

Volume 35 Digital Tribal Arts Quarterly Summer 2005  
Pantelleria, Sicily

American Indian Computer Art Project (AICAP)  
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EXPATRIOT : THE SACRED BOWL  
RECENT CEREMONIAL ART-WORKS

PANTELLERIA, SICILY

**Cover:**

*Detail of the Solstice of Summer ceremony held here in pantelleria. About 20 of us kept a sacred fire going for 4 days. It was the opening ceremony on this new land. The square is defined by an ancient terrace of the ancestors of Pantelleria. It was constructed centuries ago from the volcanic stone that is everywhere. The house and the fire sit on the rim of an ancient and still living volcano. It is one of the most interesting and energized fires I have made in 25 years of making these fire ceremonies. Photograph by Grazia Cucci.*

*Published by Turtle Heart, Ojibway Artist, Pantelleria, Sicily*

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Documentation of the ceremonial art, travels, and teachings of the world journey of the sacred pipe. A ceremonial exercise in which 108 ceremonial fires stretch in a circle around the earth. This is a ceremony requested in 1980 by certain tribal elders (teachers) of the North American Indian nations.

This ceremony is being conducted around the world. You can help us complete the circle of sacred fires. Donations are accepted. See our web site for details. The sale of the art in this collection goes entirely to the world journey of the sacred pipe.

# the eXpatriot : “*i volti de sognatori*”

The project to build a sacred bowl.

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*The project went south* (died) when the crazy rich white man on whose land we were going to build it revealed himself as just to crazy and to controlling, and way to lost in fantasies about something he brazenly calls “shamanism”.

*The question then became what next?* We believed we should build a ceremonial space called the bowl of dreamers. We did not believe the lost rich man was so important to the project after all. With a breath of kindness we left him behind and moved to a new home with a piece of land perfect for this ceremonial space. For the last several months we have been organizing, thinking, and feeling our way forward to this project.

*The first development* was the construction of a ceremonial fire. This particular fire is called a “morning fire”, sometimes also called a “tobacco fire”. The fire is the center from which we all sit and breath and find our way with this work. The fire is a formal ceremonial space where a small fire is maintained and used as the center of our meditations, prayers and quiet moments. It is sacred ground right here where we live. We have built this sacred fire on the rim of an ancient volcano. The vapors of the old volcano are right next to us. One vapor in particular is in the center of a rough space in which we hope to construct a formal ceremonial space we call “the bowl of dreamers”. This sacred space will be open to all the people of the world as sacred space of the American Indian. Turtle Heart’s work is inter-tribal in nature and he has the support of tribal elders in the four corners of North America for this international sacred space. Following the vision of his teachers, Turtle Heart is carrying the sacred pipe, the sacred morning fire out into the world to create a network of living ceremonial spaces for the peace of all people, and as a place to allow the mother earth’s voice to be heard in the modern

**What is “the ex patriot”?**

**Expatriot represents the moving of the home of the river otter pack, the sacred pipe and teaching objects of this project. We have moved the home for the project to a tiny island in the south Mediterranean Sea. Pantelleria is about 75 miles north of the top of Africa. It has a great strategic presence and is staffed by American intelligence agency people. There was a well-publicized beginning of the Allied invasion of Europe that started here. It was faked, staged, phony. It was a lie spoon-fed to the press and the American people at the time. It is the property now for some time of the Italian region of Sicily. It has a very diverse history with occupations by every culture of the ancient world....greeks, Arabs, Phoenicians, romans, Sicilians, etc etc). It is like a small, powerful and peaceful Turtle adrift in an emerald paradise. The sacred fire has found many friends here. By the time you read this Turtle Heart will be a formal citizen of Sicily, a legal resident of Pantelleria.**

**I say expatriot because there is a horrible lack of leadership and a near total corruption of the existing leadership of most North American Indian tribes. There is a crises of consciousness, of leadership, of direction within many tribal reserves. Our project some years ago was consecrated as an independent, unaligned exercise on behalf of all humanity rather than for one tribal people.**

**I say expatriot because I do not enjoy living in the Amerika of George W. Bush. It is a tragedy of almost comic proportions to have such an empty and stupid human being in control of the resources of such a dangerous and arrogant country. Amerika has been no friend to the American Indian and present-day policies regarding mixed-blood quantum as the basis for tribal services and rights is a genocidal masterpiece that somehow escapes the consciousness of racist Indian people, the US justice system and the world courts.**



**Water and Fire. Inside the water are many interesting things. One of these objects was made in the stone age and took more than one generation to make, to complete. The water loves this stone. This is a ceremonial bowl. I like to keep it filled with water. Certain bees really love it and get all cuddly. You can stroke them while they are drinking water, usually from the porous openings rather than right from the little pool. Having the water close to the fire where we made our prayers and walked in circle around this fire was very moving for me. Keeping water close to the fire is a new development. I feel I have grown so much here on Pantelleria... grown into simplicity. For this ceremony I put a ring of cornmeal around the fire.**

