



## **THE MYSTERIOUS JOURNEY OF BECOMING A SOCIAL ARTIST The Deeper Work and Training of the 2007 Summer Intensive in Social Artistry: The World Shift Game and How to Play It.**

Let us explore the nature and development of our call to service in ways that link inner and outer realities, universal plans and passionate commitment. But what to do, where to go, how to take initiative, and what is key here, how to understand your role as leader and social artist in this most compelling moment of human history. Ultimately, this is what the Summer Institute in Social Artistry is all about and why the trainings and teachings, sharing and reflections will take you places you never thought to go.

Let us now reflect and consider these learnings in the light of present need and the need for a new kind of leader, a social artist who is also artful of the ways of the inner landscape.

I say this especially in the light of present conditions and lack of leadership. Too many of the problems in societies today stem, in part, from leadership that is ill prepared to deal with present complexity. This is not just a matter of inadequate training in the realities of global change, but even more tragically, a lack of human resourcefulness, leaders living out of a field of awareness that is both limited and limiting in their abilities to deal with the world as it is today. Worldwide, societies are crying for assistance in the transformation of their citizens, organizations, and institutions. But sadly, the preparation of leaders who can rise to this challenge is hampered by training that leaves the greatest of the students natural resources unexplored and insufficient. The leader, like most of society, emerges as a highly compromised version of what he or she could be. And the state of the world reflects this in a most dangerous way. The density and intimacy of the global village and the staggering consequences of our new knowledge and technologies make us directors of a world that has, up to now, mostly directed us. What is alarming is the absence of social artists (i.e., skilled facilitators, entrepreneurs and leaders) to advise and lead the shift to new values and practices. Leadership today is caught uncertain and unprepared in the face of too much happening too quickly. Few have been trained for the task of dealing with the complexity and chaos of today's world while at the same time the usual formulas and stopgap solutions born of an earlier era will not help us. As Albert Einstein reminded us, the consciousness that created the problem cannot be the same consciousness that solves it.

Worldwide, societies are crying for assistance in the transformation of their citizens, organizations and institutions. The need is to achieve a new humanity and a new way to nur-

ture the species and nature. The need is to develop the possible human in a possible society.

What we will be dealing with in this Summer Intensive in Social Artistry is the art and science of transformation leadership, leadership that is one of the mysteries of the human as he or she lives a life of alignment, refinement and contact to the divine purposes and patterns of evolutionary possibilities. This is the art of world making, spirit catching, mind growing, and soul quaking leadership.

## **Creation**

**Let us begin with the nature of creation seen now in the light of the social artist Leader as high creative who participates in the art of new creation.** Herein, in the mystery of creative leadership we are called to explore the mystery itself as an interface between engagement with external realities and embrace of the inner journey. Creative leadership especially in the social artist form is contemplative leadership, a vital synergy between inner and outer realities necessary to transform organizations, institutions, paths of possibility, as well as visionary endeavors, and, in so doing, unleashing the human spirit of those who compose the institution or endeavor and of those who are served by this. It is an activity of extraordinary balance, a tension in repose.

Recently, Barry Heermann shared, “For me, the metaphor of a taught rubber band fits perfectly. . . tense, strident, stretched to its limit. At one end of the rubber band is deep solitude, quiet, silence, contemplation, the inner journey and at the other end is radical breakthrough in the world, generating unprecedented service and contribution that changes EVERYTHING, the lives of others, our life. It is like a Zen koan. These seemingly exclusive opposites CAN and DO converge; with the rubber band in its relaxed position.

For me, creative, contemplative Leadership is about a zone in which paradox occurs. It is a space where the sacred emerges and the local self disappears. It is a space of exquisite silence and of extraordinary service. It is a space wherein there is a fusing and blending of silence and service. In such a state one has access to the creative, world making patterns of the universe, and perhaps too, to the place where one's unique entelechy (guiding intelligence) meets the Entelechy of a potential new time, one that gives the details of an evolution in person and society.

