

Sir Edward James, sociedad y naturaleza

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Resumen

El presente trabajo estudia elementos de la vida del artista Sir Edward James, tales como conductas provenientes de su familia paterna y materna —esta última una mezcla de aceptación y rechazo—, con la finalidad de comprender mejor su imagen. James solía actuar a partir de rituales y apoyar a determinados artistas en el desarrollo de sus obras. Su tendencia a saltarse las normas era una manera de reconciliarse consigo mismo y de ordenar su psique, fragmentada desde que era un niño, para reencontrar su esencia humana.

Palabras clave: arte, psicología, surrealismo, Xilitla.

Abstract

The present work studies elements of the life of the artist Sir Edward James, such as behaviors coming from his paternal and maternal family —this last a mixture of acceptance and rejection—, with the aim of understanding better its image. James used to act based on rituals and support certain artists in the development of his works. Its tendency to skip the standards was a way to be reconciled with himself and order his psyche, fragmented since he was a child, to meet its human essence.

Key Words: art, psychology, Surrealism, Xilitla.

Resumo

Este artigo analisa elementos da vida do artista Sir Edward James, tais como o comportamento de sua família paterna e materna -o último uma mistura de aceitação e rejeição, com o objectivo de compreender melhor a sua imagem. James usou para agir em certos rituais e artistas de apoio no desenvolvimento de seus trabalhos. Sua tendência a quebrar as regras era uma maneira de reconciliar consigo mesmo e ordene a sua psique, fragmentado desde que eu era uma criança, para redescobrir sua essência humana.

Palavras-chave: arte, psicologia, surrealismo, Xilitla.

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Introduction

The story of the eccentric millionaire Sir Edward James begins with its predecessors, who formed a wealthy family and good for business; they traded wood, that proceed to invest in railroads and copper. James thought that their relatives were a handful of Puritan moneybags.

His paternal grandfather, an American member of the opulent mining family Phelps Diodge, he decided to move to England, where he had three sons: Arthur, Frank and William, the last one father of Edward James. During his youth, the three brothers were devoted to travel the world in search of adventure. Time after Frank died in Somalia crushed by an elephant, event that made rethink to Arthur and William and make them settle down.

William acquired ownership of West Dean in addition to a huge expanse of land in the region of Sussex, England, and then married an English lady considered natural child of

King Eduardo VII.¹ While his family had an outstanding tendency to do business, Edward James chose the path of art. His family was devoted to accumulate abundant wealth, which he used to support multiple artists. Edward James dedicated to be the patron of various artists and buy paintings, that then sold to recover his investment and get profits.

While his family were Puritan, he showed no interest in studying the Bible. But he inherited the family tendency to constantly criticize the establishment through a dissenting attitude; they in turn criticized the Catholic Church and the Queen Isabel I of England. James exteriorized this character trait when decided not to follow the life of a trader and focus on art, leading a life of introspection dedicated to the surrealism that despised the social precepts.

The Puritanism of the time recommended as ideal that all had access to education. In this sense, Edward also behaved according to the family tendency being a source of support for the development of artists and intellectuals. Is possible that members of his family, as William James - philosopher - or Henry James - novelist-, serve as their models in their raid on the intellectual world and art.

His full name was Edward Frank Willis James; Edward because he was a descendant of King Edward VII and was his godfather. His middle name, Frank, had to do with the brother of his father, who not only inherited a fortune but also the model of a man who lived freely. In fact the name Frank means "free man", referring to the name of the Germanic tribe of the Franks. The third name, Willis, means the son of William, that is, the name of his father, which means protector. As you can see, his name had meanings that would influence their future behavior.

Edward James was born in 1907, when his father was 57 years old and his mother 39-. He had four older sisters. When I was five years old his father died, so I just lived with her sisters and her nanny, who later would describe as a sweet, warm woman. On the other hand, James said his mother was a cold, stiff and distant woman; a lady from the renowned Forbes family, perfectly dressed and senior class. Evelyn Elizabeth Forbes, mother of James, was allegedly illegitimate daughter of King Edward VII, who visited the family

¹ <http://ninive.uaslp.mx/jspui/bitstream/i/2033/3/MCH1OSE0101.pdf>.

regularly since his youth and continued to do so even after Elizabeth should become a mother.