**The next few pages are scenes from the Solstice ceremony, summer 2005.**



**The realization of a dream about Sacred Space.**

**This is the sacred fire that is moving around the world at this time. It is sacred tribal space. We keep this sacred fire here in Pantelleria, a tiny little island in the south of the Mediterranean Sea. This fire is moving around the world, one fire at a time. There are now 4 sacred fires in Italy. The behavior around this sacred fire is very simple yet very focused. The old black pottery on the left is the gift of my old friend, an old, old Indian. Inside is sacred tobacco. This is a place of being touched by an eagle feather, being touched by the old songs on the water drum....putting tobacco in the sacred space (fire) and talking out loud to the Earth, the Mother Earth.**



***Amici.*** A few of the friends who have come for the Solstice Ceremony here in Nica, our little home on Pantelleria. Everyone brought food. The first man to come to the ceremony was a man born and raised on this island, He is a good, good man and it was a gift from the island that he came. He came every day. Most of the people on the island were not born here. The people who were born here are unique descendants of a mysterious island. There are only about 2,000 of them in this big world.





The nature of a fire that burns for some days is to create slowly a field of energy, a positive force on the earth. People come and gather this positive force by breathing, by putting tobacco in the fire. It is a place we call a prayer hole, “we have opened a prayer” into the earth. When the meditation is good, the sacred space is a place where you can hear the earth speak to you....like the way a church is a place where you might here God speak to you.

The man up above in the photo is one of my doctors. He came to the ceremony. 3 of my doctors came to this ceremony. In Amerika the doctors are an elite class that will barely make eye contact with you. In Italy most of the doctors are just Italian People who happen to be doctors. This is a fine, loving man who cares about suffering. It was a particular honor to have him come.



**The Day of the Bad Eye. (*Passito di Pantelleria*)...23 February 2005**

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**As a keeper of sacred fires I was surprised on this day, this particular day to receive the Sacred Fire of Saint Antonio. It is also called Herpes Zoster and it came like an invasion into my left eye and face and sent me into eye infection complications that brought my life to a dead halt. Stop. Everything but breathing. For four months. 20 doctors. Hospitals in Trapaoni, Pantelleria, Ragusa, Venice, and Bologna. 25 drugs. 100 needles in my bony ass. Healing is slow, slow and the face is still burning, burning with righteous suffering of the renewed lamb of peace and keeper and protector of the sacred pipe.**

**Yes. Burning up. Sacred Fire Inside My Face.**

**Stillness. Surrender. Emptiness. Dreaming in the Void. Rebirth.  
Photo by Silvia Santi.**

*“ i volti  
dei  
sognatori ”*

“ Faces of the Dreamers ”

TURTLE HEART  
OJIBWAY ARTIST

SUMMER 2005  
PANTELLERIA SICILY (ITALY)

## **Materials:**

### **Stones.**

1) **Pantellerite.** A green volcanic stone with a rich full texture, solid, not so porous as the typical volcanic stone. A unique and specific mineral found only on Pantelleria.

2) **Obsidian.** Much of the stone that is black is partly obsidian. There is a lot of obsidian in the many black stones of the island. Finding pure obsidian is rare. Historically there is a lot of evidence of large mining and working in pure obsidian. Now obsidian is found mostly in an ore-like combination with basaltic rock.

3) **Rough black basaltic ore.**

4) **Driftwood from the sea.**

### **Pigments**

1) **Oils**

2) **Tempera**

3) **Acrylic**

4) **Gouache watercolors (opaque watercolors)**

5) **Cementite**

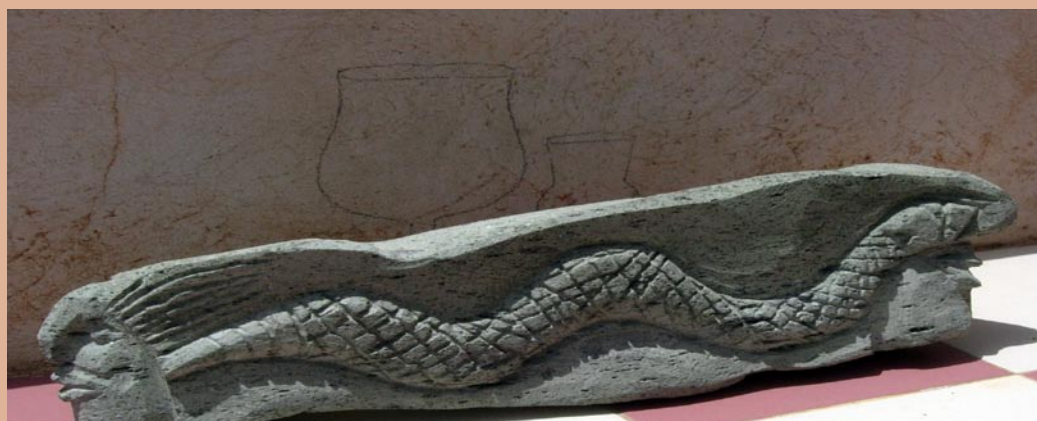
## **Tools**

**Diamond grinding wheels on 3.5 inch electric grinder.**

**Hammer.**

**2 chisels.**

**water.**



A snake for the old dammuso (*the unique housing structures of Pantelleria*). The other sculpture is called “the heart-shaped man”, he has a falcon helping him keep his heart-shaped face going. The snake is popular imagery in the south of Italy. The green stone is called “pantellerita”. It is a stone found only on this island in the whole world. It is very green and very strong. It is great stone for outdoors as the weather means nothing to this stone. It is volcanic in nature, some part of the molten stones that cover the island from its ancient volcanic origin.

