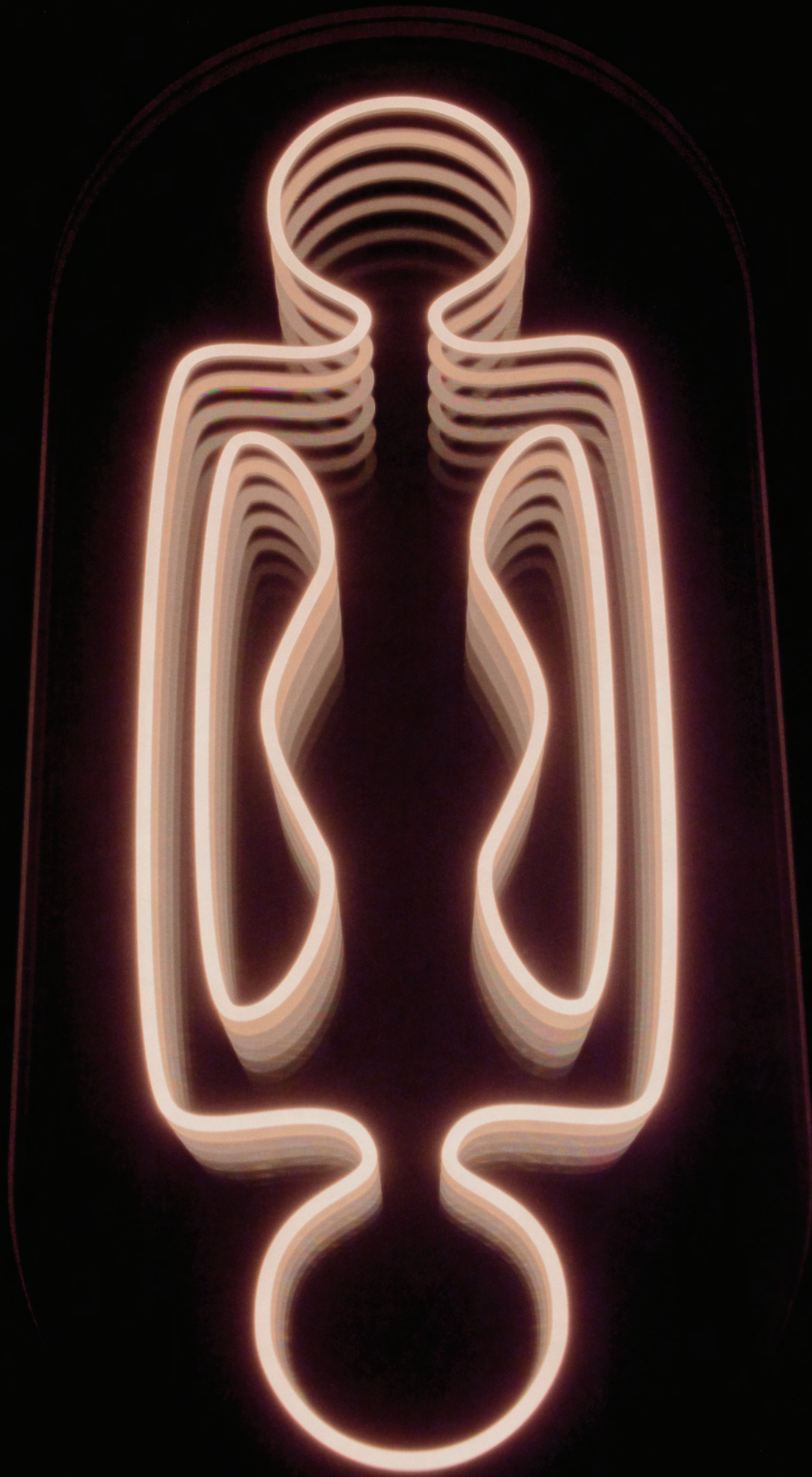


the infinite



MUSEUM OF SEX, NYC • HIGHER LOVE: THE PSYCHEDELIC ROOTS OF MODERN SEXUALITY • MARCH 22 - SEPTEMBER 17, 2025

Infinite Union, DOUBLE BEING, 2025

Transcendence through Deep Relationship

What is the infinite? Are we infinite? The infinite can be touched but not grasped, we can refer to it but not define it. As we ponder the notion of the infinite, so vast, so immense, we focus through the lens of deep intimacy, polarity, sex and psychedelics. The nature of nature is one of relationships — to self, each other, earth and cosmos.

The Infinite in the Present Moment

*How can our understanding and connection to the infinite bring solace to our current state of the world?
All around us we see our reality as we’ve known it crumble. We are experiencing a breaking in both human systems and the natural world, something is shifting, but who are we becoming?*

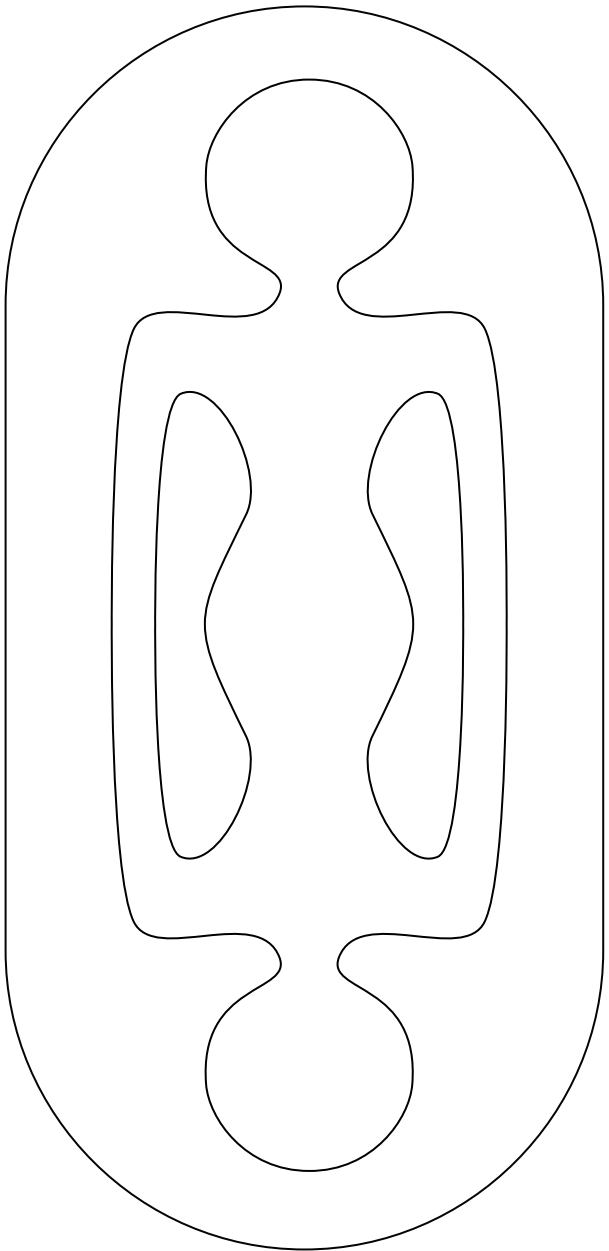
After ages of false belief, unity consciousness is now dawning from within. Through her potent potions, straight from the earth — or synthesized through a transmission of curiosity and invention — Mother Nature is helping us to remember. Surrendering to the heart pierces the illusion of separation. Both deep relationship and psychedelic experience reveal the fractal & holographic nature of reality. They surface deeper layers from the invisible and unconscious realms. When we enter this wholesome view our value system shifts. We recognize that insight springs forth from the heights as well as the depths. Is it possible for us to live outside of truth? And if we can, why do we?

Infinite Union by Double Being

The energies of the feminine and masculine are in an historic rebalancing act. They are reaching to meet each other once again, recognizing that they’ve both been wounded by patriarchy. Our coming together is not just a coming together of two individuals, we are coming together to heal the collective. This union has carried us to new vistas of perception. Suddenly form and formless don’t seem so distant. Our symbol, now sculpted into a mirror reflecting our infinite nature, invites you to look at the inherent unity of physical and spiritual, of birth and death, of man and woman, of you and me. ∞ DOUBLE BEING is the artist duo of Marisa Papen & Michael Chichi

Two Mirrors See Infinity

Becoming completely naked and transparent is essential if one wants to engage in deep relationship. When mutual trust is established, through the experience of joined unconditional love, our essence is revealed. The two lovers now are mirrors — reflections of a moment — which then echo forward, while continually evolving, reverberating, evolving, reverberating. They burn away all that which is not true to their original image, while simultaneously growing into true beings of light. This infinity mirror may lead you into the archetypal shape of union, kindling a memory of your unseparated nature within your heart.

