

PETER BREMERS
STATEMENT

In many non-Western cultures it is customary to perform small daily rituals to pay homage to nature, ensure good harvests, propitiate the weather gods, pacify the ocean or give thanks to Mother Earth through music and dance. In the Western world, it would appear that our sense of intimacy with nature and wonder at its beauty is being submerged amid mounting anxiety about global warming and the dramatic impact of climate change.

We see the natural world as something separate from ourselves; exploit its gifts without restraint for economic gain, and by doing so turn it from an age-old friend into a hostile force. We show little trace of gratitude and seem to forget that we are ourselves an intricate part of nature.

I can only say that, for me, the overwhelming emotion I felt when a mother whale with her calf swam alongside our boat and looked me long and hard in the eye was a life-changing experience. As was my sense of insignificance in the face of the savage energy of the oceans and of delight at the sight of yet another majestic sunrise over a landscape of drifting icebergs, the Creator's own magnificent sculpture park.

How can I express my gratitude for this inexhaustible source of inspiration other than by trying to depict the awesome power and majesty of nature in my sculpture? Not aiming to imitate or equal it, but simply to express my sense of wonder as a human being and an artist.

Recently I have been working on a new body of work called The Inward Journey. The sculptures put into form the process of change that one experiences by traveling. When we travel to other countries and cultures not only our outer world changes but so does our inner world and the way we perceive our planet and fellow beings. Even though this is a very personal process I have found that many of my experiences, thoughts and dreams are shared with fellow travelers. The objects pay tribute to mankind and it's seamlessly never ending journey to a deeper understanding of one self and each other. Seeking a harmonious and purposeful life on our planet.

The Inward Journey

Do you know that feeling when you travel to a foreign place and you bubble with excitement to have new adventures and experiences?

As we travel we enlarge our vision. We find ourselves in new places, new environments and allow to be confronted with other people, races and tribes, cultures, landscapes and religions. We hear new languages, see new animals, eat different foods and witness unfamiliar habits. The more we are interested and willing to open up to these new experiences, the more we get influenced by them.

Indeed, if our outer world changes, so changes our inner world.

Our belief system, shaped by our upbringing, education, religion, philosophies and interests, is being challenged by the belief systems of others. Specifically in meeting our fellow human beings we can mirror ourselves and test our standards and values.

As we see more of our world, we become more aware of ourselves in this world and the world within us.

Although this is a personal process, we do share communal experiences with fellow travelers. But imagine if we travel to the same place at the same moment together, it appears we will be influenced by the same impressions and cherish the same experiences in our memory. Over time our brain colors and transforms these memories and we may remember a journey different from our fellow travelers. So we share the same experiences, let`s say traveling to Antarctica, but we experience it unlike as we think and feel individually as we are uniquely conditioned!

In traveling to different parts of the world, we don`t just gather impressions, we also leave them behind. From our carbon footprint and our physical prints in the sand or snow, to the encounters we have with others.

In communicating and exchanging thoughts and feelings, whether superficial or profound, we create impressions. We share pleasure, beauty, delays, frustration and everything else that may be part of our journey. From a beautiful sunset or a glass of wine to a deep conversation that changes our perception in unexpected ways, we share our differences and our similarities.

In this new body of work, I put into form my experiences and passion for traveling this wonderful planet. It is not so much about the literal image of, for instance, a polar landscape but how seeing it changes the perception of my own surroundings, not just how I see but how I perceive. Experiences often lead to insights. Through these insights, the individual connects with the Universal.

As an artist I find myself continuously inspired and excited, trying to sublimate what is essential, translating that into sculptures. Glass enables me to express the layers that are part of experiencing the Inward Journey.

So... it becomes part of the biggest journey, Life itself.

Peter Bremers, 2013