Heart-Shaped man is one of the faces I have seen inside the black volcanic stones of this island. I have had over 50 vivid dreams of the black obsidian-ore stones of Pantelleria. I think they are the voice of the island. Somehow the island wants to be heard and it has sent these faces through my fingers.



### **Faces of the Dreamers:**

**I first came to Pantelleria in September of 2004. I stayed for about 10 days and had many strong moments of happiness and appreciation for the tiny, archaic island.**

**After I returned to Taos, New Mexico. While there I had dozens of strong, vivid dreams about the black stones of Pantelleria. These dreams went on night after night. They were very pleasurable and interesting dreams. In many of these dreams the black stones all had faces, only faces carved in them, and they came out of the earth as if they were planted there. Rough strange black rocks with faces that were smiling and kissing. This was by far one of the most vivid and pronounced dream periods of my life so far.**



## **Nature of an Eagle**

**Natural basaltic-obsidian stone. Eagle is the eyes and breath of our contract with the Creation. The energy and images of the sacred eagle just comes right out of the stone. Natural stone sculpture.**

**Eagles dream, so an eagle can at any moment also have the face of a dreamer.**

**The Eagle is not from Pantelleria. There seem to be hawks and falcons here. This Eagle is a visitor from Turtle Island. Wherever I travel in this world, Spirit of Sacred Eagle is always with me. In this sculpture Eagle has gone with me into the stones of the island. Inside the stone are many faces. Are these the faces of one man's dreams....maybe they are the faces of people who were once here... or people who will one day come here.... perhaps they are in fact the faces of the Stones and the island is trying to speak to us using these faces?**

**There is a line from an old poem: “as the Eagle flies, his shadow moves like a Turtle upon the Earth”.....(Gibran)**

**Indian People give each other the Feathers of Eagles. An Eagle Feather is one of the most important personal possessions a human being can have, according to some of the old Indians.**

**Here on Pantelleria I have an Eagle Feather. Sometimes I touch people with it and pass it over and around their body. I have never met anyone who did not like having this done. It is a small, small moment but considered powerful and sacred.....cleansing.**



**Orso. A large simple Bear.**

**The man who now owns this large bear wants to clean it. When this Bear came to live at his house there were suddenly many changes. It was a big surprise. The biggest surprise for him was finding out his horrible addiction to being always the person who controls others, always the person who is the boss, even when you are sleeping....he found out this is just an illusion. The need for Controlling Other is a sickness. The Bear has come to his garden to help cure him of this illness. That is what Bears do. They ask you to be clean and honest. They want the man to stop lying and inventing fantasies about Indian People and their teachings. Bear will not say these things out loud, but when I was making him from the old green stone, this is what I felt was inside of him. I hope he can help the man and his garden wake up. The man can clean the Bear for days, but this will still be the message.**



## The Big Face

It is very big. About 1,000 pounds. Pantellerite.

Big Face lives in a tiny forest. Inside this tiny forest there is the spirit of an old woman. She likes to wear long white gowns, sometimes trimmed in yellow. I would see this woman shining in the dancing light of the trees when I was working on some sculptures in her little forest. Sometimes I worked in the mist and gentle rain of the island and I always would see her, often just standing still and watching me.

She is someone's mother. I think she liked me a lot. She never seems to smile much, so I made this big smile for her because I really liked her. There was something dignified and beautiful in the way her spirit walks in the forest. She was very interested to see who I am and what I was doing. I know she would like to tell her son about me, but I had the feeling she thinks no one listens to her anymore.

**WaterBowl and the Prayers of Time. 2 sculptures in Pantellerite.**

**Waterbowl is a place to have for meditations with water. The stone likes the water very much and reacts to it in many ways. Prayers of Time is an old, old ancestor who used to pray and sing somewhere on this island. Prayers of Time was also a traveller from far away.**



**.....daughter  
wind  
mother  
sea  
father  
sky  
a garden  
of stones  
black  
green  
sharp and ready  
to  
talk.....**



A big piece of black obsidian-basaltic stone that was carved with one face and then it broken in half and became two faces with one broken heart.

The second face was carved after the stone broke in half.

These carvings are intentionally unrefined, rough... maybe primitive is the word. They are simple.

### Simple is True.

Putting together what was broken I had the sudden realization that nothing was broken. Nothing is broken. The stone was only unfolding, adding some extra details. These details very clearly reflect the conflicts and passions and losses and even a little of the indifference of the life of the man from whose garden they were rescued. Yes they went to live with a man, and then they prayed to be rescued. They are still split, but now they live in a different place and there seems to be a hint of a smile sometimes, an edgy smile that comes from thinking you are broken before you realized nothing is broken.



The first carving. A dark purple stone, soft.

It appears to be a falcon. The carving happened very quickly.

I was beginning the process of trying to listen, trying to hear what the island, what the stones would want to say to me.

