

Expressing the Abduction Phenomena An interview with Rick Smith, painter and poet

by Joan Carra

I met Rick Smith, at the UFO Arts Festival in NYC. It was a multi media event that presented lecturers, painters, musicians and poets expressing the pain, bewilderment and excitement of the abduction experience. These weren't sci-fi enthusiasts, but people who had actual terrifying experiences. The N.Y. Times even did a two-page report on this budding arts' movement. Three galleries were devoting shows to this theme and musicians and poets were performing.

I was both M.C. of the event and a veteran performing UFO poet. Rick Smith, at the time, a fine arts student at SUNY College, lectured and presented his artwork, which was both intense and passionate. His technique and message displayed maturity and insight beyond his age. Rick Smith paintings explore, confront and question the unexplained with pained honesty.

As with his artwork as a painter, Rick expresses with his poetry, profound lessons and insights with multidimensional metaphors. His candor shows true courage and imagination. How do you possibly put into perspective "extraterrestrialism" - encounters beyond the realm of earthly expectations, encounters beyond sanity?

My Starchild, My Daughter (a message)

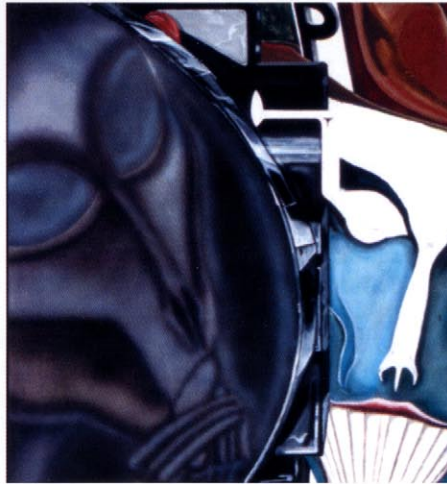
excerpt:
between the sheets
of mated lovers,
within twilight's night,
a paranormal calling
met our wanton desires
Starchild,
glow of our life,
you and your siblings,
seedlings
of the interstellar

Rick is a father but not here on earth. He has a hybrid daughter. His psyche is an astronaut without prescient.

When did you first start to paint the extraterrestrial experience?

During the yearlong hiatus from school, I had turned 21 (Dec.'91) - and this is when my first awakening came with regard to the Abduction Phenomena. It served as a motivational tool for attending the Visual Arts curriculum at Old Westbury. The awakening brought back all of the 'contact' experiences I had as a child, but passed off as only a dream/nightmare during my childhood. It was a clusterbomb of memories that flooded back into me. At that point all things became clear as to what had been in my past and what direction I would be going in for the future. Basically, I was asked if I would use my talents and skills as an artist to educate the masses via visual communication as a teacher

With that came the agreement that I would receive downloaded information from an entity I refer to in my book *Legions of Light / Armies of Darkness* as "Mother." This information would then be translated into the artwork. From



that point on (Spring, 1993), my career as an artist became dedicated to Extraterrestrial Intervention. The book, published in October 1999, serves as a parallel to the artwork. As it turns out, my extraterrestrial guide - Mother (a.k.a. the Crone) - has always been there since the day I was born.

One of his college professors, Luis Camnitzer, was a strong influence on inspiring Rick to explore the social and political aspects of the UFO phenomena. Camnitzer's, own work is recognized internationally as a provocative and controversial artist. His mentoring allowed Rick "the freedom to aggressively focus on exploring the Abudition Phenomena" in the confines of academia strict protocols.

I don't think he ever believed a damn thing I said. However, he may have been able to appreciate it from a political standpoint, understanding the social ramifications it would have on global issues concerning civil rights. The reason I say this, is that his own work had already been dealing with controversial and historical subject matter regarding the human condition. So it seems logical that this may have served as the common thread.

It was brand spankin' new on the cutting edge of an unexplored frontier that enveloped all social, political and historical issues at once! It became quite apparent as to where I was going with this and that I wasn't screwing around. As time went on, the artwork became much more aggressive and experimental, graduating from acrylics to mixedmedia to installation work. Once again, my obsessive, relentless, dedicated nature from commercial art kicked in as I had a new venue for applying it right on up to my final Senior Exhibition (first solo exhibition). After I had graduated from Old Westbury college (1996), the name 'UFO teacher' was born

Why are you drawn to the UFO subject?

I was born into it. It's a genealogical phenomenon that follows the descendants of a bloodline. In many cases, those bloodlines lead directly back to an original extraterrestrial presence during the Old Kingdom of Egypt. There

is nothing nice about this realization as the ... Egyptian Empire represents the most aggressive slave campaign against the human race during the last Patriarchal invasion.

You call yourself UFO teacher; do you feel this is your mission?

Definitely. I am a highly driven artist involved with and dedicated to the Abduction Phenomena and extraterrestrial intervention - which is THE tantamount global, political, social, cultural, personal and historical issue all Americans should be striving to educate themselves on. I believe that my fellow human beings have put up with enough lies and deceptions and they deserve better, they deserve truth and honesty in a Constitutional Democracy.

In Rick's own words he explains one of his first Abduction Paintings - *Destiny of a legacy*: in the beginning.

It focuses on the three main kingdoms of Earth being depicted as prisms or test tube experiments: sea, air and land. The three kingdoms are represented as a Blue Whale, an American Bald Eagle and the union of a human sperm and egg cell with the daisy blossoming as the flower of life. The symbolisms all work on multiple levels. The kingdoms of sea and air are completed in their form, finished with majestic creatures that have also been on the endangered species list due to the human race's selective ignorance. The kingdom of land remains unfinished, a haunting reminder that we are in an incomplete form, with an end result that remains undefined due to the influence of our own extraterrestrial progenitors. One such progenitor is camouflaged in the background, overseeing all of this as a very shady God.

What artists do you admire?

Anyone who makes a dent in the Arts and survives the onslaught of that tired old patriarchal abattoir called His-Story deserves to be admired. As for actual names, there are too many to list here. However, the two that tend to come out on top are Peter Paul Rubens and Salvador Dali.

One can see the classical draftsmanship of Peter Paul Rubens and the Surreal nightmares of Dali in Ricks' unusual expression of interdimensional trauma and intrigue. Welcome to a brave new world, which now incorporates Mother Earth and her friends and fiends in the outer limits of the galaxy.

His paintings are on display at his website gallery www.UFOteacher.com

You can also purchase his book there *Legions of Light / Armies of Darkness* as well.

Joan Carra is a powerful clairvoyant recognized by the books: *The 100 Top Psychics in America* and *Psychic N.Y.* She has also been involved with UFO research and performed her cosmic poetry at various UFO Conventions. Find out more at- www.geocities.com/psychicjoan