ARTIST STATEMENT EXPO PARIS 2015

The main Inspiration and Motivation of my work as a sculptor, is the deep desire to disentangle the true nature of Form. Were does Form comes from and why does it mysteriously manifest in a certain way, following a sacred, hidden pattern, tangible in the whole UNIVERSE, both in micro and macro structures of all the elements? That is the core question, propelling my livelong artistic research.

In the beginning of my career I was very much inspired by both, nature itself and other artists inspired by nature, like Henry Moore, Max Ernst and Jean Arp. I was also fascinated by the approach used by Ernst and Arp, which is called the Free Association: By clearing the mind and looking at the chaos in a contemplative way, one is enabled to get a glimpse of the essence or “truth” beyond reality and translate it intuitively into an inspired artwork, avoiding the ratio and the planning of the mind, which could lead to “artificial” results.

The theory of Plato’s Universe of Ideas says, that beyond our World of illusion, imperfection, impurities and changes, which is our material World, there is a real world of forms, were Perfection, Beauty and Truth always existed and eternally will exist as a concept. I see it as my artistic challenge to approach these eternal Qualities as much as possible and transcribe them into matter.

Some 30 years ago,I first heard about the concept, that form follows Sound and Frequencies, in Joachim E. Berendt s Book “The World is Sound”. I was very impressed by his Theory, which explains, that any Form on Earth is created by sound and also that all the planets in our solar system are tuned, following the exact frequency and proportions of the 7 tones in our Music Scale.

The reasons I started with the planet series six years ago were the following:

In the first place I was tired of having a square block as a starting point to sculpture and secondly I discovered the work of Ernst Hackel about the Art Forms of the ocean, especially the Diatoms. With their exquisitely beautiful silica shells Diatoms are among the most fascinating and inspiring microfossils/ microstructures. Some rocks are formed almost entirely of fossil diatoms and curiously, not only symbolically, become my raw material to work on.

As I started with the Planets and the other sculptures, using the diamond hollow drill as a main sculpting tool, my sculptures became much lighter, more transparent, and each time more intuitive. The working process is now less planned and more like an improvisation of a musician. It is also more fun. My goal now is trying to transform consciousness directly into matter. I imagine the planet sculptures as a frozen 3D Image of the Universe, microseconds after its own creation (Big Bang), driven by the force of sound. I imagine the materialization of the eternal sacred pattern, the so-called cosmic conciseness, into matter and form. “Emptiness is Form. Form is emptiness.

Another part of the puzzle of my research joined the game, when I discovered the Cimatic World. The word Cymatics derives from the Greek 'kyma' meaning 'billow' or 'wave,' to describe the periodic effects that sound and vibration have on matter. Each pure frequency is able to produce a particular tree dimensional image/ form, using e.g. water as a medium. These pure Sounds or Frequencies are not only producing a perfect and beautiful circular structure, but also have a proven healing effect on the human body, our ambience and the whole planet. I can personally feel this heeling effect on myself, helping me to solve my inner battles and to go further with my personal evolution. It is a great pleasure and satisfaction for me, trying to pass this on to the world, using my Artwork as a medium.

We used these inspirations for our most recent Instalation ”Mandala”/ “FOR YOU” (in Cooperation with my partner Philippine Leroy Beaulieu) as well as for the Installation “Planet”, Nuit Blanche Paris 2014.

I produced the most recent Planets and the recent SHINE-ON using the same concept: Sound/ vibration creates form.

I believe that Beauty is not only a subjective Human perception, but a divine concept, transmitted by words, sounds and frequencies. These Vibrations have a clearly perceptible impact on our ambience, our Planet and all of its beings. I see a prove of that in the Art forms of nature, the Projection of cimatic forms and the images of frozen water crystals, formed by the power of words and Intentions. (see also the Work of Masaru Emoto)

The awareness that Size doesn’t matter, is another important aspect of my work:

The microstructure of a Diatom, or the structure of a cimatic projection, is as important in its influence to my Sculptures, as the macrostructure of the Planets, of the Galaxies and of the whole UNIVERSE.

Matthias Contzen may 2015