

Interview with Peter Dennett

UNCOOL – Artist in residence in Poschiavo

SCIENCE MEN – artwork and photography @ Galleria Pgi Poschiavo
Vernissage 28th June 20:30 / Exhibition 29th June – 5th July 2013 14 – 18

Cornelia Müller: Welcome to Poschiavo, Peter Dennett. I would like you to talk about music and art. What is music? What is art? How does music and art work?

Peter Dennett: Music and Art, help create a portal to the unknown sub-conscious, something eternal, a way of communication that is universal, even when one may not entirely understand the content, influences or language a piece of music or art will explore your soul with light frequencies and sound vibrations, you will be drawn into the many realms of emotional experience and imagination that music and art hold in 'another place and time', a synergy between reality and fantasy something beyond the world of the mundane, a unique insight into a higher landscape of perceptions, the mind's eye view, a sense of a supernatural dimension, a story from the future, from the past. Now today where everything is possible, a new aural vision, a visit from the unknown that will transport you to somewhere else way beyond yourself.

Is there any special interest in the music and the art for you?

Personally I feel Art and Music are the highest forms of expression, music has the power to heal – uplift and to educate, it can create great piece of mind, joy and happiness its a form of prayer and meditation which can extradite and resolve bad feelings and aggression. It also has no boundaries, is essentially free to all like the wind. Music is a feast for the heart and soul, it's an art form and tradition that started tens of thousands of years ago and will continue for many more millennium. To be born in this time with libraries of recorded music accessible for everyone is truly a blessing. There's so much to be said for music – sounds, art – visions, it's an essential part of who we are in this time, the stories we want to tell, the places we would like to visit and take other people to, its a form of spiritual transportation - 'is it not'.

Your first passion - music - art?

That's a difficult question,. As music is art, also 'visual – light art' goes hand in hand with 'music – sounds' they have their place together as all light has a vibration. When I was young kid the only thing I was any good at was art and design so in many ways art saved me as being told when you're young 'Wow

that's cool' or getting high marks at school helps one recognize that you're not a complete failure. I had a bit of a hard time at school 'being dyslexic', its just a unique way of visualizing words, now there's more understanding for that kind of condition. As I get older I find I dream music more and more, I hear the rhythms that I would like to materialize into reality, sometimes I'll hear the spirits singing to me or Sun Ra playing his piano 'really I'll hear it' like I just got an invite to a private performance. At the risk of sounding like a space cake 'Music inspires visions for me', 'its all about being open to ideas' it creates a world that I can get involved with, a dimension of free thinking abstract thought without limits or constriction, a realm of pure imagination and light pulses and rhythms from ancient civilizations inviting me to take part of their world, a world that still exists in another dimension, magical sparks of light from the future so beautiful it's difficult to describe 'sent back here to tell me infinity is also a wondrous place to dwell'.

When did you start the music label ART YARD?

Motivation? I started Art Yard as a music company in 2004. Prior to that for some years I was involved with various record companies in London working as a freelancer, on both design and audio restoration, I would also get the occasional commission to write music for a TV Drama or a record and I was running a small Jazz record shop at the weekends to earn some money. I was also involved with Alton Abraham at Saturn records in Chicago as a copyright researcher that was a long time ago now. So all these factors seemed to give me the background to get Art Yard off the ground. Sun Ra's music had inspired me for many years before that and I wanted to re-release one of his albums 'Disco 3000'. After much work I did manage to locate the original master tapes with over an hour of music that no one had ever heard before, so that was something really special, in many ways everything fell together, Marshall Allen and The Arkestra were supportive too. It did take a lot of work and the company has always been independent and self financed which has never been easy. Anyhow despite the difficulties I stuck with it and through thick and thin Art Yard has been going for almost ten years, 'which I think is a small miracle'. I still keep my freelance work going for the other music companies and now work with the band Kool and The Gang on performance rights issues. There are more Art Yard releases in the pipeline unknown and unheard recordings not just Sun Ra, but I'll keep that under my hat until everything is set in stone.

What about nature and music, nature and art?

Nature is in my opinion something intrinsic with music and art, they're inseparable, Nature is in art as art is in eARTh, also in some languages Art and Earth are similar Art meaning from the Earth. Music comes in many forms and is inspired by all emotions including sorrow which is of course a natural way of expressing one's self. Nature is also constantly renewing itself 'its a cycle' obviously, as art and music renews itself too in many forms over the generations, it's reborn, reinvented. In many ways we have to look back in order to move forward. I use computers in much of my visual art so its 'artificial', but I also include photos and hand drawn images - this seems the natural way for me to convey my ideas as its a multi media format. Anyhow it's as natural to make art and music as it is to laugh and cry. Nature has such great beauty, the sky and stars, the trees, forests and mountains, the tones and moods of the wind and the sea - all things one misses out on while living in cities. Being exposed nature or natural forces can be a healing experience and the same can be said for some Music and Art forms.

Thank you very much.

PETER DENNETT / ART YARD
<https://myspace.com/artyard>