



cosmovisions

Ulrike Arnold & Victor Van Keuren
Earth paintings & Photography

Fundación de Artistas Mérida invite us to visit the work of the famous German artist Ulrike Arnold, who is visiting Yucatan for the first time.

The artist is fascinated by the most important meteor impact on earth here in Yucatan. She has spent one and a half month as a resident at the Fundación. Her paintings, mainly on canvas, are works realized with earth and rocks of the region to which she adds meteorite dust donated by a scientist. We will also present the work of the American photographer Victor van Keuren, who will show macro photography and films, and has documented the entire creative process of the artist.

The presentation will take place on February 10 at 8pm at the Fundación de Artistas and will conclude on April 22, celebrating Earth Day.

Ulrike Arnold www.ulrikearnold.com

"I want to capture the essence of the place".

Ulrike Arnold has travelled throughout the world to work at remote sites often associated with ritual or magical properties, her materials are the stones and earth she finds there. These are applied, often by hand, to create earth paintings in nature. She mixes the collected materials with a transparent binder to produce works on canvas. The idea started through visiting the prehistoric cave art of Lascaux, France and later seeing colorful ochres in Provence, and has used this technique since 1980.

These pictures can be read as psychograms of the artist herself but also as travelogues, as visual diaries and as abstract portraits of remote locations. The pieces can be interpreted as aerial views or micro/macro cosmos.

In her latest works the painter uses meteor-particles (nickel, iron and metal). These precious original substance found on four continents are from asteroids and comets which Ulrike Arnold owes a random meeting with meteor-scientist Marvin Killgore in Arizona.

The star-dust witnesses the early epoch of the universe and that is older than earth.

Ulrike Arnold in Yucatán.

When German artist Ulrike Arnold (b.1950) as a young woman visited the legendary prehistoric caves in southern France with their wall paintings, she received the decisive impulse for her art and her whole life – no difference between both.

With her hometown Düsseldorf, her hut near Flagstaff AR, and the Amangiri Resort, Utah, including the nearby Broken Arrow Cave, as home bases, she travels all continents, the whole world, visiting special places: an ancient cave, a significant rock, a meteoritic impact crater. In South America: the Atacama Desert, Patagonia, the Easter Islands. At these places, Ulrike finds the stones, the sand, her painting materials, and, above all: the spirit to get into communication with nature. Such places are temporary centres of her life, her work is strongly bound to the places she goes to visit, to stay for a while, to live and to work. From the perspective of such temporary centers: the world is round.

What does Ulrike Arnold paint? She paints her presence in time at such places. She paints her actual existence, herself being in relation with all the elements, the climate, the animals, the shape of landscape, the sounds and smells, the sky. She paints her being part of all this in a dance, in this very moment. Making the invisible visible by loading it with energy. By transformation.

Ulrike Arnold leaves some of her works at the places where she has created them, painted rocks in the nowhere. Selections of her paintings are shown in museums and galleries close to these places, all around the world.

Now, January 2017: Mexico, the Yucatan Peninsula.

Notes from the travel log:


“Reaching a spectacular place after 20 minutes: stalactites, colorful, shiny, crystalline looking. Got help to get some material from the cave. ‘We even found some pieces of clay’, my companion said that the Mayas went there to get it”.

“He showed me a pigment of the Mayas, stemming from a sort of paprika plant. Opening the fruit, it has great red pigments which were used for coloring the face. Emerging from the “underworld”, seeing light again.”

“Feeling I have to create round pieces here in Yucatan. With the white sascab and my meteoric dust for sure. Imagine the impact of that giant meteorite, hitting the ground.”

In our recent geological era, the Chicxulub impact structure with an estimated diameter of 180 km and about 66 million years old, is invisible, a submarine part of the Caribbean Basin, eroded, vanished. The only visible round structure is formed by the numerous cenotes, deep caves in the Yucatan limestone, which form a circle, oriented to the ancient outer crater rim.





The colors of Ulrike Arnold's Yucatan paintings are white, beige, grey, brown, a bit of black, and the paprika-red. She paints on round shaped canvases, evocating the ring of cenotes and making the invisible old crater experienceable again. She connects earth and sky by adding some meteorite dust she always carries with her, creating, on a surface: the real deep space.

Matthias Baermann, German curator, author and publisher.
English translation by Johannes Baermann.

