

BEHIND THE GREEN DOOR

PAINTING INSTALLATION BY BARAHONA POSSOLO

My desire to go further in dismantling prejudice was at the inception of this show/painting installation. Sexuality is an area that is still riddled with restrictions and dogmas that were artificially laid down by the dominant judeo-christian ideology. Many of us continually strive to boost other viewpoints into this vast territory, be they long-lived or cutting-edge. The demonization of sexuality as a fallacious threat to the cohesion of Civilization, which has caused so much suffering to humankind, is even more emphatic in the case of the less frequent fringe practices often referred to as “fetishes”. Many call them derangements, in an acrid judgement hidden under the cloak of chastity and prejudice.

Demonization has always been used to suppress attitudes that have the power to imperil the ‘status quo’ or that are simply unfamiliar. The truth is that social dominance and power structures, which are often based on imaginary myths that are nothing but instruments of control, are liable to change. Those who hold power (and who are obviously clever enough to do so), will always try to buffer change so that it ensures the maintenance of power in the same hands.

This Art project wishes to reclaim a series of sexual practices from the territory of transgression. By classifying them with the alchemical symbols of the five natural elements, I deliberately use a code that normally applies to concepts which are considered “sacred” in many cultures. This may be seen as blasphemy. Yet it seeks to underline that all levels of human existence bear the same true essence. Such is the case of the most complex aspects of sexual behaviour. In trying to integrate practices which, for most people, are usually banned (at least publically), I pursue the completion of the huge mosaic that is ‘Humankind’ with its last tesserae.

The pursuit to integrate reality is also evident here in the depiction of very diverse physical types, in an effort to counter the brutal aesthetical dictatorship, which is supported by the media and dominant commercial interest.

The gold-relief (gold being an essential symbol) alchemical “Seal” of the elements at the centre of each picture acts as an amulet that helps cast out any haunting dark shadows. In this series, fetishes are depicted through homosexual scenes. Some will argue that it is narrow-minded and misleading. I say it is just a variation- I’d rather delve into what I know- and gender differences tend to fade out in the case of fetishes, anyway. The fact that these are gay scenes may just add “spice” to the whole affair, in the case of those who are more conservative and old-fashioned, regardless of age.

The venue for this installation is a subterranean ex-public lavatory (a “cottage”). This is a fundamental fact, in this case. As is common knowledge, many public toilets and

urinals were the location of male transgressional sexual encounters and were often raided and closed down due to acts of 'gross indecency'. Once again the demonization of such attitudes sought solely to perpetuate traditional gender ideology, as we all know. As we literally go 'underground' to face such mysteries, unholy to some, sacred to others, we walk a path of social psychoanalysis. A path which is part of a journey that is yet to be outlined: that of Male Liberation. After Women's Liberation which, though very incomplete, is generally seen as imperative and crucial, and Gay/LGBT Liberation which has gained significant acceptance, Male Liberation will be necessary to complete the previous two. By this I mean that if women have burned and shredded the absurd, violent script that enslaved them and gay people have refused the wretched place in society that was ascribed to them, men (mainly heterosexual 'macho' men) need to free themselves from the ridiculous yet brutal code that is imposed upon them as 'masculinity'.

I talk of the Present. Now. When, in spite of all possibilities, being 'a Man' is still the screenplay of a violent film in which everyone, starting with every young boy, is forcefully ravished. This liberation will allow every possible gender category to flourish: as many as there are people. Each one of us shares the same binding humanity but is a unique and inimitable being.

'Civilization' still needs to encompass individual expression in a fine balance between the self and others.

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Lisbon, 24th August 2020