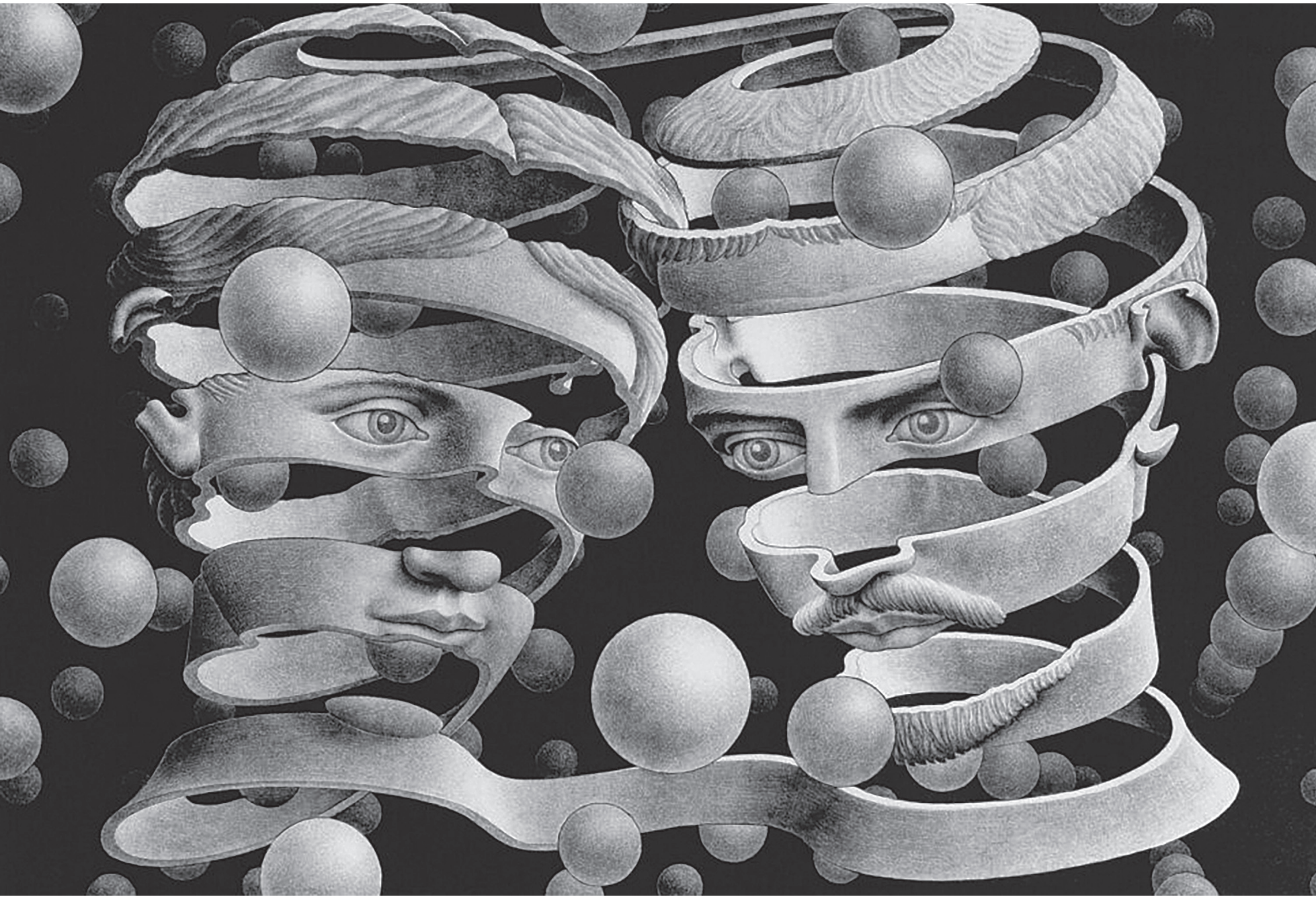


infinite union

ancient form in present symbol
where have I seen you before?
from the first gathering in this flesh
our creative centers coalesced
the infinite eye gazed beyond patterned possibility
and through this portal of reflection
silence began to speak
the formless solidified
the contrast vocalized
“who are you? and who am I?”

onto the shimmering void of eternity
a new silhouette spread
held within our midst
the alchemical chalice
and both drinking from it

when the two become as one again
our figure moves synchronized in the light
of a newly expanding horizon
each obstacle on the way of union
will be merged into this togetherness
transforming themselves
into the very fuel of ecstatic intimacy
may these voices sing in infinite unity
may this commitment also serve
to soften the world



Bond of Union, M.C. ESCHER, 1956

Hieros Gamos

∞ MARISA PAPEN + MICHAEL CHICHI

Hieros Gamos’ — hieros (ἱερός) meaning “holy” or “sacred” and gamos (γάμος) meaning “marriage”. It is the archetype of the sacred marriage between heaven and earth, god and goddess, man and woman. This union carries the continuity of life’s cycles of fertility, abundance and protection of the earth. It symbolizes the end of separation and through their infusion of love they lift the Earth’s frequency into unity. Hieros Gamos is also a central motif in the individuation process, expressing the creative union of opposites within the psyche. For it is through the encounter with true love, the awakening of eros and the joys and frustrations that follow, the inner process of integration is constellated and energized.

We had known each other as friends for five years prior to this partnership. But when our senses finally met in essence, there was a deep inner knowing, a remembering of our love before this lifetime. Years after saying yes in marriage, we came to learn the concept of Hieros Gamos and immediately resonated strongly with this depth of relationship. Through closer research, we discovered an ancient cave painting dating back to 20,000 - 30,000 BC in the South of France. Archeologists have given this image the name ‘The Two People’. Without having conscious knowledge of this ancient symbol, Marisa drew with her finger spontaneously in the sand almost exactly the same form years earlier. We named it ‘Double Being’.

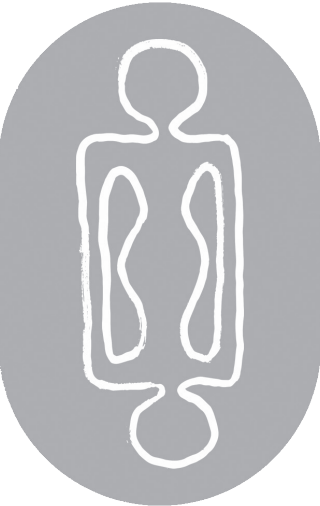
***Did Marisa connect to a memory of a previous lifetime? Or drew this figure in a parallel timeline?
Or does this symbol exist in the collective unconscious? Or maybe she and the ancient cave painter both drew from a common source of experience?***

Our relationship is one of paradox, we have learned to thrive without the comfort of clear answers. Art is our pathway to the heart, relationship our act of healing, our trans-medium. Every project we undertake and care for strengthens our foundation, rising upward, unlocking new communication. This supported synergy gives courage to leap into unknown versions of ourselves. It is as if, with our hands interlocked, extended, being held and at the same time carrying — we form a grounded weightlessness. Carried by the currents of nature, non-limited to direction, yet directionless. Like a spiraling helicopter seed but moving both upwards and downwards.

Double Being is a transparent generative container. Its abstraction expresses a philosophic concept, having two perspectives but a shared common gut. The power of human intimacy is that of two auras interacting to create a third. This is where our creativity brews. Within this cauldron the two auric fields are chaotically interfused and through an alchemical process a new awareness dawns. Double Being is living proof that the age old trauma, the split between other and self, masculine and feminine is ripe to be healed.



The Two People
20,000 - 30,000 BC
Lausseau Cave, France



Double Being
MARISA PAPEN
2020



The Native American medicine wheel has given bearing, a sense of position, an objective and simultaneous understanding of both the infinitude and the limitation of life.



"The spiral in psychology means that when you make a spiral you always come over the same point where you have been before, but never really the same, it is above or below, inside, outside, so it means growth." – Carl Jung



Om is the primordial sound from which the whole universe was created. It is a sacred sound in Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism and Sikhism. Om is said to be 'Adi Anadi', without beginning or end – embracing all that exists.



The tree of life represents balance and harmony in all worlds, connecting heaven, earth and the underworld.



Ouroboros, emblematic serpent of ancient Egypt and Greece with its tail in its mouth, continually devouring itself and being reborn from itself. Ouroboros expresses the unity of all things, material and spiritual, which never disappear but perpetually change form in an eternal cycle of destruction and re-creation.

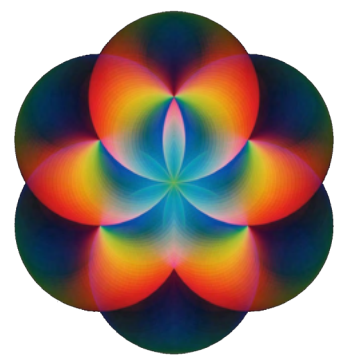


Hathor and Nefertari – who hold hands as a symbol of unity – symbolizing the union of Upper Egypt and Lower Egypt.



DNA, the universal code is a helix of infinite possibilities.

image - HILMA AF KLINT



The Flower of Life is a sacred geometric symbol that represents infinity and eternity through the unbroken continuity of its circles.



Originating from ancient Egypt, the Ankh represents "life" or "eternal life" often considered as the "key of life", encapsulating the understanding of the soul's continuity beyond physical death.