I had no expectations, so I was not surprised. For Indian people, the bird people are always sending us messages. I am always getting the word from birds, so the first word from the first stone was bird.

Typically, when birds talk, they carry a simple message. They like to pass on news more than they like talking about themselves. This bird was talking about bowls of water. You can't see it in this photo, but the bird is holding a little bowl of water between the tips of his wings.

Since Bird was the first word of the stones, this fact confirms my feeling that the island is trying to talk to us. In Indian culture birds are symbols of receiving messages.

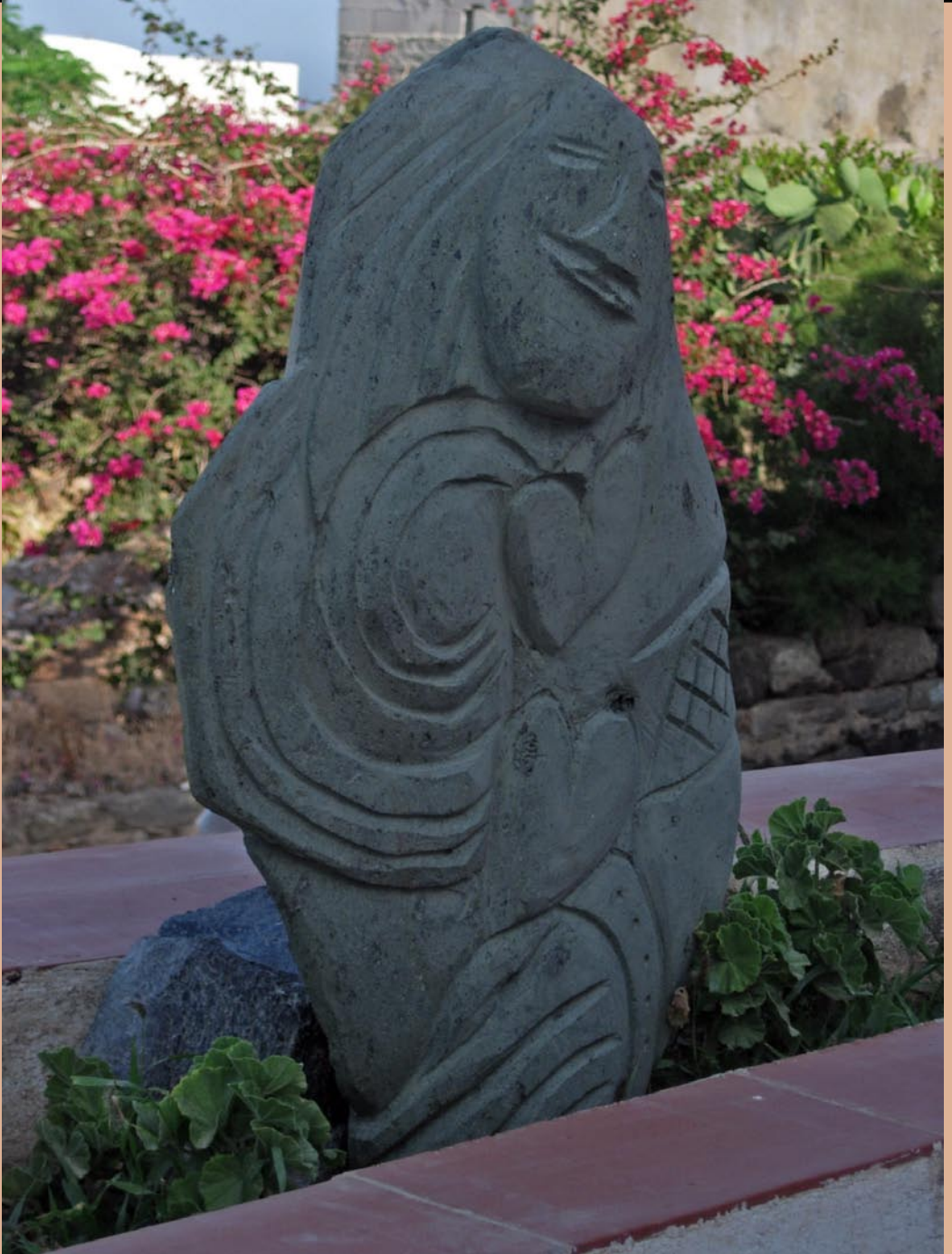


**driftwood**

**spirits made from driftwood from  
the Mediterranean Sea....**

**oil pigments**

**singing water  
desire  
fruit**



**His name is *Two Hearts Touch The Earth*. He has two hearts, one is his and the other belongs to the earth, maybe. I am not always sure. I am not in control of these sculptures. I do not believe in control. I am trying to Listen.**



We all call this one The Little Family. They have faces made of driftwood from the Sea. These people are watching. Watching us. Watching life. Watching the Sunrise. Watching the Moonrise. Watching the Wind. Watching the Silence. They have their blankets. A blanket is important to Indian people, like an Eagle Feather. A blanket is a home. A blanket has language. The way these people are inside their blankets yet also together is very intimate, yet very open.