About:

Born in Germany (1950), studied music and arts and also became a teacher.
In 1986 joins a Master's Degree program taught by Professor Klaus Rinke at the Academy of Arts in Düsseldorf, as well as starting her tour of the five continents that continues to date.
At the beginnings of her career, she worked exclusively with pencil but the fascination with cave paintings of Lascaux led to the approach by new ways. Among his influences are the Spanish painter Antoni Tàpies and the English painter Joseph Mallord William Turner.
His career includes 32 solo exhibitions (including countries such as Chile, Japan, the United States and his native Germany) and 75 collective exhibitions (Brazil, India, Senegal, Germany).

Main exhibitions:

- 1992: Exhibition of Germany at the United Nations Conference (Republica Museum; Río de Janeiro, Brasil).
- 1994: Pedajonki, African- European Inspiration (Grassi Museum; Leipzig, Alemania).
- 1999: Natural Reality (Ludwig Forum; Aachen, Alemania).
- 2001: 10th International Triennale (National Gallery; New Delhi, India).
- 2011: Hommage to Marianne Langen (Langen Foundation; Neuss, Alemania).
- 2014: DAK'ART 11 Biennale de l'Art Africain Contemporain (Senegal).
- 2014: Atacama Cielo y Tierra (MAC Parque Forestal; Chile).

Victor Van Keuren www.victorvankeurenphotography.com

"World of scale".

"I have always been drawn to the relationship of the Micro/Macro in the natural world. My imagery is taking on a psychological aspect that is free from scale and leaves the viewer the space for personal interpretation".

"We live in a world of scale, from the scale of Cosmos to the scale of the microscopic, all forms have a universality and a primal recognition."

"As I spent time in the jungles of the Yucatan one of the most impressive features was the plant life, so varied, so present and so abstract. These images are my expressions of the worlds at our feet, the amazing forms that are sometimes overlooked. We live in an amazingly diverse, beautiful and abundant world none more than the jungle of the Yucatan"

About:

Victor Van Keuren has been photographing worldwide since 1974.

His work included a wide variety of subjects from National Parks to urban portraits and architecture.

He has lived and photographed in Alaska and Northern Canada from 1980-1988 and also lived and worked in coastal Maine from 1995-2008.

He lived in New York where he was the assistant to commercial photographer, Edgar Praus. There he learned to work with large format cameras, platinum printing and dye-transfer techniques.

Van Keuren studied and worked at the famed Rochester Institute of Technology and the Kodak Laboratories. In Rochester, the George Eastman Museum allowed him many opportunities for exposure to the masters of photography. It was here he discovered the imagery of his biggest influences such as Edward Weston, Paul Caponigro, Minor White and Jerry Uelsmann.

Nowadays divides his time between the Southwest United States and Dusseldorf, Germany.

His most current projects include working on Easter Island and in the Altiplano areas of South America, specifically in Chile and Bolivia.

Studies:

- 1975-1976: Advanced Photography with Janis Miglavs.
- 1983-1985: Rochester Institute of Technology (Rochester, New York, USA).
- 1985: Kodak Laboratories.

Awards:

- Photoworkshops.com (Composition Award Winner).

Work:

- Edgar Praus Productions (Rochester, New York, USA).
- Kodak Laboratories (Rochester, New York, USA).

Exhibitions:

- September 2016: World Tour Exhibitions (Las Vegas, Nevada, USA).
- October 2016: World Tour Exhibitions (Scottsdale, Arizona, USA).

Collections:

- Bank of America (San Francisco, USA).

Publications:

- 2009: Portugal.
- 2016: Dos Desiertos/Cielo y Tierra.
- 2016: Spiritus/Rapa Nui.

We hope to have your presence and coverage by your media in the new events that Fundación de Artistas brings and offer to the yucatecan public.

For more information, press materials or interviews with the artist please contact:

info@fundaciondeartistas.org

Greetings.

Gonzalo Samaranch.

Director.

Fundación de Artistas.

Adress: Calle 55 #520. Mérida, Yucatán, México. CP 97000

Telephone: 999-923-5905

E-mail: info@fundaciondeartistas.org

Website: www.fundaciondeartistas.org

Instagram: [@fundacion_de_artistas](https://www.instagram.com/fundacion_de_artistas)

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