I am Gold

∞ ANAÏS NIN

Two sensations began to torment me: one that it was happening too quickly and that I would not be able to remember it, another that I would not be able to tell what I saw, it was too elusive and too overwhelming.



Guardians of Time
MANFRED KIELNHOFER
2006

My senses were multiplied as if I had a hundred eyes, a hundred ears, a hundred fingertips... I could dissolve, melt, float, soar. The music vibrated through my body as if I were one of the instruments and I felt myself becoming a full percussion orchestra, becoming green, blue, orange. The temples grew taller, the music wilder, it became a tidal wave of sounds with gongs and bells predominating. Gold spires emitted a long flute chant. Every line and color was constantly breathing and mutating. I still had the impression I had been among the planets. I remembered the illustration from Saint-Exupéry's Little Prince, the child standing all alone on the edge of the planet. I lay down and covered myself. I looked at the curtains of the room and they turned to a gauzy gold. The whole room became filled with gold, as if by a strong sun. The walls turned to gold, the bedcover was gold, my whole body was becoming gold, liquid gold, scintillating, warm gold. I was GOLD. It was the most pleasurable sensation I had ever known, like an orgasm. From the feeling of intense cold, as if I were chloroformed, loss of gravity of the legs, and diminution in size, I passed to the sensation of being gold.

Suddenly I was weeping. Why should I be weeping? I realized the absurdity of weeping when traveling through space. As soon as the concept of absurdity struck me, the comic spirit appeared again. It was another Anaïs, not the one which was lying down weeping, but a small, light Anaïs, very lively and mobile. Before we go on, I want to explain why women weep. IT IS THE QUICKEST WAY TO REJOIN THE OCEAN. You liquefy, become fluid, flow back into the ocean where the colors are more beautiful! Space was lonely, and empty, a vast desert. After the feeling of cold I had a feeling of danger. My world is so beautiful but so fragile. I was pleading for protection of this evanescent beauty.

The Oriental cities vanished and the infinite appeared again, but now it was bordered on each side by celestial gardens of precious stones on silver and gold stems. Temptation not to pursue the infinite, but to enjoy the gardens. Space is definitely without sensuous appeal. The comic spirit of Anaïs stood aside and laughed at so much Russian-opera extravaganza. But the other Anaïs maintained her pose as a Balinese dancer with legs slightly bent, the tips of the fingers meeting in a symbolic gesture of pleading. I watched a shoreline of gold waves breaking into solid gold powder and becoming gold foam, and gold hair, shimmering and trembling with gold delights. I felt I could capture the secret of life because the secret of life was metamorphosis and transmutation, but it happened too quickly and was beyond words. Ah, I cannot capture the secret of life with WORDS. Sadness. The secret of life was BREATH. That was what I always wanted words to do, to BREATHE. NOW I KNOW WHY THE FAIRY TALES ARE FULL OF JEWELS.

Excerpt from "The Diary of Anaïs Nin / Volume 5 / 1947-1955", in its final pages Nin describes and analyzes her supervised LSD trip. This trip report together with an audio recording from her diary is on view at the exhibition 'Higher Love: The Psychedelic Roots of Modern Sexuality' at Museum of Sex, NYC (Mar 22 – Sept 17).

This Infinity – Everything is Becoming

∞ DANIEL COFFEEN, PhD



Kundalini
RUDRA KISHORE MANDAL
2014

Whenever I hear "the infinite," I picture an infinite zoom out until there's just one vast undifferentiated expanse. But, alas, there's no such thing as the infinite. Well, there is, but it's a concept. And, more importantly, it's an attribute: all bodies, visible and invisible, are infinite. So while there may be no such thing as the infinite, there are infinite infinities.

Strictly speaking, things aren't. Everything is a becoming, not in the sense of moving towards a final state but in the sense that all things — whether the idea of love, you, your hair, or this computer — are in a state of perpetual change. We are not. *We become.* That's because all things are (at least) four dimensional, enjoying length, width, height, and time. We are not first a body and then time begins. Everything comes into this world already in motion and hence already changing. The Big Bang was not a singular event. The universe is always already big banging, always already moving, changing, morphing, coalescing and dissipating at the same time.

Life, then, is not geometry. It's calculus. Every body is a differential equation, enjoying a limit — and here's the kicker — that's infinite! We are each this trajectory of becoming, this trajectory of perpetual differentiation, moving towards an infinite limit that will never be reached. Think of the number Pi: it's infinite but in its absolutely particular way.

You and I are both infinite but each in our own way. Everything is some version of Pi. You become like that, I become like this. Like what? Like this, here, this body — which is at once physical and virtual — infinitely becomes in this way, with this shape, this slouch in shoulders, this balding head, this process of assembling of words, moods, textures, blood, and bone.

This trajectory doesn't cease at death. We're not actors on a stage we call the universe who exit stage right when we die. We are not in or on the universe: we are the universe expressing itself (pace

Spinoza). Each body — every tree, car, fire, thought, tchotchke — is a shape of the universe happening that necessarily leaves an indelible mark. The universe is forever different thanks to you and me (as well my dog, my plants, car, coffee mug...).

We therefore live on in perpetuity as this inflection of the cosmos. It's not about making a big impact such as, say, curing cancer. From a cosmic perspective — from the perspective of infinity — there's no difference between a butterfly flapping its wings and Napoleon conquering Europe. You are such and such a piece of the universe happening, this expression of the cosmic differential equation. Indelibly inscribed into the fabric of the universe, everything is different because of you.

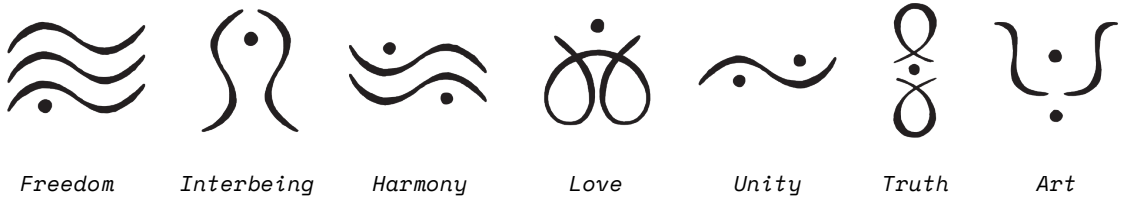
You are not just infinite. You are this infinite expression of the universe.

A Guiding Frequency Comprised of Seven Essential Elements

We formulated an elemental language that takes shape as symbolic gestures, crystallizing the profound interconnectedness between the sacred and 3rd dimension. They have a simple underlying structure, dot + line, particle + wave.

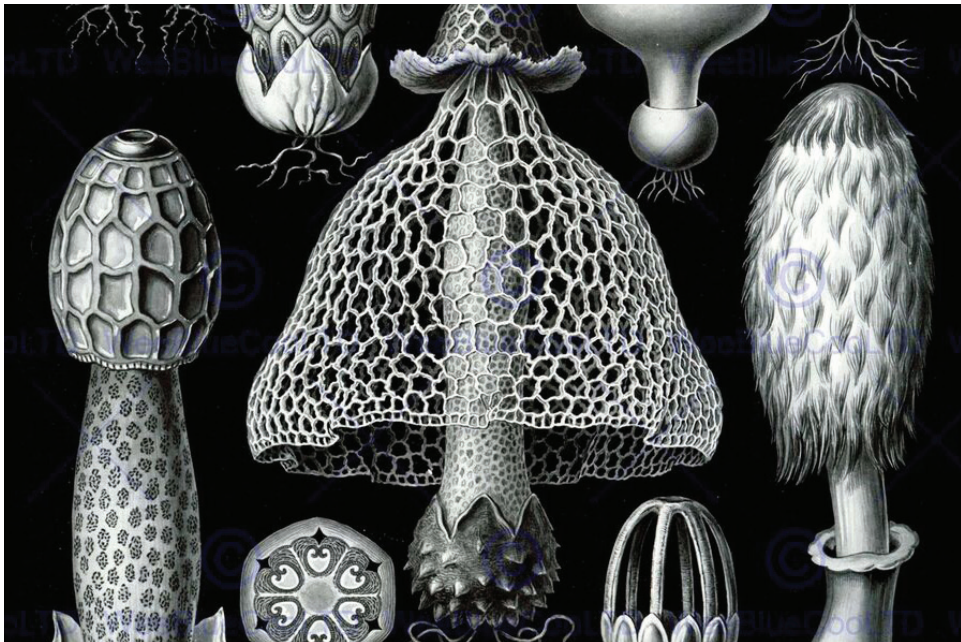


Quantum physics understands the particle-wave relationship as fundamental in nature. Matter and light are made of minute particles having wave-like characteristics. The particle represents the materialized receptive energy, the wave the moving creative energy. When in harmony, the particle is carried by the wave, ebbing & flowing to ever-undulating natural rhythms.