I have come to believe that the entelechy of the self is the local outcropping of the creative plans of the evolutionary universe. In the ancient Hindu text of the Rig Veda we find the concept of the Purusha --the cosmic human out of whose parts the world and all that it contains are created. It is the Purusha in one, the resonance of the universe in miniature who yearns to be rent into fibers and factors that can spawn new realities on earth as it is done in heaven. But it also means being constantly renewed grown, not just given away over and over again till there is nothing much left to you. It means regarding the self as sacred, and nurtured accordingly. In this way you are able to nurture the creative seeds in others. One

becomes both midwife and nurturer. But also one allows oneself to be in situations where one is similarly midwived and nurtured. You know yourself as one who often gives birth to ideas, ventures and to the possibilities in others. It implies a dynamic balance between self-forgetfulness and self-remembrance. For if you do not consistently re-member yourself, you get stale and given out. And yet, the local often has to get out of the way so that you can be a through which in which blessings can flow.

The point to remember is that this Earth of ours is a very special world. I have even called it godschool, so blessed in beauty, opportunity and crisis is it, so filled with tools and techniques, wisdom and failure. I cannot imagine a better place in the universe to be trained in creation. It is the local Hogwarts academy of this part of the galaxy. (Which is probably why Harry Potter is so engaging...It is telling in metaphorical childrens book form a metaphysical tale of great truth and power.) Replace “magic” with godschool and you’ve got the goods on the books.

Now contemplation can take various forms, especially when it comes to creativity. It can be silence and meditation and allowing oneself to be infused with the suchness of being--consciousness without an object except for the whole Blooming Reality. Or it can be infusion by the powers of creators past and present and with these as they are held in the mind-body of the universe itself.

One of the glories as well as the passions of the western mind is the notion coming from down from the Platonists is that of the eternal ideas. The genius of the west was the dialoguing with the eternal ideas. This has led to the prodigality of invention both technical and social in ways that you simply do not find in most of the world. It also, alas, led to their horrendous over emphasis on materialism.

## **Time**

**Great Social Artistry leadership embodies the genius of time and timing.** It is not only knowing when to act and when not to. It is also to be aware of different peoples timing. You note how different cultures can live in different time zones; i.e. the tendency to monochronic timing in the west, and polychronic timing especially in indigenous cultures. But this is also true of individuals as well. And the mystery of the social artist as leader is one in which she tunes into the nature of both cultural, historic and individual time zones. Certain time zones like our own right now are jump times, times of punctuated equilibrium when the present and future are ripe for renovation. Now what is so interesting about this is that the time calls forth leadership skills and initiatives in people who under more quiet conditions would be tending to business as usual. That is why so many have felt, called, drawn forth, evoked, unsettled, shot through the proverbial cannon by the times? That I why as part of your task you have to ask people over and over again:

In what directions do I need to grow to develop a fuller use of my potential?

What might I do to develop them?

What qualities, skills, talents are dormant in me that could be expressed more fully?

How would developing these qualities better the world and give me the courage and vision to take on the tasks and challenges of a social artist?

What can I do to apply these qualities and become a leader in my own community?

These are the promptings of the entelechy--yours and that of histories. These are the questions that fine social artists ask, and in answering and acting upon these answers the social artist continues to grow. Different time zones require different potentials. Then there is the question of the uses of sacred time.

Sacred Time has been described as

“. . .a space of liberty, of silence in which possibilities are allowed to surface and new choices -- beyond routine choice -- become manifest. It should create a new experience of time . . . Ones own time. But not dominated by one's own ego and its demands. Hence open to others -- compassionate time. . .”

It is critical that the leader allow themselves plenty of regular sacred time. It is often ritualized and invitational to the higher powers. It can be just a state of deep silence, or a placing oneself in a prepared space in which one downloads or dialogues with larger realities. It often involves an alteration of consciousness away from one's normal form. In this state the leader is as Jesus was self described when he said, “I am in this world but not of it.”