Many of the people who have seen the collection of these works like this one the best. I find this interesting because in many ways it is the most simple carving in the collection....in this sense it is very educational for me and for the stones. The message is also simple. Something we can all understand at either a very deep or a very simple level.

**Family. A life Together.**



## **Guardian**

**Not sure what he is guarding. He clearly sees what is going on. Maybe his clarity is his protection.**

**He keeps watch over the lost, even over the stupid. This usually means he is watching someone, usually a man.**

**He is another traveller. A man like me.**



## **Woman In the Wind**

**Pantelleria is called “Daughter of the Wind”, in Arabic, I think. Pantelleria is only 85 kilometers from Tunisia, more or less. There are Arabic place names, Arabic blood, Arabic culture buried inside the Sicilian Culture and language and gardens.**



**Variation on a theme:  
Heart Made of Stone.**

**A Heart Made of Stone is not the same thing as a stone heart. This heart is warm and likes flowers. It is hard, but also round and soft. Since coming to Pantelleria I have put hearts on almost every carving and painting. I never did this before.**

**I am trying to see, in this work, what kind of bowls my tools and I can make from these stones. Little bowls like this are possible, so I have made a few. I was thinking of a friend of mine when I did this sculpture.**



**Woman with her heart on the side.**

**I like the relationship between the black obsidian-basaltic stone that is natural, polished by the wind and earth, and the unpolished face. My carving seems to be a balance between black and white, between natural stone and sculpted stone.**

**A garden of stone faces came to me over and over in my dreams. I see these stone faces in the gardens, on the earth nested in with flowers, herbs and fruit.**

**Coming up from the earth.....**



### **Long Heart Woman**

**Life built around an open heart. Life lived standing straight up.**

**Quiet. Simple.**



### **Whisper**

**Speaking softly. Looking openly into life. Amusement and gentleness.**

**A heart-shaped life. A soft kiss.**

**I dream of the faces looking at me. Can they trust me? Can they understand me? Can I hear them if they speak softly?**

**Sicilian people speak very loudly.**



**the Man in the Moon  
and the Woman of  
His Dreams....**

**very large  
green polished  
stone**

**1 face one way  
another face another  
way  
as if they were  
one.....**



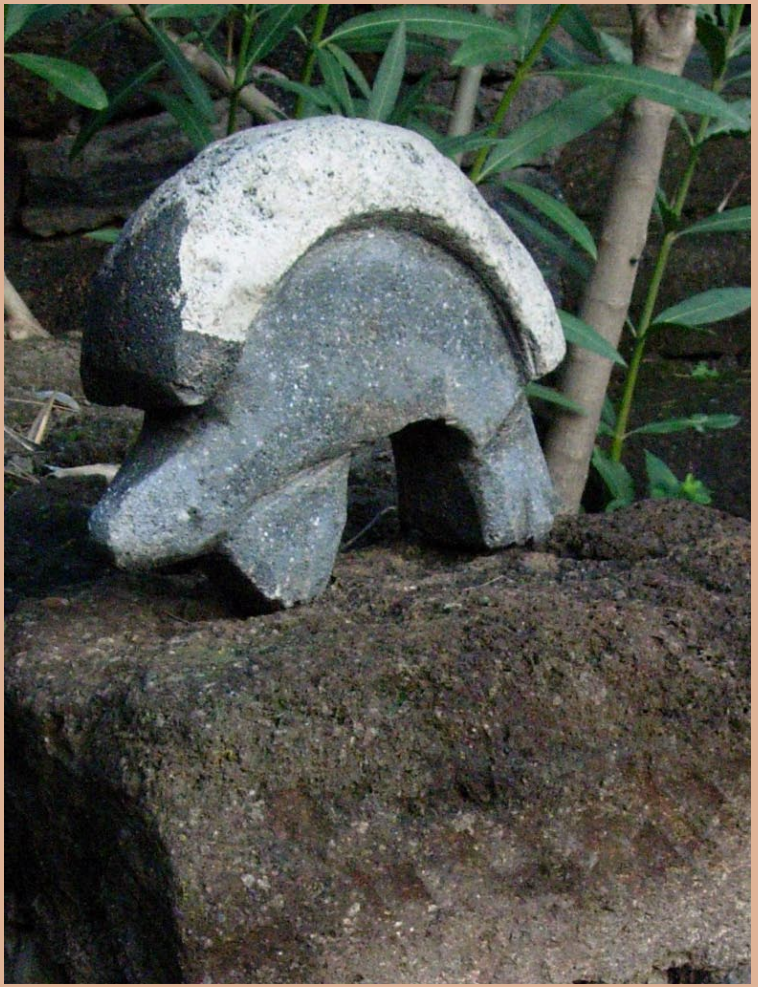


**Passion. Embrace. Union. Love. Cherish.**

**Primitive. Animal love made precious. Stones making love in the Sun. Love. Love. You are never alone.....unless you want to be.**

**Black obsidian-basaltic stone.**

**Joy.**



**Porcus pino....Porcupine**

**Punk rocking turtle maybe. The 2nd sculpture on Pantelleria. A teaching stone. A word out to the island that I have arrived.**

