

UNIFIED FIELD QUEST :: WHERE PAINTING & POETRY COLLIDE WITH pARTicle PHYSICS

When ☼ne is eXplaining the ways in which diVersity might collide &/or become entangled with Multiplicity in Unity, one could certainly do worse than cite a few lines from that self-confessed container of multitudes, namely the great 19th-century American poet Walt Whitman, who in his 'Kosmos' characterizes himself as one "Who includes diVersity & is Nature . . . / Who holds duly his or her proportion of realism, spiritualism, & of the aesthetic or intellectual . . . / Who out of the theory of the eARTh & of his or her body understands by subtle analogies all other theories . . . / Who believes not only in our globe with its sun & moon, but in other globes with their suns & moons . . . / The past, the future, dwelling tHere, like space, inseparable together."

So, what say we segue to Horace's notion of 'Ut pictura poesis' (= 'As is painting, so is poetry,' with a quantum twist. For Carlo Rovelli, who is a theoretical physicist at the Centre de Physique Theoretique in Marseille, France, "Quantum theory invites us to see the physical world as a {subtle, weblike} net of relations. Objects are its n◊des." In fact, Rovelli very cleverly 'echoes' the InSight Hamlet addresses to Horatio conCERNing there being "FEWER things in heaven & eARTh than are dreamt of in your philosophy." Where this gets yet MORE entangled is that the Bard's 'Horatio' was more than casually connected with the Roman Horace, whose "Ars Poetica" was the source for the aforereferenced adage 'Ut pictura poesis.' To hark back to 'Sign'or Rovelli, the physical world we inhabit is "made up of interrelations. The world is a perspectival game, a play of mirrors that eXist only as reflections on & in each other." Welcome to the phantasmal world of quanta.

Should you perchance be inclining towards yet another level of connectivity, it smites this connector of d◊ts as an opportune moment to factor the seriously Arcane (Kabbalah, Hermeticism, Tarot) & Visionary Surrealist painter Leonora Carrington into this would-be United Field equation. Having been born in Lancashire, UK, she & Max Ernst became an item before WWII forced her to become a major player in MeXico in the milieu of Frida Kahlo, Diego Rivera, &, most 'sign'ificantly, Remedios Varo. Prior to which escape from the clutches of the Nazis, there had in fact been a purlieus-of-Marseille connection, with Max Ernst imprisoned near there by the Vichy regime. But that's another story involving the so-called 'American Oskar Schindler,' Varian Fry, whose ARC & ERC resistance organizations saved the lives of an estimated 2,000 people in harm's way, the likes of Hannah Arendt, Marc Chagall, Andre Breton, Alma (Mahler) & Franz Werfel among them. Should you be inclined to 'book up' on the subject, the Villa Air-Bel near Marseille played a central r◊le.

Over & beyond being one of the greatest artists of the 20th century, Carrington became a founding member of the MeXican Women's Liberation Movement in 1973. Carrington was also a great fan of Octavio Paz's poem, 'Mariposa de ◊bsidiana/◊bsidian Butterfly' :: "I am now but a blue feather that a bird loses in the brambles . . . / I am the mountain that creates you as it dreams . . . / The house on fire, the primordial p◊t where man is cooked & becomes {hu}man{e} . . . / I disappeared through the shining door of my hand mirror. / I was the tattooed noon & naked midnight . . . / & the nightingale that summons the dead . . . / Each night is an eyelid the th◊ms never stop piercing . . . / I am tired of the many st◊ne heads scattered in the dust. / I am al◊ne & fallen, a kernel of corn pulled from the ear of time . . . / In my navel the whirlwind grows calm. I am the fiXed centre that moves the dance." (as trans. by Eliot Weinberger) A S◊liloquy, if you like, on the Centrality of Unity.

As Sherlock would no doubt be tempted to quip, 'It doesn't get more elementary.' For, verily, to quote the Primal CatoSophist, namely Yo Meow Ma :: "The ground marries the sky & they are ☼ne" -- age-old Wisd◊M found inscribed in ◊chre within a sandst◊ne burial chamber deep in the inner fastnesses of the Taklan Makan desert in Western China, as assembled & trans. by Joanna SandsmArk, MJF Books, NYC, 2005). In other words, how to quantify Multiplicity in Unity?