

Editorial Foreword

A Métissage of Presence-ing

Darlene St. Georges & Barbara Bickel

In this era of global reach coupled by unyielding political and religious divisiveness, this curated special issue of Artizein entitled "*Invitations and Purposeful Encounters with Expressive Arts*" offers an alternative way of being—*presence-ing* with one another. An alumni circle of the European Graduate School co-curated this collection with an approach to living with|in the world on an edge of epistemological re-*alizing*—through invited presence and compassion with others. Through aesthetic and therapeutic com-plexities each article and book review risks communal healing and even blessings while decentering the individual. Readers are invited to witness the authors intimate exchanges that shine a light on relational aesthetics, creative subjectivity, vulnerability, bodily experience, affect, and difference. Conversations fo-cus on transformational relationships through acts of affective and purposeful encounters that explore a re|turn to cosmic repair. This is a type of creative exhalation that gives rise to transformation and envelops a sacred space in which to restore and heal (St. Georges & Bickel, 2022). In this animated center we can align with creative impulse in a world pulsating in-to and out-of existence—ancestors, reciprocity, unconscious, and imaginal realms—embodied, somatic, and intuitive ways of knowing (Fidyk & St. Georges, 2022).

Walk the labyrinthal
path into the womb of the Earth
balance to remember the bonds
before abandonment
resuscitate the genesis stories of our
winged parentage¹

With fluid keys dangling between point
I traverse portals and corridors
seeking the wild things beneath my skin
perching on smooth edges in caves and wombs
drawing out silences
storying into existence
a view beyond my own horizon²

[inhale trust; exhale fear]

References

Fidyk, A., & St. Georges, D. (2022). Poetic Inquiry for Synchrony and Love (Eds.). *Art/Research International: A transdisciplinary Journal*, 7(2). Special Issue.

St. Georges, D., & Bickel, B. (2022). An inspirited artistic co-inquiry with raw energy. *Art/Research International: A Transdisciplinary Journal*, 7(1), 210-256.

Endnotes

¹ See: published poem by Barbara Bickel p. 234, in St. Georges, D., & Bickel, B. (2022). An inspirited artistic co-inquiry with raw energy. *Art/Research International: A Transdisciplinary Journal*, 7(1), 210-256.

² See: published poem by Darlene St. Georges p. 239, in St. Georges, D., & Bickel, B. (2022). An inspirited artistic co-inquiry with raw energy. *Art/Research International: A Transdisciplinary Journal*, 7(1), 210-256.

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