Evelyn bothered him not having a title of nobility. Being the daughter of the king could be a princess, but her mother's behavior -Helen- prevented. James's mother was ashamed of Forbes for his rebellion against the monarchy, which caused the loss of family peerage. With his obsessive behavior, such as exaggerated perfectionism in the care of their clothing, their social rigidity and the desire to keep your child away from her, trying to hide the family secret. Edward James inherited his mother's obsessive traits as will be seen later.

A year after Edward's father died, his mother married John Chaytor Brinton, a member of the Royal House. She was married to him until 1927, year in which was annulled her marriage and was vetoed once again its ability to be recognized as a noble. Two years later he died. Meanwhile, Edward grew up in boarding schools away from his family.

The relationship between Edward James and his mother was distant. He grew accompanied by his four sisters and personal service. With its elegant models dressed mother Worth had almost no contact. There was a painful story² which it was recorded in the memory of the poet: his mother asked him to bring one of their children to acompañarla the church and the maid asked which one. The lady replied annoyed: "How am I to know? Which combine with my blue dress."³

Edward described his mother as a person in need of recognition of others to the point that his grooming was due to the desire to be accepted in a particular social class. -Helen- Edward's grandmother had been the mistress of the Prince of Wales, causing Elizabeth was banished from his noble origin. She also noted that by marrying Mr. James had lost the possibility of belonging to the nobility.

These facts led Edward James rejected his mother, first because she had rejected him, and secondly because to bear the name of King constantly reminded her family missing, making it feel less accepted than others. All this laid the foundation of obsessional traits Edward.

² Esta anécdota es relatada por Edward James en el documental hecho por George Melly's en 1975.

³ <http://www.revistasexcelencias.com/arte-por-excelencias/editorial-14/xilitla-el-sueno-inconcluso> .

When he came of age and could leave boarding schools where he had been held by his mother, he also excluded it from his heart.

James's psyche

As already mentioned, Edward James was born on August 16, 1907 in Greywalls, Scotland, and months later he was transferred with his mother to West Dean, England. He had a lonely childhood, but saturated social norms and restrictions on good behavior, nap and study. The infant could not go play in the garden because it was against good morals, so he grew up in the need to escape the claustrophobic Victorian society. For this he invented magical worlds imagined a secret walled city where he could live without censorship and hypocrisy of English high society.⁴ The denial of his childhood Edward noticed megalomaniac narcissistic traits; for example, when referring to his work in Xilitla said that his sculptures and towers were gigantic. This is stated in the documentary *The Secret Life of Edward James*, George Melly's documentary film 1975, which also describes itself as a great and petulant child.

Eccentric and dominant, he would not take no for an answer. Once took their boas Francis hotel in Mexico City, he rented them a room, got them laboratory mice and rats serve as food, but finally everything went out of control and mice escaped. Edward himself said that he liked animals because they could not answer and was hated by intellectuals, who compared him with a large and eccentric child.

The experience of a rigid childhood exacerbated his desire to control and comply with the rules, while he removed the possibility of experiencing life he belongs. Edward James wanted freedom while looked locked in the mother's private model the possibility of living your life normally. This opposition between what is allowed and what he wanted it generated frustration and great anger against a system they wished to destroy because it reminded her of her mother. The need to hide this destructive instinct and their

⁴ <http://sic.conaculta.gob.mx/documentos/1227.pdf> recuperado el 15 de marzo del 2016. Para mayor información sobre el libro: *Recorriendo La Huasteca*. Carranza Núm. 68-5. Centro CP 79000. Cd. Valles, S.L.P. Tel. 01 481 38 226 02. www.revistahuasteca.com

identification with the personality traits of the mother would take him later to develop an obsessive behavior in cleaning rituals conceal their aggressive drives.

James had an anal and controlling personality. Owner of a large fortune, sought to direct the behavior of others, but trying to show a pure image. I was traveling with huge amounts of toilet paper, it was extremely neat and washed his hands continuously. Joe Le Suer, one of his former secretaries said that James had hobbies and one of them was constantly washing hands. One morning calculated about 28 times when repeated this act.

Another of his former secretaries, Martin Ramos, reports that when asked this work the millionaire told his secretaries who used to work naked and then asked if he had any problem with it. He accepted because it was something that was usually every time I went swimming. This same former employee also reported that when some paper fell to the floor, on the orders of James had to be discarded because it was filled with microbes, then had to be burned and finally thrown in the toilet.