**Good luck. Mystery life cuteness living by the front door of the rich man and his garden. This work made him smile for a moment. At least he has shown some evidence of having a sense of humor.**

**He didn't care for my jokes. Porcupine likes me very much. He is good luck for me.**

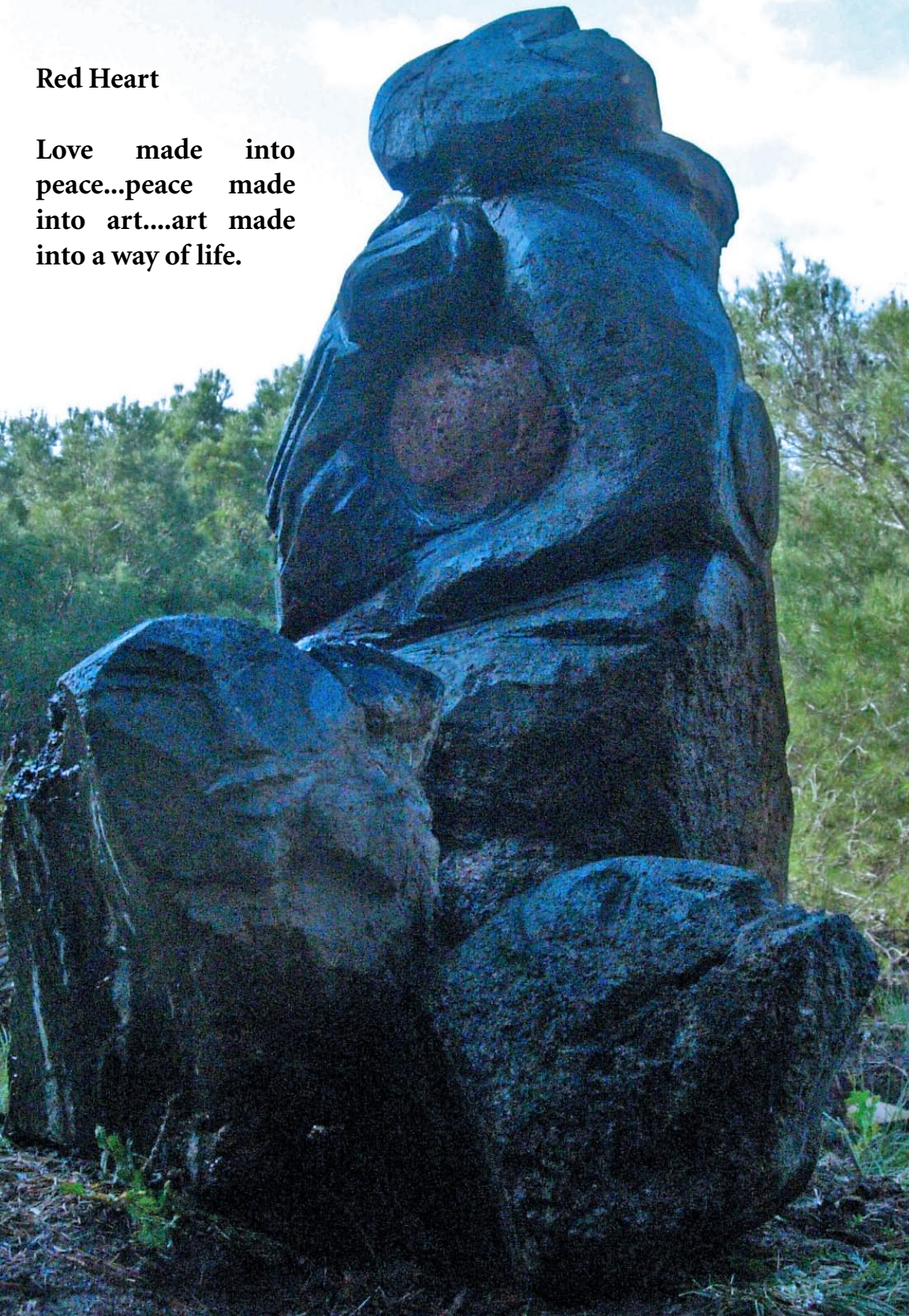


**Bird....made from a stone that is quite red and is called “Horn of the Mountain” in the native language of Pantelleria which is part Arabic, Italian, greek, Tunisian, Sicilian and so forth.**

**He has learned to fly very well by standing very still.**

## **Red Heart**

**Love made into  
peace...peace made  
into art....art made  
into a way of life.**





**Turn about is fair play.**

**This was a work that started out as a circle in a stone in the garden of a particular man. This particular man lost his way and the stone was rescued from its lonely position in the darkness of this particular man's morning. It was brought to me and on a particular day while this particular man was with a long and angry face, the stone with the circle inside became the face of joy and games and childhood and simple happiness in being free, in being yourself. It was a natural and beautiful moment of what is the best thing to do with another person's anger, judgement and fear.**



## **Tanit**

**Tanit is a particular diety with a history of being associated with the island of Pantelleria.**

**Tanit is a woman. From my own feelings about who she might be for the ancient ones of this island I have done several interpretations of her.**

**The tall one is the 3rd carving I did on Pantelleria and the first in the native stone which bears the islands name in the geology textbooks.... Pantellerite. The second is also in the same stone and is carved on the reverse of “Two Hearts Touch The Earth”.....**



The faces of the dreamers. Black basaltic volcanic stone.