"Marrying the Heart Sūtra's teachings with quantum science's revelations, bridges the ancient spiritual realm and contemporary scientific frontiers. Through this confluence the enigmatic nature of the universe is illuminated. The wave-particle duality inherent in quantum mechanics and its unexpected alignments with the ancient wisdom encapsulated in the Heart Sūtra, reveals reality not as a steadfast entity but as a spectrum of potentialities that morphs in the wake of observation. The synchronicity between these two seemingly disparate fields underscores the intricate tapestry of reality, where the tangible and the intangible interweave to shape human perception and understanding."
— David Leong (University of Canberra)

"In the quantum world, everything is everywhere, and no where is no when at the same time. All is one point. There is a vast difference between perceiving things from the heart center or the intellectual mind."
— Dr David Clements, PhD



Fungus Mushroom Toadstool, ERNEST HAEKEL, 1904

When I Slow Down I Step Between Stones – a first mushroom journey

∞ ROBBE PAPEN

Last summer my girlfriend and I visited my sister and her husband in Utah. They rented a home surrounded by red rock formations, it was my first time in the USA and also in the desert. Pretty immediately upon arrival they spoke about the possibility of having a psychedelic journey together. I had only heard stories or seen depictions of such states in movies or TV shows. *Now, it was time to find out for ourselves.*

We decided to go on a nature hike on the east side of Zion National Park. Right before we entered the trail we ate 2 grams of golden teacher mushrooms. After about 30 minutes we encountered a quiet clearing by a desolate log cabin built by a college professor in 1930. When we sat down, the effects started to kick in. At first, I only noticed small changes, particularly in the sensations of my body. I'm someone who likes to touch and hold things; physical contact helps me feel grounded and in control. But when I tried to pick up a stone, I realized I couldn't grip it as firmly as I usually would. Looking back now, I think my body was telling me to let go and allow the experience to unfold naturally. As the effects deepened, my senses became sharper. I could smell tree sap from a distance and feel the veins of leaves with

surprising clarity. The sound of the wind in the trees seemed more vivid, and I noticed details I wouldn't normally pick up. *Everything appeared more vibrant.*

Suddenly we felt the urge to move again, we continued our hike barefoot. Walking without shoes made me feel more connected to the ground beneath me. During the trip, I didn't feel any pain from the sharp stones or tree roots. Perhaps it was because I took my time, paying closer attention to where I was stepping, or because I instinctively felt where to place my feet. It felt as though I was moving more consciously and in tune with my surroundings.

Later, as the effects wore off, I began to feel the sharpness of the stones and roots again. That contrast stood out to me and I've been reflecting on this ever since. The photos we had taken during our walk didn't at all match the richness of what I had perceived in the moment. This experience has given me a new perspective. It has made me more aware of my senses and the natural world around me. I am currently growing my own mushrooms in anticipation of my next journey.



Egg of Time, DOUBLE BEING, 2024

Egg of Time

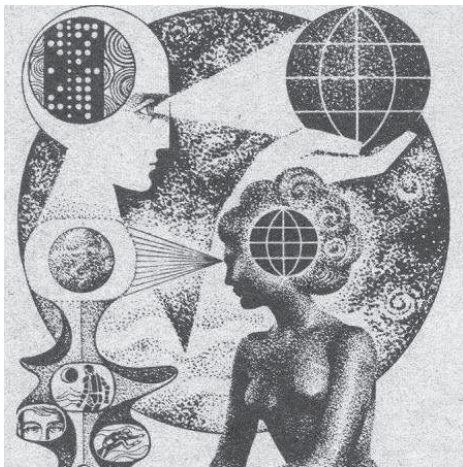
∞ MARISA PAPEN

*before the flames had touched the sky
the frozen egg of time had cracked
within this egg existed all*

*the crescent and the full
the wild and the still
the sprouting and the withering
the rock that crumbles into sand
and the rock that remains*

The processes whereby the creative act unfolds into the circuits of space and time can be traced back, through patterns of form, to an original splitting into two. We may understand the universe as developing from a cosmic egg. The cosmic egg and the self-originated lingam with no standing place assimilate to each other. The symbolism of red and white, female and male — fuse.¹ By incorporating the natural cycles as true time, we can re-open our frequency field to the awareness of nature interacting within us. This is not to discount the masculine, linear sense of time, but to rebalance our existence by bringing in the feminine and thus the cycles of life. How thought-provoking to imagine our society if we would harmonize both points of view. The feminine is ready and yearns to be re-integrated, she is appearing through the portal of our dreams. People meet her during psychedelic experiences, when connecting with nature or in other moments of deep clarity and epiphany. Alas we have seen some cyclical understanding unfold into our world. Mindful consumption and recycling of materials. The belief of reincarnation & karma. Regenerative farming. Circular economics. Also, the melting of competition between women — a historic coming together of ancient wisdom in modern times. Women are finding their way to the sacred circle of sisters once again. And the depth in which these women are connecting to their wombs is causing a planetary awakening.

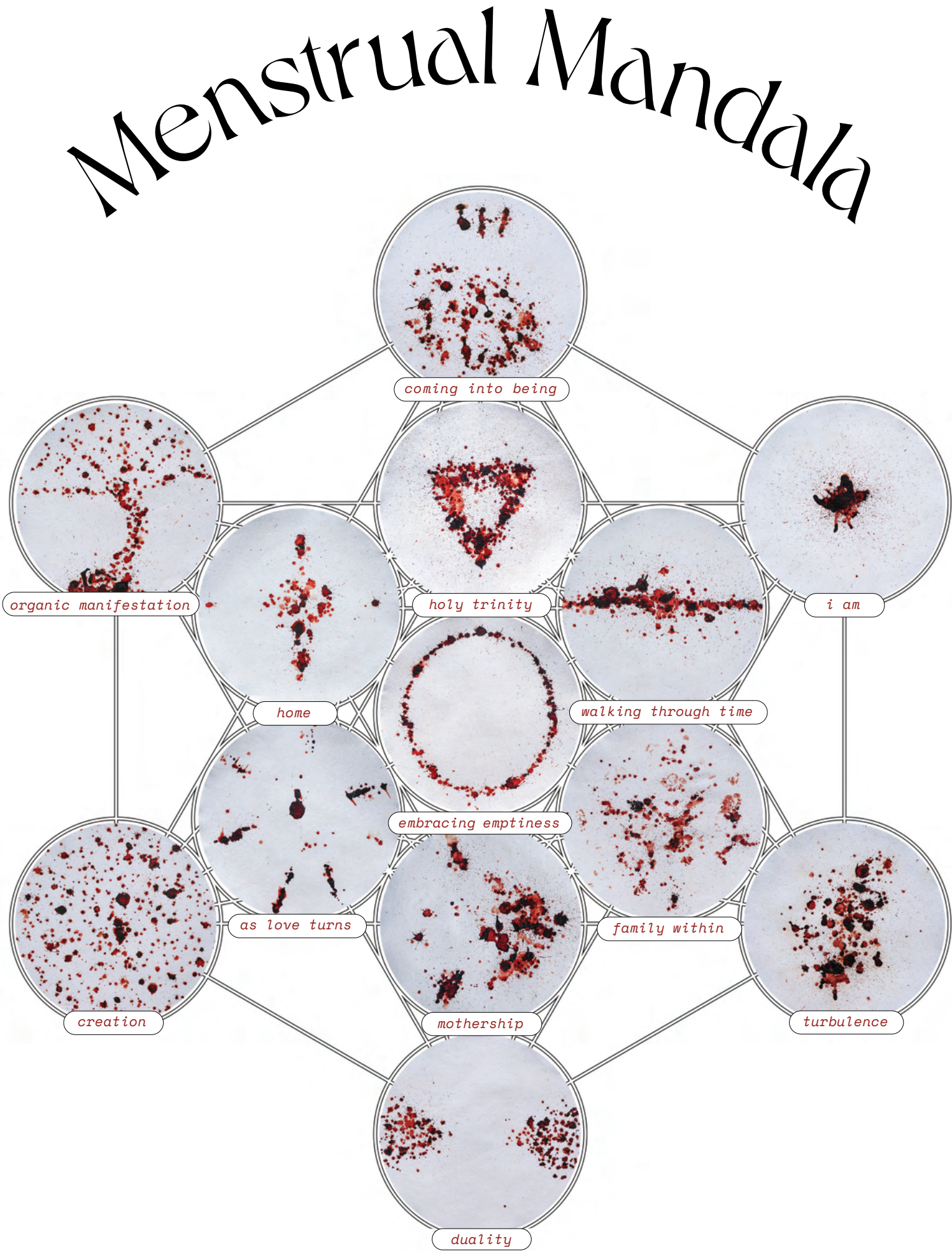
¹ Excerpt from – TANTRA, The Indian Cult of Ecstasy, Philip Rawson



Law of Time Principles

∞ JOSÉ ARGÜELLES

1. Time is the universal frequency of synchronization, mathematically expressed as a ratio constant, 13:20. From this is derived the harmony of the synchronic order, expressed as the formulation $T(E) = \text{Art} \cdot \text{Energy}$ factored by time equals art. The synchronic order is the actual nature of reality in which all phenomena are in synchronicity with each other.
2. The 13:20 frequency distinguishes universal natural time from artificial time of the present Earth civilization, expressed as the frequency ratio 12:60 (irregular 12 month calendar and mechanistic 60 minute hour). According to the Law of Time, the means to resolve the aberration of artificial time and its deviance from the universal order of reality is the Thirteen Moon/28-day calendar.
3. The velocity of time is instantaneously infinite. This means that time is faster than the speed of light and is the means of higher mental communication - telepathy.



