

## A color essence of the world

Earth has been the theme of my work over almost four decades, earth in a most concrete and tangible way: I use it when I paint, I paint outside allowing nature – wind, rain and sun - to be my accomplices. As I have traveled the world to work on every continent, locations where I paint have included salt and sand deserts, volcanoes and prehistoric caves, rock formations and river beds. The painting materials are all provided by nature in situ, the colors are minerals, sand, incrustations, glimmer and mud providing a wealth of shades of reds, blues, yellows and greens. In the last 14 years I have added meteorite dust to my canvases to include the hemisphere.

The results of these „earth paintings“ pay homage to mother earth in a very direct and specific way. In creating a distillate of natural environments on canvas, they propose to the viewer the idea that creation itself is a work of art. Every landscape with its colors, shapes, cultural and historical imprint and the vestiges of indigenous populations ( especially in the case of the Aborigines and the Native Americans) is quietly assembled into a cosmos of local pigment. Captured on canvas and transformed into an abstract painting, the earth paintings embody the very energy of their land.

For me my paintings are an open invitation to the viewer to connect to our planet, to trigger an awareness for our place between coming and going. They are a reflection on the beauty and of the beauty of our planet. This is a permanent feature even in a world of climate change and multiple crises. The Project The painting in question measures 7m x 1.9m. It is right now in Utah, Arizona, where I am planning to paint the back of the canvas this summer. This earth painting is exceptional within the corpus of my work in that for once I am not going to be using pigment from Utah alone, but from all the continents that I have visited and worked at over the years. I will be using earth colors from Chile, from Iceland, Australian red pigment with green pigment from Armenia, black lava from Arizona with Senegalese red, white from the Easter Islands and yellow from Egyptian Aswan and many more. The canvas will be a dialogue of colors, a visual expression of the diversity of the continents, their countries, their histories and their peoples. It is a statement of peace and community, an articulation of unity and equality. A circular earth painting of similar content measuring 1.9m in diameter will complete this project: thus assembled and positioned at the UN, it could be an artistic reminder, a visual invitation to sit down and solve the

global problems we face on our planet today.

This political statement can be seen as a subtext to this project but it is not my primary concern. As an artist I see my role in opening to the viewer an idea and an access to the beauty of our world as found in the very stuff it is made of: minerals and the dust of stars, heaven and earth materials. There is no more to it – and no less. And all in all it is actually quite simple.

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