During his teens, Edward James sought a place where he could take their imagination, as it was in a constant state of anxiety because of rigid rules of the English aristocracy. From adolescence lack of freedom it generated anxiety, ie the confinement in which he had lived formed in rejection traits that then constitute overcrowding in claustrophobic features. On the other hand, he sought open spaces where he could contemplate nature.

When he was fourteen he wrote his first poems and a year later won the Geoffrey Memorial Gunther Drawing Prize. Since then he sought released following the artistic path of his ancestor Henry James, who had physically removed from the family to pursue what he wanted.

According to Elena Poniatowska in her article "A mural in the jungle, Leonora Carrington",⁵ There was some overlap between Leonora Carrington and Edward James. "Edward James had the same childhood composed of strict rules of conduct, well-cut suits,

⁵ NUEVA ÉPOCA | NÚMERO 62 | ABRIL 2009 | ISSN EN TRÁMITE CON NÚMERO DE FOLIO 493 | REVISTA MENSUAL. Visto en web
<http://www.revistadelauniversidad.unam.mx/6209/poniatowska/62poniatowska.html>.

boarding school in Eton, Oxford; riding lessons and privileges that sometimes are paid very expensive so you have repressors".⁶

In his youth, Edward, like his father and uncles, continued the pattern adventurous traveler and a wanderer turned, as I was traveling constantly and spent long periods in different places. Socialite seemed hypocritical, full of conventions and absurd rules. "It was a nomad who divided his time between homes in different continents had and when I felt the need to escape them, he fled to elegant hotels where he settled and there indefinitely prolonged organized gatherings with friends".⁷

Being the only son inherited all of his father fortuna, which increased with his uncle Frank.⁸ Inmensamente rich, he devoted himself to buy art. Their need was to acquire harmonious, free and creative expression product of the artist forms and full of wonder perception of the viewer. James came for freedom of the soul, hence his passion for the Surrealist movement.

In 1926, approximately between 18 and 19 years old, he entered the Faculty of Fine Arts at the University of Oxford. At that time he wrote poems and his first book of verse. At that young age, James decided to train as an artist, but faced the problem of rules and confinement. The school was a closed place, so he rejected the closure and abandoned. The same is observed later when being employee of the British embassy in Rome declined to learn the rules of writing and was fired.

Two years later he met Otilie "Tilly" Ether Losch, Austrian prima ballerina of the Vienna Opera. Edward asked marriage, but their union lasted only a couple of years due to the numerous infidelities of her, which increasingly were more evident, for example, with the Russian prince Sergei Obolensky.⁹ Edward berates her behavior, but she eventually quit.¹⁰ Tilly was eight years older than him.

⁶ <http://www.revistadelauniversidad.unam.mx/6209/poniatowska/62poniatowska.html>.

⁷ <http://sic.conaculta.gob.mx/documentos/1227.pdf>

⁸ Nota sobre el tío de Edward James; Frank.

⁹ El príncipe ruso Sergei Alexandrovich Obelensly fue graduado del Liceo Imperial Alexander, teniente mayor del gobernador general de Moscú y capitán en la caballería armada. Contrajo nupcias en San Petersburgo el 5 de febrero de 1914 con Luvov Alexandrovna Naryshkina., hija de Alexander Dmitrievich Naryshkin y Lydia

After being abandoned by his wife, James financed the ballet company where she worked to get her back and was even Losch promoter. James gained fame This generous patrons in the Parisian artistic circle. He also sponsored George Balanchine (1904-1983), dancer and choreographer who belonged to Russian company Les Ballets, in which Tilly Losch worked. By Edward two ballets for her as a prima ballerina, one of them called The Seven Deadly Sins were created (The Seven Deadly Sins).¹⁰ However, despite their efforts he failed to stay with him and she finally demanded a divorce. He accused her of being unfaithful and hid herself offended West Dean for some time. He never remarried and had no children.¹¹

Edward had married a woman older than him, who themselves had no intimate relations. In fact during the divorce proceedings she accused him of homosexual and he her of cheating. The marriage did not give good results. Because of the age difference was an Oedipal relationship with features. His father died when he was five years old, the time when most needed for the Oedipal dissolution. And when he could stay with her mother she decided to marry again, which accounted for Edward betrayal, rejection and abandonment.