Flow of Life

Flow of Life is a multidisciplinary work of art shaped by the menstrual cycle and the story of womanhood. For one lunar year, Marisa's vagina and gravity were her paintbrush in this personal yet universal exploration. She practiced free-bleeding onto large sheets of circular paper for 13 continuous months. Each painting is accompanied by a reflecting poem, influenced by her emotional and

philosophical state. As Marisa allowed the collective trauma to flow through her, the moon paintings inspired visions of the present, past and future. The configuration above is the floor-plan of the future exhibition we are currently manifesting.

www.flowoflife.io
www.doublebeing.com

Metatron Matrix

Metatron is said to be the blueprint of the universe — the basic creation pattern of existence. The spheres of Metatron symbolize the 'feminine' whilst the straight lines represent the 'masculine'. Hidden within the lines, connecting all the centers of the circles, we may observe the five platonic solids: tetrahedron, cube, octahedron, icosahedron, and dodecahedron.

Thus Metatron weaves together the male & female polarities to create the oneness of the infinite all. We present this Metatron as a mandala composed of the 13 menstrual moon paintings. In the eye of the mandala we find the 13th and final painting 'embracing emptiness'. Around emptiness, born from the womb of the universe, aspects of reality are constellated.

Naked on the beach, journaling insight, watching the seagulls on the ever-changing horizon.

∞ Blythe

We all are travelers. This lifetime is yet another place that we are visiting for a while.

∞ Amma

Once you become a parent, it is forever. Parenthood begins at birth but continues for a parent's lifetime and therefore is infinite.

∞ Cheryl Chichi

Taking three long slow deep breaths together; skiing high speed; making love with sex; getting stoned while immersed in nature; kayaking at dawn; meditation; a kiss in the dark; watching the pelicans glide over the water; psilocybin; lifting off the ground with my airplane; falling asleep in the spoons position.

∞ Michael Levy

Lying on the beach in a warm summer night, looking at the starry sky I was fading away in the infinite.

∞ S. Jannes

Thou shalt be thy own horizon.

∞ Willem Vandenberghe

To me the thought of the infinite is scary because my perception is that it is a sea of darkness. One could get lost or drowned never to be found again. In case of infinite numbers my perception is that it starts with clear visible numbers and later they become illegible and all become mixed and very confusing.

∞ Narpat Jadeja

When time stops.

∞ Paul Pascarella

Infinity means no borders, endless freedom. Infinity also means hope - in the endless space one may encounter solutions for up to now unsolved problems. But contemplating about Infinity can also lead to fear to get lost in the endless pathways that unfold in front of you.

∞ Paul Roeders

I experienced the infinite once during a ceremony. Altered, I saw that I really was you, him, them, her.

∞ Bella Andreini

Crossing Rosa's pupils in Love the cosmos opened

The sky bursts into other times and colors on Tuesday to its dolphin sending iridescent geometries oceanic oil of gold

Drop plum and the field The field mutes granules of Light

I am shown the Aurora I understand everything.

∞ Miguel Ángel Álvarez

In love with the movement and flow growing together more + more our breath connecting together in space traveling through time as one.

∞ Zach Riverflow

The infinite is expansive outer space pointing away from its origin in all directions, left, right, up and down — leading to massive black holes that exit to other universes — to new black holes — to iterate — again and again... forever.

∞ Rick Howell

Many times in my life I was granted to 'see the light' of how real the infinite manifests in our earthly existence. It is particularly evident at times when we make a truly free gift. Gifts with no strings attached 'come back' in a magical, mysterious way.

∞ Hansjürg Lange

The Earth, the Stars, male, female, never starting, never ending...

∞ Bruce Cooper

I experience the infinite by looking at my smoothly polished lapis lazuli stone and imagining it as the Earth seen from space.

∞ Wouter Dobbelaere

Closed eyes find Deep beneath thy mortal skin How the infinite without Is as vast as that within

∞ Christopher J. Wheeler

The infinite is the mother dough.

∞ Matt Burns

When my mind and my spirit becomes one with the universe, through breathing and deep thought, I am part of the infinite.

∞ Henrique Do Couto

As a child, I was close to infinity in a near-death experience when I fell through a hole under the ice. A green-orange ball lit up and disappeared when a bystander pulled me out from under the ice layer. That was a long time ago, in 1944.

∞ Adriaan Meij

Hmm, a question that gives due pause in today's shallow world. I experience the infinite my heart beat, the flowing river, the sunshine. All of these phenomena are finite but the pattern that holds them is forever.

∞ Amara

I have been a volunteer fireman for over 30 years. I have seen my share of death. Some people I knew, some people I didn't. But I still remember every person that we ended up losing and saving. I carry those memories with me. For me, those memories are infinite. Imprinted into my life, my soul, my very being. Every human being is energy, a soul, a power source. When we pass, our life force is released back to the universe.

∞ Tony Hanson

Nature is infinite, it continually repeats new life.

∞ Arjan Wolters

never ends infinite bright by day, dark by night

calm within, unsecure solitude is my cure

never starts infinite bittersweet human rights

every day seems the same when you're male in Ukraine

∞ Oleksiy Kovalenko

Experiencing bliss in its truest form would be closest to experiencing the infinite. And when we die and our essence curls back up into the infinite then we are so close but what would be there to experience the infinite but the infinite itself.

∞ Marcel Cramer



The Prayer of Sacred Sexuality

∞ PHOEBE ELLIOTT

One summer morning, I was lying in Savanna with my head in the grass. I had taken a micro dose of psilocybin mushrooms, and as I consciously connected with the earth, the thought form arose, “Who was Jesus Christ’s lover?” It all of a sudden struck me as ridiculous that he not be a sexually active person. I got called to attention by my kids however, and wasn’t able to linger any longer. My baby needed a nap. I lay down with him to nurse and continued my journeying. Side note: For moms to be and breast-feeding mothers, rather than try to get your baby to sleep alone, you can participate in “bed-itation”. When my kids were nursing, this became precious time for meditation and journeying (with or without mushrooms). I dropped in again, and this time, there was a long staircase, standing at the top was a woman in a long, green dress with a high collar. She had a brooch at her neck. She began walking down the stairs towards me. I thought to myself, “Who is this?” The first response I heard was, “Professor McGonagall.” “Hmm” I thought. I said it over and over in my mind, and the message clarified to “Mary Magdalene!” Mary Magdalene! Of course, she was Christ’s beloved.



Still nursing and napping my baby, I picked up my phone and looked up MM (Mary Magdalene) . I found her sacred symbols include the rose, the skull, pearls, the alabaster jar, etc. I found her feast day was July 22nd, just 3 weeks away. On July 22nd, we were scheduled to be vacationing on the Sicilian island Panarea, after attending a wedding in Italy. The problem was, we didn’t have our passports. The passport agency kept rejecting our photos, and with just three weeks until our trip, the only way to secure our passports was by calling each day, hoping to get one of the scarce, in person appointments at one of the nearest passport agencies.

In that moment, I vowed to MM that if we miraculously made it on this trip, I would collect her symbols as they came, and we would plan a special, sacred sexual ceremony on her feast day in Panarea. Well, as it turned out, I called the agency on the Friday before our flight and got an appointment for the following Wednesday morning in Boston — both the day and city we were flying out of. Her symbols materialized along the journey, and we picked up our passports just three hours before the plane took off.

Fast forward one year, and we found ourselves leaving the kids with their grandparents to celebrate MM’s feast day again. We went on a favourite hike on psilocybin mushrooms. Towards the top of the mountain, we intuitively let ourselves be guided to a beautiful bed of moss on a slight hill by following a trail of amanita mushrooms. We enter sacred sexual ceremony by burning candles and incense, smoking cannabis, doing kundalini yoga breath work, and reading tarot cards. We ground to mother earth with our gratitude, we connect directly to father sky and pure source energy, we call on our guides, and cast spells of protection and invisibility. We set our personal intentions, but ultimately offer our pleasures and the healing act of love to the mother earth, all her plants and animals, and especially to the humans, our fellow brothers and sisters.

Deepening our sexual relationship in nature and in sacred prayer has been profoundly transformational. When combining divine masculine and feminine energies in lovemaking, there is an alchemical process that makes the sum of two parts greater than the whole. This energy is so activating and healing that when you throw intention into the cauldron, you cannot lose. Your sexuality, and waking up to its power, is your ULTIMATE manifestation tool.