Now here lies the mystery of time for the leader. It is how to open the portals of great time and bring it into local time. It is how to bring in durative time into punctual time, the time of myth into the time of history. How one does this? By involving the group one is working with in a great story. Either by employing a known myth or by making it up with the group, allowing the personal particulars to become part of the personal universals. In this way local time is transcended and the intelligence and wisdom of high time is tapped into.

As I have shown in some of my books, mythic means provides us with an extraordinary array of tools, of which one is access to the wisdom of other realms, times and places.

During the Summer Intensive in Social Artistry I demonstrate how to do this. We will

take any story, and show you how to develop exercises within the story that moves people beyond themselves into mythic space and time, into a larger story for person, organization, culture, and planet.

## **Magic**

**The leader as Magus is one for whom the practice of magic is as natural as breathing.** In fact it becomes second nature. This requires of you a facility to self orchestrate consciousness along the continuum of states of consciousness to a place wherein one can change the state of one's own being and from there the events of the world. One of the main ways this is done is through deeper states of consciousness- wherein one is no longer bound to the usual laws of form, and therefore has access to a much more fluid and malleable universe. As one gains access to these then even one's more ordinary states of consciousness- those that have to do with reason and intuition become more integrated.

As Peter Senge has said, "People with high levels of mastery do not set out to integrate reason and intuition. Rather, they achieve it naturally-as a by-product of their commitment to use all the resources at their disposal. They cannot afford to choose between reason and intuition, or head and heart, any more than they would choose to walk on one leg or see with one eye."

The leader as magus learns to activate his physical and emotional energy so as to generate a field in which intention can more readily move towards manifestation. Making magic is a dynamic process by which you co-create reality with Spirit. And ultimately, all real magic is a manifestation of the Divine. This implies the sense of the Divine filling the world everywhere and in everything--thus all things including oneself is filled with this sacred energy. The practice here is to make oneself a conduit through which the sacred energy can flow. One receives and fills oneself with it, lets the energy do its magic on oneself and then directs this energy to a particular intention.

This leader lives in a state in which he or she knows that everything is possible--it is not a question of belief--it is absolute knowing. thus he or she lives in a different universe with much more pliable laws than most people agree to. longer periods of time.

I think that it is fair to say that many of us now feel less ambiguity around the fact that we live in a magical universe. What the leader is able to utilize and stay in touch with is the new metaphors drawn from science and the spiritual technologies of other cultures. Thus, you as leader allow for your relationship to the larger to invite the wonderful as probable--the magical reality. So for example, depth psychology, and sacred psychology as well as cross cultural studies on the nature of the psyche as I noted before suggest that we all possess access to an inner realm, one that contains the energies of archetypal stories and myths, the tales of inspirational folk from history, as well as the great creative patterns that guide and instruct us. Within these realms there may well be advanced and enhanced forms for society,

healing, invention, creativity in arts and sciences, secrets to the way things work. Seedbeds planted with all manner of possibilities can be contacted there, farmed and grown. This realm also subsumes the panoply of numinous borderline persons or “gods” who serve as “rivers to the Source” as well as vehicles through which we come to understand our strengths as well as our shadows. Our new appreciation of the inherent polytheism of the psyche allows us to become more playful and more productive and therefore more magical in the ways in which we approach what we used to think of as “gods.” The leader learns to “download” programs from this region that were previously thought to be beyond our scope. Nobel physicist David Bohm has postulated a primary order of reality which is implicate, enfolded, and all-encompassing, just as the DNA in the nucleus of a cell encompasses the coding for potential life and directs the nature of its unfolding. In Bohm’s terms, the implicate order is a grand frequency that contains in essence all other dimensions and knowledge. Buddhist and Hindu metaphysical systems also speak of a primary ground of being wherein all patterns and potentials exist. In contemplative or resonant states of consciousness, we can come into relationship with this primary order and receive the pattern, if not the details, of the knowledge we require.

