. How everything flows to the sea, the mother of everything.

The only thing that matters is that everything is constantly changing shape. That's the basis for my art.

You will die in any case, that's the only sure thing there is. So look around carefully. Use all your senses.

I am inspired by stories from an old Taoist master. I let the stories inspire me, and images follow. And paintings follow...

In India, I work a lot with river clay. It quickly dries and crackles by the sun and the wind. It's beautiful that nature recreates the same shapes: these crackles are little rivers too.

Looking at the history of the planet, we realize how many shapes life has had already. To me, this is the ultimate proof that life is only about change of shape.

Good art should evoke questions. That, if someone looks at my work, a thought arises, which is valuable to that person. A thought that otherwise wouldn't have been there...

SOPHIE

Every year the river spreads a thin layer of sludge, covering the land and becoming craquelé – it somehow touches me. It is something very loving to me.

The world might be without war, but I think it will not happen as this is the meaning of our existence on earth, where you have to relate to resources of which some have more than others... hence, you will be challenged.

When my oldest brother and his friend in 1947 took our goat to the floodplains, my brother stepped onto the last landmine...

It is beautiful to root in a place because you are creating something there, something practical. It is so important to work with your hands, with your heart.

...the war as a transforming process... what can you do when something like that comes along? It is not just about what you can learn from it, but especially about to what it could inspire us.

I honour creation. To connect with Mother Earth and with the plants... what they need.

I sense the river as a life-giving stream that flows through my life.

Thinking of standing in the middle of the bridge makes me sense the vertical connection to its full embodiment. The life on earth and the deep connection to heaven. I am convinced that you come from a place, you go to another, and the rest I do not know. We are moving...

You should not stay on the side. You should go in! Life is flowing and it will never stop moving. All these dimensions of life on earth and life in heaven, past and future. And in addition all the connections to people here in the present, but also our far ancestors. You are in a web... It is breath-taking and so special to see how everything is connected to everything.

Nothing is for nothing, and nothing is a given. So it is nice to be simply given something. That is the beauty.



This symbol was created by the visionary artist Nicholas Roerich as a symbol of human unity. The Roerich Pact and the Banner of Peace is an international treaty signed by India, the Baltic States, and 22 nations of the Americas including the United States. The Roerich Peace Act established an artistic heritage with a symbolic banner, the Banner of Peace. Signed in 1935, this treaty is international law today. The three small circles represent the arts, science and spirituality within the one greater circle of culture. The colour of the Banner is red to represent the blood we all share.