Making love is one of the most healing acts one can perform. Our pleasures please mother earth, and she rejoices when we come together. Our fertility is her fertility. Pagans and our indigenous ancestors revered the feminine and her ability to procreate. *“Indeed the free flowing sexuality of the goddess and her priestesses was believed to fertilize the land and bring boons, blessings, and abundance. Repressing sexual energy, or worse, exploiting the energy, could harm the fertility of the earth and bring drought, pestilence, and famine to the people.”*¹ The misuse and abuse of sexual energy has reigned for far too long. Your greatest offering to this planet, your greatest form of activism, is turning towards your sexual nature in celebration.

¹ *Seren Bertrand & Azra Bertrand, MD, Magdalene Mysteries: The Left-Hand Path of the Feminine Christ.*

Artwork
Yoniverse, STEFAN ELLIOTT, 2025

We are Always Fertile

∞ CAROLINA GRACE, MA LMHC

When I think of the infinite, I think of my birth story. Giving birth to my son Sovereign at age 44 is an experience I will be integrating for the rest of my life. I brought him into the world accidentally over the toilet, he was in our arms within 2 hours of labor, before our midwife could arrive. I had this pivotal moment when I desperately needed someone to help yet no one could but myself — this was my SOVEREIGNTY moment. I called in all my power and became my own hero instantaneously and forever.

My crown chakra opened to its fullest potential, becoming part of the firmament above. My root chakra stretched open completely, no separation between me and the earth beneath — I was a living channel, a wide open creation portal. I knew I’d always be fertile, though I’d spent decades worried about my ability to conceive. I recognized the lie I had been living. As I felt myself connected to everything, I felt the truth that each one of us walks with and that we are always creating and birthing as the sacred

technology we are. It was also in this moment I felt I would die of pain. I reached down and touched the head coming, I was seeing fractals of black and white while screaming deep animal sounds, I pushed our baby into the world, unsure I would ever walk again.

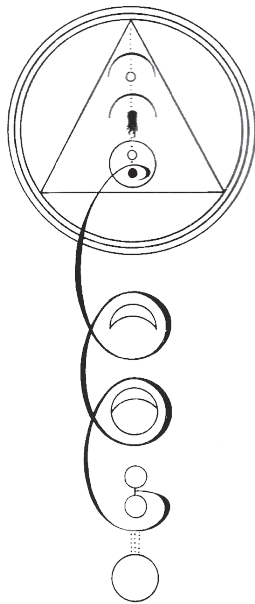
Living now after birth, I walk with a majesty and a heartbreak, as I see in my clients, students and parts of myself occasionally carrying this belief — that there is something wrong with us, that we must be good to win some kind of love or approval. I feel like a prophet from the great infinite, equipped with a knowing through becoming a mother. We are loved, we are loving and powerful beyond anything we could ever comprehend. We make worlds with our thoughts and actions and we make new life from our bodies. When we synchronize our great hearts with this ability — life on earth will be transformed.

Kundalini Channel

What makes the vagus nerve so remarkable? It’s not just its length or the organs it connects to, it’s the bidirectional communication it facilitates between body and brain. Our nervous system either triggers into fight/flight or chooses to assimilate and act with an open heart. The first chakra represents the foundational basis of human existence that we share with other animals, psyche meeting soma. It is associated with the perineum, the earth element, the mass, solidity, gravity on which all else rests. If this base is jeopardized, all other chakras will be compromised and unable to function optimally. It is here that the dynamic polarization of feminine/masculine still

lies dormant. The Kundalini, or “serpent energy”, is coiled at the base of the spine until it is unleashed and travels upward through the spine. The heat and energy released in this process manifest the awakening of consciousness. The vagus nerve acts as a conduit, transmitting the transformative effects of Kundalini awakening throughout the body.

As Kundalini energy activates and harmonizes the body’s energy centers, it sends signals through the vagus nerve, influencing heart rate, digestion, and respiration. This intricate dance between Kundalini and the vagus nerve creates a profound shift in the individual’s overall well-being.



Stages of energy transformation, through ‘transverbal’ and ‘trans-personal’ levels to release into the void.



They say that when Kundalini Shakti reaches the crown of your head she joins with Shiva in joyous reunion. You have attained liberation and are capable of performing miracles.

Vagus Nerve

∞ MARISA PAPEN

*When one image touches thousands
The serpentine uncoils to witness
She hisses “medicine can be bitter”*



Where do our symbols and imagination originate from? Within, without or throughout? My mind is deeply visual. When I am in communion with the world of archetypal imagery I feel a sense of belonging. This time, I had seen her so clear, slithering across my back. I had seen her shape draped around my spine, like Asclepius’ staff. Until I am standing eye to eye with the vision there is always an intense building of pressure. Every act turns into an attempt to resolve the puzzle. On the 6th day I was told by a woman to visit a lake in the mountains, it was peaceful there she said, an escape from the sweltering desert heat.

Upon arrival I immediately wandered into the forest following the undulating stream that was filling a reservoir. I settled on a small clearing with bright dappled light, threw open my sarong and entered into my nakedness. Swiftly I cleaned the river of branches and rocks, lied flat onto the sandy bottom, just deep enough to submerge my breasts. Icy water streams around my neck, deep slow breaths. The emotional currents of my body become transparent and still, the air of my mind clear and shining. This was a holy moment, I recognized. My heart unlocked towards an opening — and there the serpentine crossed my path.

When we surrender to our body and care for it as our temple, while also remembering that this body belongs to the earth — we are liberated into stillness. Tending to our root and all the trauma that is stored there, awakens the serpent from her coiled position. Just as the serpent represents the forces of life and death, we stand as an intermediary between healing and sickness. Whether our experience is venomous or medicinal is a sovereign decision. Choosing to be creator rather than victim causes the serpents rising. She opens and stretches, touching all major energy centers. Her fluid presence releases the breath of compassion. Here we discover the wisdom of the inner guide.

During moments of crisis our reality needs to be shaken so drastically that the only thing remaining is a shattered mirror. Within this breaking, the body is our compass, forgiveness is our key. Even as children we knew we had been separated. We could see it in our parents, their deep sadness, grief and desperation. This realization, however painful, can thrust us into freedom. This is the time of the serpents shedding. Descending into the unknown, we rise into our strength. Feeling our body as nature’s sanctuary, we find the eros that connects us to God. Yes, we do contain our own medicine — *we are the holy scripture.*



Vagus Nerve
DOUBLE BEING
2024

VISIONS

Surrealism to me is reality. Psychedelic vision is reality to me and always was.
∞ John Lennon



Untitled
GHULAM RASOOL SANTOSH
1970s



Simplified Introspective Apocryphal Laboratory
PEDRO FRIEDEBERG
2015



Radiant Man and Radiant Woman

∞ JOSE ARGÜELLES + MIRIAM ARGÜELLES

Self-renewed and recreated as a family, we found the strength to return to our individual centers only to see there reflections of each other. To say that I am only woman-yin-or I am only man-yang-is an illusion. All phenomena in the universe are an admixture of these two aspects of the unifying principle and each thing is ultimately a projection of this unity. *Radiant Woman*-agent of the yin principle-was executed by the man, and *Radiant Man*, by the woman. For each of us it was an exercise in projecting the qualities supposedly opposite to our respective genders. We worked together on these paintings for almost a year, and through this process gained a deeper appreciation of the universal yin-yang nature.



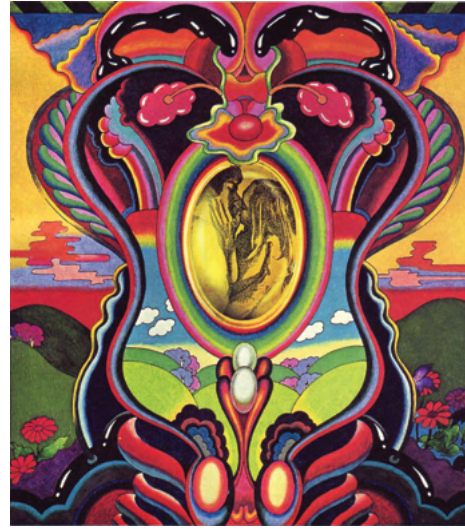
Radiant Man
MIRIAM ARGÜELLES
1972



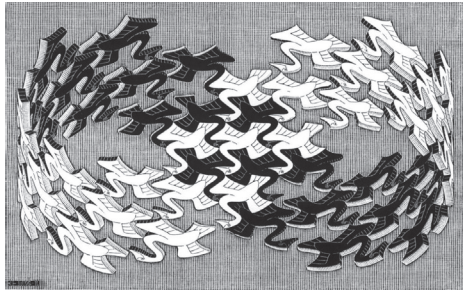
Radiant Woman
JOSE ARGÜELLES
1972



Know Thyself
STEFAN ELLIOTT
2025



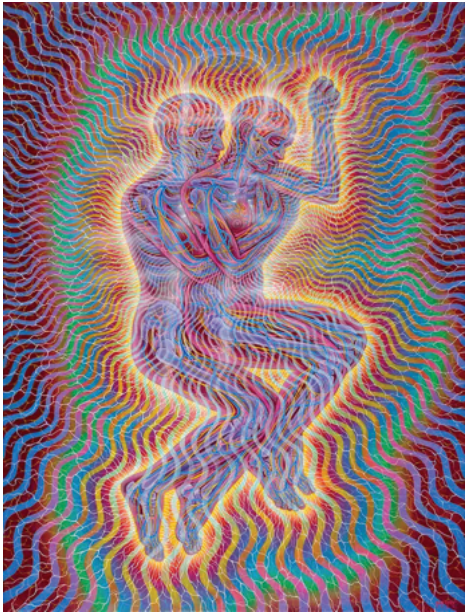
Untitled
MASAMI TERAOKA
1970s



Swans
MC ESCHER
1956



YES
DOROTHY IANNONE
1981



Spooning
ALEX GREY
2023

To give oneself, and yet to remain free.
Irreconcilable polarities meeting in art, meeting in love.
∞ Dorothy Iannone