After all, it is all about energy, and it is there to be orchestrated, shaped, loved, felt—more - to evolve it into being. That is magic, and the task of the leader as magician is to prepare his or her mind, body, heart, and above all, feeling being so as to transcend the obstructions of millennia of conscious noughting, and enter literally a new way of being that lead to a new form of reality. The good leader teaches his or her participants that they are walking magnets, always attracting what it is we are sending out on the frequency vibrations. Thought patterns are magnets, but when amplified by emotional power, are powerful magnets. The philosopher and practitioner of magic will tell you that the world of life is to a great extent created and maintained through the expression of emotional energy. And that is why the control and orchestration of emotional energy is the secret of all magic in all times and places. It is spiritual energy joined to emotional energy, which together creates an extraordinary quality of sheer feeling that has the power to bring about changes and manifestation in all manner of things. It calls realities into being—be they for healing or abundance or social change or friendship or the success of any endeavor. Give me examples.... Thus the leader as magus teaches ways to help override the collective negative vibrations that are coming to us all the time from a world in stress and fear and torment.

## **Faith**

**The leader offers the basis for a new understanding of faith.** Faith in its fullness is truly the movement in body, mind and consciousness from one perception of reality to another. It is a visceral, dynamic, richly felt event, and it thereby brings about extraordinary changes in the nature of one’s daily reality. The leader helps others to actualize their faith and the changes that come with their faith.

Here are some of the steps the leader initiates in herself and others.

**1. The leader helps one to realize that the paradigm within which you are operating is failing you.** This could be in matters of health as well as issues of boredom, dissociation, sense of futility, losses of any or all sorts-love, reputation, profession, religion, a dread before the declining culture, a sense of being caught in same old-same old--the nausea of the eternal return, general stasis or stuckness, sense that your life is not going anywhere, or even that you are at a crossroads but nothing is happening, dismay over the world's condition, a sense that there is a better way and even a better world but you do not know-how to get there or to help others to get there, a sense that you have all these potentials and skills but they are not being used, the hearing of a call that is growing dimmer as you are growing older, and so on. It is a miserable list, but the leader offers it in a form of tough love, a kick in the pants showing that you need a new mind, a new mind and new eyes with which to see the world and time at a deeper and more meaningful level. The leader helps one in allowing a paradigm shift.

**2. The leader incites you to exploration, to leave your shell and start calling, talking, reading unlikely books, knocking on doors, engaging counselors, therapists, shamans.** In this, the leader is always servant, never Lord. It is the organic versions of ask and you shall receive, knock and it shall be opened unto you. It is the request for a match to re-ignite your pilot light. The point is that you physically do something to move you out of the old no longer working condition. You announce to the universe in very specific and active ways that you are ready to change your belief structure. It is an SOS to the universe. It is also the statement of willingness to respond to the evolutionary principle that is beating upon your brain pan, announcing a potential new development in your development.

**3. And so the next phase is the process of changing the outmoded structure.** Many people leave home, marriage, the faith of their fathers, the place where they live, their jobs, friends, and old support systems in order to leave the old structure, hoping that the new one will arrive from somewhere in the new if unknown horizon. The leader leads the journey --and it is one of revelation. This is very important in the mystery of faith, because it assumes that one is delving into mysteries of the human condition as it related to the Divine matrix, mysteries that transform the body and mind as they reveal the relationship of the self to the whole, and empower the faith recipient to express himself in richly creative new ways. In other words, to become a revelation to others, an intellectual and psychological beacon, and an evocateur of new patterns, new relationships, new discoveries. One brings new mind and new matter to an old world, and serves as catalyst of change, and pathfinder of deeper realities.

**4. One agrees to engage spiritual technologies old and new to explore the brave new worlds of the inner continents.**

The point is, that whatever means one uses, once the heart and mind are fired, then all manner of change is possible. So it is critical to ask where are the firing points. And what

new ways or old ones may I use to bring them to proper heat and concentration. My mode, as some of you know, is to start academically and intellectually so that one feels reasonably comfortable and then come out of left field with a radical perception or technique that shakes up the old reality and opens a person to perceptions and realities that can be very different from the old. This is what is sometimes known as Metanoia - or big mind quake.