Some of the old faces lived the hard life and came and went from far away. That is how the human family has grown...people with character and clarity pushing their individual lives to a place they have never been before.... opening the door of the unknown is dangerous some would say; it is an impulse impossible for some people to resist. So I found this face of this dreamer inside this stone but he is not from here.

Where are we from? Sometimes the honest answer to this question can be very complicated. Here on this little island in this little sea have passed the dreamers and the sleepers of the world. Some have stayed and left nothing; some have stayed only a moment and changed everything with their gifts. Living a good life, people will not all love you. Not being loved by everyone can be a blessing. Sometimes the people who seem to be against you are just your teachers....teachers in a school in which you never enrolled.



**Dreamers inside a turtle's shell. pantellerite.**

**Quite large and many hours of labor, this turtle shell wants to be a lamp with light pouring out of the faces. I am not sure yet how to get the lamp part integrated into the sculpture.**

**These are American Indian faces.....spirit faces of the winds and elements. In our language they are called "manido"...or teachers of the spirit. Some of us Indians call the earth "turtle island".**



**In the last days before the showing (22-29 July) of these art works, my friend Silvia said I should make a snake for the show. A light then went off in my mind. I like snakes. Snakes live their whole lives with their whole body pressed up against the earth. In tribal culture snakes are like the thunder....they move upon the earth the way thunder moves across the sky so they are important in the rain cycle of tribal religion, of tribal sacred earth. There are many teachings in our culture, and in the wide world as well about the snake. All of the snakes I have made have a person with them. I am not sure why. The faces of at least one dreamer could be a snake. I am being led, I am being spoken to. I am trying to listen.**

**Transformation. Evolution. Wa. Kundalini. The nervous system. The pleasures of the flesh, inside and out. So I made three snakes.**

**Flowing over me. Flowing over all. This bowl is a map of the distance between Pantelleria and Ojibway Land of the artist, who is an Ojibway man of the northern forests around the Great lakes of North America. He is the keeper and protector of a sacred pipe, of a package containing a promise to a bunch of old Indians. May we flow around the earth like water.**



**I think this will be the hardest work to sell. Yes, almost all these sculptures are for sale and I hope many of them go. If this one goes I hope I get a great price for it. I have been keeping it filled with water, sort of like a meditation or prayer. I have to add water 2 or 3 times a day and I can see the bowl from where I work during the day. I think this bowl has many messages and a lot of energy. There are so many beautiful gardens, so many beautiful settings on this island. I hope somehow my art will become a part of the history and story of this sweet little island.**

**I need money for the work, to keep going, so the collection is for sale, the money paying for the project. I will have to make another. I like having a bowl of water to take care of. The water inside this bowl is rain water collected from the roof of the house. This is the water that gives us life on the island. There is no other source for fresh water on this island...only the rainwater.**



**The last painting before the show.**

**Another Bird. Another messenger. He has some information if you look at him from far away and different information if you look more closely at him.**

**Bird. Gallo de Pantelleria.**

**I have many friends in the bird nation. The spirit of one of them is walking the fancy walk into town. Ojibway Bird Meets and Greets at the Old dammuso. Sometimes he may give you a kiss.**

**Acrylic pigments on windsor and newton acrylic paper  
406 x 305 mm**



**Sonia is tall and likes to dance.**

**Sonia.**

**Sonia is a friend of mine and a dream of mine. A woman who knows how to find her way within the light, within the meaning of an old sacred fire that burns sometimes where she lives.**

**She belongs to no one. Her life is full every minute. She is luminous and charming and cooks meat dishes almost to perfection.**



“Eye”

From late February to the end of May I was terribly ill with various problems inside my left eye. Most of my time was spent during these many weeks in sitting still, very still, in the darkness away from the wind and the light. I tried several times to bring out a painting about this experience and they seemed useless. This was the fourth try to make some sort of statement about this painful and important moment in my life. There is a bird here, a man, an Italian flag upside down and a heart...a few extras are in here if you have the “good eye”. Oils on prepared wood panel. 14 x 18 inches or so. This is, in fact my first oil painting. Windsor and Newton professional series.

A gift for the  
sweet, brave and  
amazing CiCi,  
a sacred woman  
of this island...



## **Time. History and Mysteries.**

**This is a long painting, about 7 feet. We found this huge piece of wood in the sea. It is driftwood. It shows mystery life fish moving towards the open heart of the moon, listening to the voice of the ancestors and welcoming new friends from mysterious places. It is sort of about an old Indian (me) coming to Pantelleria and hearing messages from the land, from the sea.**



**The mysteries of life are not so mysterious...but it is a useful way to talk about life. If a person can feel beyond their own selfish interests, beyond just getting what you want....but trying to really wake up and see the life of this world, of this existence. Life is so fantastic. We can dream and create a picture in our minds of the ancient ones and what they might say to us.....what we might say to them. I think a good artist really tells a story or confirms and illuminates an emotion, a moment.**

**In this painting I was trying to learn about fish. I am living largely in a Sicilian culture and i noticed how much art there is about the fish. Fish in every color and shape. In the island we eat many fish of various sizes from the sea. You don't find these fish in the supermarket. There are only a few fishermen here and they are very particular, unique characters. I am here in a Sicilian culture and with my art try to communicate between us.**

A vertical view of the big painting, so you can see more detail. This type of art works sideways or upside down.