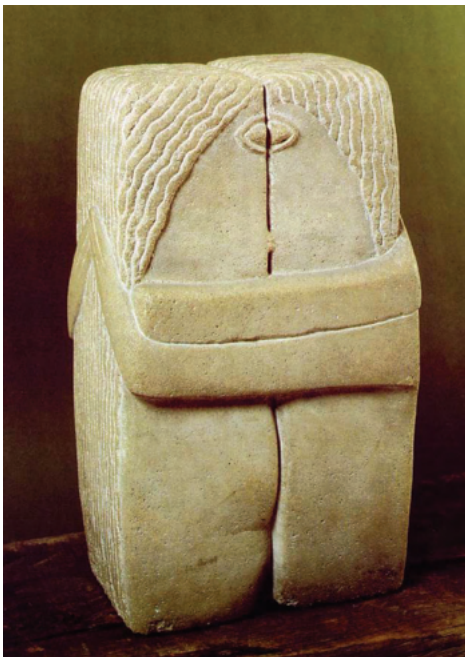
Cosmic Cathedral
VANGEL NAUMOVSKI
1968



Forever young sunrise
OLAFUR ELLIASON
2014



The Swan, No. 9
HILMA AF KLINT
1915

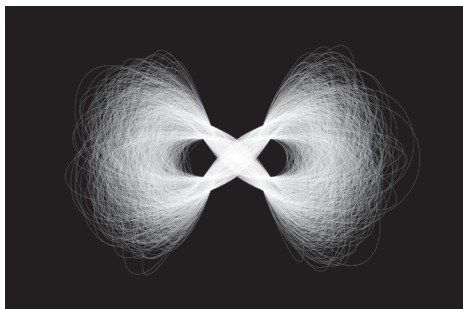


The Kiss
CONSTANTIN BRANCUSI
1916

To become intimate is to become vulnerable not only to what I want and desire in my life, but to the fear I have of my desire being met.
∞ David Whyte



The False Mirror
RENÉ MAGRITTE
1929



AI Infinity
JOHN MAEDA
1992

Looking deeply at any one thing, we see the whole cosmos.
The one is made of the many. To take care of ourselves, we take care of those around us.
∞ Thich Nhat Hanh



Infinity Mirror Room
YAYOI KUSAMA
1965



Sacred Earth Ceremony
Northern Aranda, Australia
Early 20th century

To Touch the Infinite, first You must Touch

∞ CASSADY ROSENBUM

Marisa Papen and Michael Chichi have created 'Double Being' as a catalyst for healing the rift between the masculine and feminine. Surely, we need all the help we can get. According to one 2021 survey published in the Archives of Sexual Behavior, the percentage of adolescent men reporting zero sexual activity in the previous year rose from 28.8 percent in 2009, to 44.2 percent in 2018. For adolescent women, the proportion reporting no sexual activity rose from about one half to nearly three quarters over the same time period. A similar drift apart has been observed in countries like the UK, Germany, Australia, and Japan, with adults also having less sex. Perhaps we are having more thoughtful sex, one is tempted to hope. But the researchers in the 2021 study also found that masturbation is decreasing, suggesting that desire itself may be shriveling.

Intuitively, this seems bad. Life has been having sex for a very long time. Not only is sex how the universe reproduces itself – each novel combination leading to infinite variety and complexity – but it is also a powerful source of pleasure, bonding, and – if the Kama Sutra is any guide – spiritual liberation. For people to stop fucking is like a plant ceasing to flower. No specialized knowledge is required to understand that something is not well with the species.

Our present dry spell has been attributed to a variety of factors: video games, porn, social media, work, endocrine disrupters in our food, microplastics in our balls. Modernity, it would seem, is digitally and chemically castrating us, as media theorist Marshall McLuhan predicted it would. In Chapter 4 of 'Understanding Media' (1964), 'The Gadget Lover: Narcissus as Narcosis,' McLuhan revives the familiar myth of the Greek youth who falls in love with his reflection in a pool of water in order to draw an overlooked connection: the Greek root of Narcissus is narke, meaning numb. Long before Instagram, selfies, or Trump, McLuhan worried that electronic media was making us a society of Narcissists, not in the egoic sense, but the desensitized one. *"We have to numb our central nervous system when it is extended and exposed, or we will die,"* he wrote, referring to how electronic media would spread our sense organs across the world. *"Thus the age of anxiety and of electric media is also the age of the unconscious and of apathy."* Our sexual apathy, then, is just one dimension of our generalized apathy. *"Sex weariness and sex sluggishness are both the cause and increasingly the outcome of these campaigns,"* McLuhan wrote in 'Mechanical Bride' in 1951, referring to the 'Mad Men' ads of the day that used disembodied legs and lips to sell. *"No sensitivity of response could long survive such a barrage."*

What's most perplexing about our sexual stalemate is not the lack of answers, but the lack of will. We have the analysis: we are soft, social animals used to singing songs by sunlight, by firelight, by moon. Our newspaper used to be the reddening willow and quickening ewe. We are ill-equipped to gorge, alone and bathed in blue light, so many bleeding babies juxtaposed with so many cheerful boobs. How many of you watched the genocide in Gaza and felt nothing? How many of you think this flatness is the native state of your heart? We are not born zombies, we are transformed. We also have the data. According to Jonathon Haidt, a sociologist who studies why youth anxiety and depression are skyrocketing, the crisis took off in 2012 – the first year a majority of Americans owned a smartphone. Anyone who has experienced anxiety or depression knows that neither is a good aphrodisiac. We even have our own memories – millennials and older, that is. Remember the 90s? How the tomatoes tasted like tomatoes, how the birds woke you up singing? Trust yourself; talk to your friends. This is not just incandescent nostalgia talking. Something has been sucking the sap out of us, and we know what it is.

"Physiologically," says McLuhan, *"man in the normal use of technology (or his variously extended body) is perpetually modified by it and in turn finds ever new ways of modifying his technology. Man becomes, as it were, the sex organs of the machine world, as the bee of the plant world, enabling it to fecundate and to evolve ever new forms. The machine world reciprocates man's love by expediting his wishes and desires, namely, in providing him with wealth."* Yet instead of admitting that we have become the sex organs of machines — which would require us to deal with our own addictions, take a stand against AI, dump some stocks, and lose a free babysitter — the media does everything in its power to manufacture our consent. If we are slaves, we are happy ones, they would have us believe. Anyone who says otherwise is a fuddyduddy, never mind that it is the children reclaiming the word Luddite. *"What if the attention crisis is all a distraction?"* the New Yorker asked recently, attempting to assure us that every generation frets about change, and there are no meaningful differences between a cast iron stove and a smartphone.

The political responses to our sexual malaise fare no better. Instead of asking, *"Under what conditions does human sexuality and procreation flourish?"* the right has rolled back abortion rights and elected a rapist, while Elon Musk, father of I2, is fond of offering his sperm to any woman he considers sufficiently elite. Meanwhile, in South Korea, home of the lowest birth rate, the feminist movement known as '4b' rejects dating, fucking, marrying, or parenting with men as a form of protest against the patriarchy.

Is anyone having fun yet? In addition to having the lowest birth rate, South Korea also has the highest per capita plastic surgery rate, with one third of women in their twenties having received procedures. Do we think there might be a relationship? Anyone who wonders whether this is a good thing (don't we have overpopulation as it is?) has missed the point. People are not the problem. People are part of nature, and nature possesses in her pinky claw more intelligence than ChatGPT ever could. The problem is our disconnection from nature, which machines facilitate.

In the United States, too, female celibacy is on the rise, with many heterosexual women citing a lack of viable options, and concerns about men's shift toward fascism, which the internet has turbo-charged. Julia Fox is one modern Lysistrata, explaining to one interviewer that, *"I think, with the overturning of Roe v. Wade and our rights being stripped away from us, this is a way that I can take back the control."* In a separate interview with Emily Ratajkowski, Fox said she would *"rather take ayahuasca and see God"* than have sex.