**5. The leader then helps one make a commitment to a daily process, for once the portals of new faith are opened, one cannot fairly recede to the backrooms of ordinary ways of being and thinking.** It requires the discipline of stepping forward and diving within, searching, asking, receiving, exploring, and constantly reflecting upon the largess of Being that is being revealed. The doors or perception are being cleansed and one sees reality for what it is--Infinite. One's mind-brain system is being restructured and to stop the process out of laziness or old habits is to deny one's destiny and jump the track from one's evolutionary calling. So, a certain rigor of purpose is necessary here. In many traditions this is where the faith community serves to keep one faithful to the process, although there too, it can degenerate into static rituals and tedious credos, not to speak of the tyranny of collective assent. It may therefore be necessary to co-create with others a smaller, more adventurous faith community of a few friends who support each other in the commitment to their individual process. And in terms of the mystery of social artist leadership this is what happens--the creation of an adventurous faith community.

**6. Social artist encourages people to sing, dance, write, ecstasize and celebrate the new faith paradigm** and all that it is giving you in creative expressions and all manner of life affirming, life advancing actions.

## **Healing**

Healing involves the mystery of change, of transformation, and of the incredibly fluid nature of our body, minds and psyches, and by extension, of our societies and cultures. We live in a world that is ripe for healing, and this is ultimately what motivates the social artist to take initiatives. **What the social artist knows and projects is that we are built for healing.** The nature and process of healing, the varieties of the healing experience for both persons and societies seem to be the very condition of our humanity, the training ground for our evolutionary unfoldment, and our reason for being. Now to me, the critical issue here, and the one that distinguishes the great and inspired social artist or leader compared to the ordinary run of the mill one is the mystery as to whether they regard healing as redemptive or creative. Redemptive or Creative. Salvational or Evolutional. Many of the world's great religions and their leaders, - Christianity, Judaism, Islam in their popular mode, the parts that are meted out to the folks, are essentially redemptive in their philosophies and liturgies. One is always trying to fix the old Adam. Or, if one cannot, then one assures one's followers of ultimate fixing on another plane after death. In our traditional medical technology and healing practice, the

emphasis is almost entirely on the redemptive. This redemptive mode is carried over in many other of our healing programs, the programs for substance abuse, for mental and emotional therapy, and yes, for attack and counterattack, for jihad and defense. One has to take on all manner of extreme measures to fix the fallen state. Thus the high technology of the high technologies of current redemptive medicine and the high technology of armaments. No mythic and symbolic level in redemptive fundamentalism - and therefore no space for anything else. Current leadership of this country seems to exist exclusively in the redemptivist mode.

The evolutionary state which the more advanced social artist employs works on an entirely different basis for life and for healing. In traditional religions it is found in the mystic traditions. Herein we find in most every mystical tradition the archetype of transformation. There is somewhere to go, there is something to become. Even illness contains within itself the notion of deconstruction leading to a higher reconstruction, chaos leading to cosmos. We are reflections of God and the illness of self and society serves to open the windows of our mind to receive this reflection in a stronger, purer way. Healing is wholing, the move from a limited condition felt in a most painful way through a process leading to the creation on a new level of a higher order of mind, emotions and physical being. This evolutionary agenda does not have to be so explicit. For example, the soul and mind may be healed while the body may seem to remain the same. But generally even in the continued suffering something has changed. The wounds in the body or of the society are experienced as doorways to higher consciousness and more evolved forms.

For now let us say that the leader as healer to be truly effective should work within the evolutionary framework. She should respect the uniqueness of each person she is working with. As healing leader your gift is to empower this uniqueness and this creative ability so that the person you are working with is able to take responsibility for their own well-being. This means that to be truly effective, you have to be in a flow-of-life state yourself. In this way you can help yourself and the other to see the illness as an evolutionary process. This allows the flow of healing energy. the healer uses the hurt or illness as the opportunity to bring forth knowledge. You tune into earth currents, life currents, even God currents. This allows you your charism. Then you are able to transfer current, or activate the current in the other. This current is made up of love, emotional energy, physical energy, subtle body energy, intelligence energy and God energy or cosmic energy. It is a matter of ignition or re-ignition. The leader as social artist as healer is the one who helps people to ignite themselves, and does not take the credit for the ignition, or otherwise people continue in the old dependency models and are led like sheep. The really good social artist healer is an evocateur who shows people how to access their inner wisdom and knowledge.