A year after the death of the mother, James was working in Rome as official diplomatic service in Britain; however, after a short period was deposed. Michael Kernan mentioned in his article on Edward James that her job performance "almost caused an incident by his faulty translations, so he was fired."¹²

During his stay in Italy he met the work of painter Salvador Dali (1904-1989), so he decided to move to Spain to meet him. After this meeting, James proposed to be his patron, so would pay about \$ 1000 per month urging him to paint less but higher quality; thus he became collector of his works, along with those of other Surrealists.¹³

Yacovlevna Volkova. El príncipe Sergei y su familia huyeron durante la Revolución rusa y se establecieron en Inglaterra (López Pedraza, M. E., 2010: 26). <http://www.junglegossip.com/smithmag.html>

¹⁰ <http://148.224.97.92/jspui/bitstream/i/2033/3/MCH1OSE0101.pdf>

¹¹ <http://ninive.uaslp.mx/jspui/bitstream/i/2033/3/MCH1OSE0101>.

¹² <http://www.junglegossip.com/smithmag.html>

¹³ <http://www.junglegossip.com/smithmag.html>

Dali once said this about James:

Look, we move between a series of pseudo-Surrealist recipe, which obviously why they produce are crap, because they seem crazy to be justified, however you who are doing really crazy sane efforts aparentarte.¹⁴

In his main residence -West Dean also made surrealist creations, ordered interweaving Tilly Losch's footsteps on the carpet leading to the top of the house and in the mansion of Monkton placed wooden moldings shaped towels. Dali created for him a sofa inspired lips of Hollywood actress Mae West.¹⁵

In 1935, James wrote his only novel *The gardener who saw God*; and that same year showed more vehemently interest in the surrealist movement, resulting in funding for the production of the journal *Minotaur* (1933-1939), whose covers were designed by Pablo Picasso. Around this time he became patron of some other surrealist painters like René Magritte from 1937 to 1938. Years later he bought some works of Leonora Carrington although it was still not a recognized artist.

By 1937 James was already heavily linked to the surrealist movement that was inspired by the unconscious, why he visited Sigmund Freud, the greatest exponent of psychoanalysis, supported and accompanied by Stefan Zweig, writer, social activist and biographer of Mary Stuart and Fouche.

James, tired of the ups and downs of the war after it broke out in 1939, decided to leave the old continent to settle in the United States. There he bought two properties, one in Hollywood and one in Malibu. It was the main sponsor of the surrealist pavilion of the 1939 World's Fair in New York. The organization of this cause a conflict that would separate definitively James Dali, although years later (1978) the latter sought a reconciliation with James inviting him to the celebration that was to be made at the Academy of Fine Arts.

¹⁴ <http://www.junglegossip.com/smithmag.html>

¹⁵ <http://www.junglegossip.com/smithmag.html>

Between 1940 and 1944 James remained mainly in the United States, and approximately 1943 had contact with the Buddhist spiritual movement and meditation, which in those years was gaining strength in California. During this period he began under the tutelage of Krishnamurti with writer Aldoux Huxley.

Aldous Huxley had made him see James that the universe is perceived in a familiar way, but with the help of certain substances can understand something else. Something fundamental: this is made up of worlds within worlds within worlds ... the dream within the dream within the dream ... which wake up only to find another dream.

James recounts his own experience with hallucinogenic mushrooms, precisely the day he turned 50, about which he wrote an article in Snob Magazine dated October 15, 1962, directed by Salvador Elizondo and dedicated to the issue of drugs in the area art (number which, incidentally, Edward financed).

In the late thirties, James developed a project wanted to build a sanctuary, the Garden of Eden on earth, and it was their first choice California, United States. But in 1944, Huxley invited him to Erich Fromm and his rest house in Cuernavaca, Morelos. On Mexican soil he met Plutarco Gastelúm Esquer, a northern girl who at the time worked as a manager at the telegraph office. This man would have to enter into a close friendship. Gastelúm knew James's predilection for orchids, so he reported that in a region of the Huasteca were given naturally, so they decided to visit Xilitla. Upon arrival James was captivated and even said that for his project of Eden "Mexico was incredibly magical and romantic than California."