As she should. If we can say anything about psychedelics, it is that they help us feel. In 'I Am Gold,' Anaïs Nin describes her LSD trip as both *"the most pleasurable sensation"* she had ever known, and full of danger that made her weep. In my own journeys with ayahuasca, I have experienced the coldness of every shivering being who does not have shelter, and a peace so perfect I later baptized myself in the Rio Grande. I have choked on smoke as if my lungs were the Amazon, and bowed before a glass of water like it was the Holy Grail, and it is. These high highs and low lows eventually fade, but memory of them shows what is possible: the full erotic experience of life when we rip out the plug. Nor do psychedelics only increase sensation from our own perspective. They often seem to flip self and other in an act of collective balancing symbolized by 'Double Being' and their 'Infinite Union': The psychedelic lore is full of stories about men who experience themselves as both rapist and victim, Israeli soldiers who see themselves as Nazis, addicts who suddenly peer from the eyes of those they've hurt. These inversions are perhaps psychedelics' best trick, responsible for much of their healing power. Yet the trick of the trick is that it's no trick at all! Spend enough time with psychedelics and you will eventually discover what the great mystics and Alan Watts did: *"the prevalent sensation of oneself as a separate ego enclosed in a bag of skin is a hallucination."* It is only when we are fully present — with ourselves and with each other — that this persistent illusion can drop away. If you haven't been to the other side yet, I won't spoil the fun. Merely know this: the infinite is not only available, but closer than your own jugular.

Altered States

∞ ROXANNE NOOR

The pursuit of altered consciousness runs through nature's blueprint. Though we humans view ourselves as the most conscious species, other sentient beings also seek our highest longings; one of them being transcendence. Off the coast of Australia, dolphins have developed a remarkably playful ritual—passing tetrodotoxin-laden pufferfish between them to enter trance states in azure waters. Across the arctic tundra, reindeer deliberately seek and consume Amanita muscaria mushrooms, where their behavior noticeably changes after ingestion. In rose-studded gardens and verdant orchards, bees drink fermented nectar until their flight patterns dissolve into wobbly spirals.

The gifts and elixirs of the external world can propel us into transcendence, but we don't need to seek the infinite outside. Inside our bodies are ancient codes that suspend reality and connect us to the beyond. Sex can take us there. When sex is spiritualized (not mechanical or overdone), it has a historical record of entering divine realms. Relationship with one another calls in a third entity.

In the ancient temples of India, masters of Tantra developed Maithuna, the sacred union, a sophisticated system of consciousness exploration. It was not a sexual practice for solely pleasure-seeking but to understand the higher self. The surviving texts describe specific practices: Khechari Mudra, where the tongue is trained to reach the upper palate; Bandha Traya, three energetic locks involving the pelvic floor, abdomen, and throat; and Vajroli Mudra, an advanced practice of energy control. Kashmir Shaivism preserved detailed records of Sambhogakrama, where sexual union becomes a gateway to expanded awareness. The texts describe approaches to transforming ordinary consciousness through breath, movement, and focused attention during sex.

The Tantrikas who can separate orgasm from ejaculation turn their bodies into laboratories of sustained transcendence. Sexual energy is channeled up the spine instead of lingering in the lower chakras. Research at places like the Karolinska Institute confirms what psychonauts knew long ago: sexual ecstasy and meditative states light up the same brain regions as psychedelics. This isn't New Age fluff, but stated in texts thousands of years old, carved into temple walls, and passed down by mystics long before science's EEG machines and fMRI scanners.

When the curtain of ordinary consciousness parts, even for a moment, we find what Hafez or Rumi wrote poetry about; for whatever you call God. Reality is far stranger and more magnificent than our rational minds can perceive. The Tantrikas weren't running from reality; they were using the functions of the body and relationship to crack open the cosmic egg. When dolphins share their pufferfish medicine and couples enter meditative states through sex, they're exploring that same uncharted wilderness. It's the feeling of divinity, and the peace of oneness.

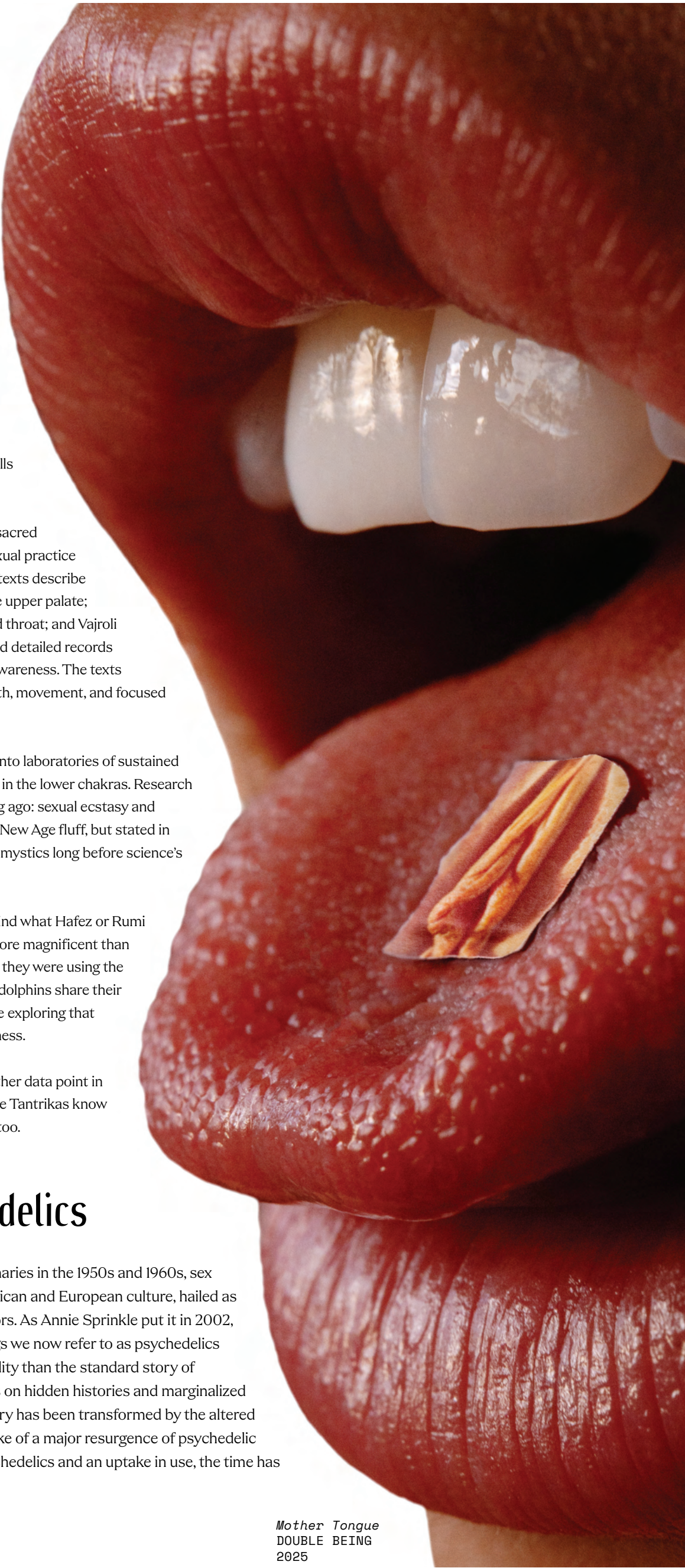
Altered states, whether through plant medicine or sacred sexuality, are another data point in the grand investigation of what it means to be aware of awareness itself. The Tantrikas know it. The dolphins know it. And somewhere in our neural circuitry, we know it too.

Higher Love – Sex and Psychedelics

Since the acid-dropping experiments of therapists and sexual revolutionaries in the 1950s and 1960s, sex and psychedelics have consistently been drawn together in Anglo-American and European culture, hailed as augmenters of experience, therapeutic tools, and even erotic interlocutors. As Annie Sprinkle put it in 2002, *"Psychedelics have been perhaps my greatest sex educator."* Yet, the drugs we now refer to as psychedelics have much more varied and complex historical intersections with sexuality than the standard story of Western sexual liberation might lead us to believe. This exhibition draws on hidden histories and marginalized stories, to illustrate how our understanding of sexuality in the 21st century has been transformed by the altered states brought about and inspired by psychedelic substances. In the wake of a major resurgence of psychedelic research, which has informed the loosening of legal prohibitions on psychedelics and an uptake in use, the time has come to tell new stories about the psychedelic future of sex.

March 22 – September 17, 2025
www.museumofsex.com

Mother Tongue
DOUBLE BEING
2025



HIGHER LOVE
THE PSYCHEDELIC ROOTS OF MODERN SEXUALITY
March 22 — Sept 17, 2025

MUSEUM OF SEX
233 Fifth Avenue
NYC, NY

Infinite Union, DOUBLE BEING, 2025
beech wood frame, spy mirror, glass, LED light
3 x 6 feet (91cm x 182cm)



double being

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