

NEWSLETTER JULY 2009 - TAKEOFF

- ◆ The Newsletter
- ◆ The Times-Square-Contemplation-Project – one next step
- ◆ Meditation-and-art-projects from August 2009

Dear friends,

two and a half years ago, on 06 January 2007 I took to the pen and started bringing a vision onto the page (one of those that had been piling up in the back of my mind during the previous months). The intention was to make visible to the eyes of others what I had seen with my inner eye. It did not help anymore just to talk about it. The pen became a brush pretty soon, and I haven't actually put it down for longer periods of time since; the visions haven't ceased to emerge. Last year, I seriously took on the Times-Square-Contemplation-Project, the DayoftheArts-website went online, there were exhibitions of my art. For a couple of months now I've been officially an artist – things happen, without having planned or expected so.

Sometimes there are stories that I would like to share with you, and themes that people have asked me about. I would like to take the step away from the spontaneous news and invitations to a more regular tool and write the first one of my newsletters which I intend to have followed by more of those approximately once a month. I would like to write about the above mentioned stories and themes, upcoming projects and exhibitions, there will be invitations and I will include new arrivals in my online gallery. The latter recently came up during a conversation with friends in an Indian restaurant. There might be other things that I cannot think of right now.

Times Square, the noisy center of Manhattan, has been less noisy for a couple of weeks now. Four years after my first and pretty life-changing encounter with this place, and 13 months and 13 days after our joined European/American/African/Australian meditation session, Times Square has been made permanently carfree on May 26 this year by setting up simple road blocks. None of it was to be expected so soon – not after my last year's conversation with the head of the Times Square Alliance Tim Tompkins when nothing at all pointed towards this direction. Pedestrianizing Times Square is part of a scheme of the City of New York, the Mayor and the transport department which includes measures along some parts of Broadway. Herald Square is carfree as well, and other crossroads of Broadway and the Manhattan grid have been rebuilt to give more space to pedestrians and bicycles and less to cars.

A few links to illustrate the point:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=37so3DleI3I>

<http://www.streetsblog.org/2009/05/26/the-crossroads-of-the-world-goes-car-free/>

although many of you might already know, especially when from the New York area. (For the stories of the contemplation project please visit www.DayoftheArts.com and the journal www.DayoftheArts08.blogspot.com)

In the face of this there seems to be hope that all the other so strongly believed in obstacles to a 24-hours-contemplative-arts-day in Times Square might dissolve in similar ways in their own time.

Inspired by these changes, and a few others that I could observe in places that I have looked at in the past, I now will resume the practice and start a meditation-and-art-series in other places that might be in need of attention. I would like to listen to the unspoken words and follow the interior images. Time and date, and/or the reports will appear as a note in the newsletter, so you can be part of it either directly or from a distance, if you like. Perhaps you know of some places of your own to attend to. The first place that I will visit in the afternoon of August 02nd is the center of the town Baden-Baden in the South of Germany. Some of you might know the name because the town recently hosted the NATO summit attended by the American president Obama.

I am looking forward to an interesting time this summer and hope you are well.

All the best
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Times Square Contemplation Project

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