That same year James met Leonora Carrington in Acapulco. Years after this meeting, in 1948, James served as one of the organizers of the exhibition of the work of this painter Pierre Matisse Gallery in New York. What is surprising is that initially the same James will detracted from the work of the painter, saying his paintings were too expensive to be an artist little known, Carrington lashed out at the time against Edward and after this event a

long friendship began Between both. "... James would live between Mexico and England until his death, exchanging correspondence and receiving in Xilitla the visits of other surrealists, like Leonora Carrington".

Leonora and James were close friends, which is revealed in his fascinating correspondence, especially that I read in West Dean. It is Leonora whom James more envy and love. She was his ideal, who set fire to him with their tales and fantastic and surreal images and their insistent contempt for money, according to which James was put aggressive and crazy.

Leonora Carrington complemented the personality of Edward James. While one despised money, the other used to position; while she was opening a space to be recognized, he had been placed as the patron of the Surrealists. However, his passion for united them realize their dreams.

It is because we share many common errors like contempt for businesses and too lazy to collect what is ours, that I understand so well. But when one has disregarded his rights for years, one can not suddenly make people respect one being thrown thoroughly and screaming (metaphorically) on the rooftops: from now on nobody will scrounge me! I no longer want to be liked anyone and I will let the whole bunch of freeloaders finds out how much I despise!

There is a story about Edward James Carrington and about the possibility that he would ask marriage. She also had this idea in his head, waiting for him in his lying bed room, waited a long time and then thought that he could not marry a man who took so long to get ready, so he gave up the idea of to marry him. Edward leaving the bathroom, turn thought he could never marry a woman who had left such a mess in his bed.

When he was in the Huasteca in 1945, James in the company of Plutarco visited Xilitla where he saw the majestic natural landscape full of vegetation and nine natural ponds (ponds), paradise which at the time was part of the coffee ranch "La Conchita".

I bathe in these pools harbinger saw that one of his companions, the Texan Roland Mckenzie, was wrapped in a colony of butterflies and [the butterfly man] became. Edward James had found his private sanctuary.

Two years later, James bought the property of Las Pozas and surrounding land totaling about 37 hectares and started to build a zoo. the field was adapted so that they could cultivate thousands of orchids, bringing some specimens of other places to take advantage of the natural wealth of the land. Later, in 1962, James suffered the loss of his orchids. "I build simply because I like to see something nice, because the living Mexican land suggested it. Es-taban already there, only the materialized. I killed ten thousand orchids and became the task of creating something stronger than endure frost. "

In 1956, Plutarco -the guide and friend of James married Marina Llamazares, with whom he had four children: Leonora, Plutarch, and Gabriela Ines; Edward for them would be like a rich guy, a Santa Claus staff, as stated by Plutarch Gastelúm son.

In late 1962 he initiated the design and construction of the ways I had imagined, images that would be materialized by Mr. Carmelo Muñoz (master builder) and Mr. Jose Aguilar (master carpenter), inhabitants of Xilitla. Mr. Muñoz said that when he and his wife met Sir Edward James, Mr. Carmelo had shouted to his wife to make this come near, and at that time James heard the call to Otilia (Mrs. Cisneros). Edward then told them that he was also married to a woman named Otilia, referring to Tilly Losch. After this meeting, the English asked Plutarco to hire Mr. Carmelo to help him build his dream in the pools. The latter is related to Mrs. Cisneros in an interview dated November 1998.

Don Carmelo Muñoz Camacho and Jose Aguilar, along with a lot of helpers, began construction of the zoo sanctuary that James had in mind. Edward came and went Xilitla at that time. He continued to travel the world but spent time in the pools or at home Gastelúm marriage.

For the construction of Las Pozas, Edward James did not resort to the advice of professionals, simply draw their ideas for wooden molds filled with concrete then be made.

They began to emerge fountains, gazebos, pavilions, arches, bridges, stairs and terraces built [by pure megalomanía], preferably so unusual about what armónico and the original on the aesthetic. There are hands that emerge from the grass, multicolored snakes that protect corridors and lilies near buttresses con-trarrestan not weightless.

The narcissist trait livelihood James became a profound expression of the universal psyche. The disjointed nature is linked to forms, whimsical reminiscent depth psychology with a baby begins to build his personal vision of life. James in his resignation to the institutionalized and returns to the pursuit of its own essence, its self structures. Try to find harmony between spontaneous elements allowing the mind creates is nature itself that is responsible to articulate and make them integrate spontaneously to that inner reality that James called Garden - Eden on earth.