## **The Beloved**

The leader as social artist is a romancer, an inciter of spiritual eros. He or she calls others to a remembrance of their own beloved of the soul. One thinks of Mother Teresa and the Dalai Lama--high spiritual eros people--drawing others into engagement with their own souls and the unfolding of their soul's code because they themselves have so deep and constant a relationship to their own beloved of the souls. The mystery of the social artist therefore must include the mystery of the great Lure itself, the possibility of loving partnership with the Divine Beloved. In giving energy and commitment to this spiritual partnership you as social artist-leader build up loving capabilities to all the realms of existence, both visible and invisible as well as spiritual partnership with those who you are working with. This, then is the mystery of loving and leadership that is led by loving exists in a state of profound and fairly constant creativity and quickening of others in their esteem and creativity. Now we know that love transforms the way we see, think, dream, act, engage the world, serve others and even transcend our local selves. Love is the source of much creative endeavor-- songs, poetry, writing, dreaming, human folly, and human glory. It is what wakes us up, keeps us going. As we love more, we honor more, we see and accept more: we honor pain, beauty, each other's paths, we honor each other. This is where the social artist as loving evocateur makes fertile the fields of action in which his or her co-workers farm. With love we become more intelligent and creative, for we are open to the patterns of intelligence from the whole network of life. We come to glimpse the wonder of life in its infinite forms, and the wonder that is within us. Quite simply, with love we are able to exceed our local conditions, we evolve. So the role of the social artist here is to be able to open himself or herself to such a loving resonance. In terms of the mystery it would be first with the beloved, and then seeing the resonance of the beloved in all others. For the social artist it means the discovery of strategies and practices of loving that then can become daily practice, constant application. This may be the greatest learning of them all, the one that probably has the greatest good for life on this planet-- the learning how to commit to making the choice of loving. It is going beyond the unconscious loving or restricted loving according to the demands of culture or family.

As you do this you will discover that the universe is alive and loving and as you move towards it--it moves towards you, in its particular parts. The loving leader is the one who magnetizes events and people by virtue of their spiritual eros. For the leader it begins with conscious appreciation, perhaps even conscious awareness of the lure of becoming, the powers of attraction. The universe grows by its connections and its attractions, atoms to atoms, molecules to molecules, bodies to bodies, groups to groups, and now nations to nations, and finally the world as lover, world as self. These affections and connections are part of the Godbeing finding the forms of its relationships through the love that moves the sun and all the stars and causes the lure of becoming as the principle of attraction. And that is why those who enter into the primordial primacy of relationship to God or spirit as the beloved

find that this then spills over to all things - like Francis loving the worm on the road, or a criminal no one else can stand. What the loving leader does is to give the quality of attention and devotion that people give to a garden, thus they bloom -- in the garden of there. In all of these ways and more the leader as social artist become servant, friend, and co-participant in the great game of life, turning followers into leaders and creating the field in which one can abandon oneself to the strength of others. The leader is servant. I have said this over and over, using Robert Greenleaf's great phrase about servant leadership. The leader helps remove the obstacles that prevent people from being all they can be, thereby enabling them to realize their potential. The leader as social artist is a listener and listens to the ideas, needs, aspirations and wishes of others and then helps them achieve it. Ultimately, in my belief, it is about Godseed in resonance with Godseed, God talking to god I the great play of life and passion and evolution and co-creation.

Ultimately, it is about all of us together co-creating the ever-unfolding reality as stated so powerfully by Teilhard de Chardin:

“The outcome of the world, the gates of the future, the entry into the super-human, these are not thrown open to a few of the privileged nor to one chosen people to the exclusion of all others. They will open to an advance of all together, in a direction in which all together can join and find completion in a spiritual renovation of the earth.”

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