These are my first good fish paintings. I have tried to do some fish paintings in the past and did not feel so satisfied with the result. I like these fish. They make me happy. They make me think about how giving, how sacred, how powerful and sweet the sea is. It is the bowl holding up our lives here on Pantelleria.

Splash. I know so little of the Sea. I have been living with the sea for 7 months as of the date of this publication. When I went to listen to the sea I heard the voice of the moon, felt what I call the hand of time. If you look closely you can see this detail.

I am travelling around the earth with a sacred feather, a sacred stone, a sacred fire.





Left the artist working on a bird painting. Below the big table, “message from the island” for Euterpini, a private estate on Pantelleria.





### **“The Magic Mirror”**

**The shape of the magic mirror came from a polished black obsidian mirror of the type possibly used by the ancient ones in this region. This mirror could have been used by Cleopatra. Though it is a black mirror, it works very well. Inside the magic mirror you see yourself looking back at yourself in a very different way than the typical mirror will allow. Mirrors are magic objects. They are very common. Almost everyone has one.**



## **“Solstice”**

**Summer solstice ceremony on Pantelleria. 18-22 June.**

**Inside the earth (the body) a gate (path) opens for a moment. We eat blue corn and sing....keep the little fire going for 4 days. Put tobacco in the fire....make tobacco ties and hang them in the sky.**

**Gouache Opaque Water Colors on paper. about 18 x 14 inches.**

**Kissing.  
Frogs have been  
kissed.  
Babies have been  
kissed.  
The sky has been  
kissed  
(excuse me)  
I love you  
long time**



**Kissing stones. Yes, please kiss this stone. In the dreaming I had of the stones of Pantelleria, all the black stones had kissing faces. What do you think would be the message from 300 or 400 stones all asking for a kiss?**

**I hope to keep doing the kissing stones until I have at least 30 or 40 of them. In the dreaming there were at least that many in one garden. This person is long. Long on kissing. Long on waiting. I love you long time.**



**Obsidian carving in progress. Native Pantelleria obsidian. The island of pantelleria has much obsidian in its rocks and mountains. These days it is very hard to find really pure obsidian. Most of it is an alloy with basaltic rock. This is a very large piece of obsidian given to me by a man on the island who was convinced such a stone could not be carved. It is being carved very slowly and carefully. Obsidian can fracture very easily from the pressures of sculpting.....so I go very slowly. The stone is about 13 inches at the widest point (width).**

**Obsidian is very popular with the merchants and probably with the tourists as well.....but these objects are almost always obsidian objects imported from Mexico, which seems like an insult to the island and a testimony to the soulless nature of merchandising.**



**Moon Dancing. Spirit made from two pieces of an old Pantasca chair. The wood seemed way to precious and interesting to discard. Oil pigments. The mask is made from pantellerita, the unique indigenous stone of the island. Moon-Dancing is something you do inside when life feels mysterious and beautiful. About 14 inches tall.**

Revisiting  
trust.....opening,  
touching, feeling,  
playing, filling up  
with joy....volcanic  
release !!





### **Heart-shaped man.**

**There is a bird that seems to be a falcon. There is a relationship between the bird and the heart-shaped man. The heart-shaped man likes to kiss. He will kiss you. Sometimes he kisses the bird.**

**How long do we live? What will happen when my teachers die? Do stones live all alone? I am not sure. I do not need all the answers to my questions when I look at these stones. The faces are in some respects questions carved into rocks.**

**Flying. The face of this dreamer carries the serpent. In some cultures he carries only temptation and destiny....in other cultures he flies with rain to grow the corn to feed the dancers who dance with feathers down on the earth and hold the serpent in their mouths....in another culture he is transformation, changes in tune with evolution and growth.**



**This was the very last sculpture in the series of my preparation for a gallery exhibit in July. He is coiled around something...perhaps an egg or the top of another man's head. Can you see the flying man in this sculpture.**

**Thoughts of Sicily. A salute' de Siciliano.**

**Pantellerite....about 26 inches wide.**



**A big, big Bear (Orso in Italian). About 100 pounds. He has a snake laying along his back-bone. He is an evolutionary healing spirit. The Bear is a protector. He also has the knowledge of how to heal himself when he might become sick in some way. He knows how to breathe and sing in the morning light and then watches the forest for the medicine to show itself by filling up with light. If you know how to see what is good for you; you know to always look for the light. Light comes in many colors. Some lights are trouble. If you look at them afterwards you will understand what was wrong with that particular light. Finding the light when you are blinded by the intensity of the colors of life is not easy. The Bear has a particular song that he uses to become still, to become empty....a song that brings him to a silence that is filled with information and direction. The Bear is a sacred being. He is a protector. This is one of about 8 Bears I have made for Italy. He is the third Bear for Pantelleria.**

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