Artist’s Statement: Peter London

2015.

My recent work devotes itself to drawing closer to Nature. More exactly, “Joining Heaven and Earth.” Being in the raw world has always been my preferred place to be, it is my place of re-creation. Other themes and issues have been the focus of my art over the years; issues of human relations and the formal relations of apples and pears, flying calligraphy, the arts and social justice. Increasingly however, my work is about my relation to Nature. As much as I truly loved Nature, I used to think of it as “nature”, something that was “over there,” nice to look at, walk in, spread my blanket upon and have a little picnic. During the last several years I have had a number of experiences that have brought me from me being over here and Nature over there, to Nature and me being on the same side of the fence. I have come to believe that the world, Nature, is not merely a pretty plaything, Nature, every morsel of it, seems to me as sacred. What do I mean by “sacred?” I don’t know. But to say it is not sacred seems even more wrong, more incomprehensible to me than to say it is. Now I am one of those people who cannot conceive of a deity, a singular entity who created and runs the whole shebang. But I am gaining the impression that the whole world, Nature, is somehow imbued with qualities that are more than the mechanics of things banging into things, fusing now and then to make new things. I am beginning to experience the cosmos as something different, something more. The project of my art is to explore and to say what this more is— for me.

And another thing. Did you ever notice that everything in Nature is made so exquisitely from its tiniest elements to its grandest? In Nature, everything fits, everything is necessary, everything; which means to me that everything in some way is beautiful. And ever notice that when anything moves in Nature, it always does so gracefully? Grace full and beauty full. How come? Here again, I don’t know. But I do notice these things, and wonder about these sorts of things, and my work explores the forces that may be behind or within every entity of Nature that makes the myriad appearances and movements of the cosmos graceful and beautiful and new. Primordial and new.

My current work goes under the title, “Joining Heaven and Earth.” A preposterous ambition I know. I know, and yet.
PHOTOGRAPHS by Peter London.
“Being in the raw world has always been my preferred place to be ...”

— Peter London