At this stage, money has become an act of generosity that aims to honor the earth. Maurilio García Chávez, a worker who worked at the time in the construction of Pozas, said: "Don Eduardo was very generous, we paid for long hours about \$ 10.00 per hour, which was far superior to that offered by other parties who paid between \$ 1.50 and \$ 2.00 pesos a day, this made workers feel happy to work for him. " The unfinished work quickly erected nearly twenty years and is estimated to cost about six million dollars.

Edward was generous and wasteful with respect to the construction of his work, whose characteristic was a kind of endless work and intermingled with wild nature within the framework surreal. He invited to think about the timelessness and the power of creative possibility always exists in nature. One example describes the following quotation:

The rooms are designed by James perenne-mente open to light and the chirping of birds. His edifi-cios grew protecting the trees, without destroying their entor-no, while the owner was walking alone in the shadows at the end of the day. And he christened with poetic names: House of three floors which can be five, Pareci-do roof house with a whale; Bridge fleur de lys and cornucopia.

common feature in many homes are designed estrechísimas doors and according to his owner- for "mantener out fat people", and the faint sound of water that accompanies them while falling in ponds; continues on the river and goes into the cascades. For all glassless windows filtered light, the chirping of birds are heard and enters the fragrant air of the forest.

James's mind had stopped serving the kings to serve and honor nature. It was not a work for human consumption, but to feed the jungle. Honoring nature merged with it and acquired timelessness. He had been rejected at the beginning of his life by his mother, but now it was rediscovered in the great Mother.

This architectural work was built upon the interpretation of the ideas of Edward by those who directed the constructions according to what reported by Mrs. Otilia Cisneros, since sometimes drawings James sent her husband with his ideas on paper. Occasionally millionaire in Ciudad Valle visited the Cisneros family Muñoz to refine details of construction, and told them stories of his travels. The family remembers him long hours typing on a typewriter, and years later would realize that wrote a book: The garden of dreams.

During his visits, James was remembered as an eccentric Englishman to reach the village was transformed to get their huaraches, jorongo and a wooden cane to be more comfortable. In this way and naturally he walked through the village and went to the Garden-Eden in Xilitla. Edward James was then dressed in the costume of simplicity becoming a guide for beings who want to develop their self, honoring life.

In 1972, Plutarco Gastelum Esquer sick of Parkinson's disease. Given the family conditions of James, who stopped having contact with her sisters and parents, "perhaps Plutarco and his wife Marina were the closest thing to a family for him."

Mexico in 1981 out of an auction where James went on sale a few paintings of Dali and Magritte, among others performed. In this auction the painting "The Dream", which reached the figure of 360 thousand pounds sold. They offset gains patronage and confidence provided by the patron budding painters.

In 1983, Marina Plutarch Gastelúm--wife died of cancer. Edward James never returned to Xilitla. A year later he died after having a stroke while in San Remo, Italy. Xilitla constructions were to name Plutarco Gastelúm son. Edward's body was taken to England and buried at West Dean Park, home of the Edward James Foundation.

Currently it is trying to preserve the work of Edward James in Xilitla, but every day is devoured by nature. Paradoxically preserve his work is going against what the English wanted to do: to pay homage to nature and to life.

Conclusion

Edward James we can find the representative of a family secret. Its origin implies a contradiction: on the one hand is the pride of the family that Forbes was a descendant of King of England and other hidden shame in this family for the illegitimate origin of Evelyn Forbes, mother of the artist. Acceptance and rejection Edward James lived in all his life, creating the first development and support for the arts and the second the formation of an obsessive psychology, learned from the mother.

James gives us an example of humanism. It was more important for human beings to follow the rules and norms established by society. His work rather than a challenge to social proposals was an invitation to enter the language of the unconscious and art to find nature that dwells in each of us.

The psychology of the artist shows how after he was excluded by his mother was able to develop a process of personal growth by becoming patron of the Surrealist movement, supporting artistic creation. That was his first approach to the recognition of deep values. His work respected nature, which recognized the archetype of the Great Mother. Because it can be considered that his work is as an ephemeral offering to life itself.

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