

The Artist's meeting
Mt. Abu, India 1-8 of March 1997

Tilman Kuentzel, the experience and its canalization

The first day after our arrival in Mt Abu, we (Ewa Biernacka and me) met the Brahmin Mahant Narsingh Wase. He came to Mt Abu more than twenty years ago with six rupees in his pocket, "which are not finished yet" and lived in the caves at Nikke lake. Three years ago the ancient Ganeshi Tempel at Andara point was rebuilt under his supervision. Mahant Narsingh is a medicine man with an enormous knowledge about powers of nature, virtues of herbs and minerals. He has developed more than 15 thousand "formulas" for to cure all kinds of diseases with specialization for the female body. During our daily visits I learnt much about Yoga, hindu religion and culture. Mahant Narsingh became also involved in my thoughts about artistic activities in Mt Abu. In the beginning I could not imagine to find an expression for all the enormous impressions due to my first visit to India. Mahant Narsingh understood my way of thinking very well. Once I asked him about a good spot in the surrounding of the holly Mt Abu. My idea was to dedicate the path which leads to this particular point as mine "art-project". He liked the idea and next morning he guided us to the GANAKH and VASHISTHA Ashram, 7 km south from Mt Abu town. The visitor needs to overcome 700 steps down through Mango tree forest far to reach it. After visiting the Ashram he took us to AGNI KUND, the most holy and ancient place situated in Abu mountains (Agni Kund is an origin place of the four Kshatriya clans named Chauhan, Parmar, Rathore and Solanki. Agni Kund means a fire pit hence the four clans were called Agni Kula). Nearby he sat down and told me to find my place, which I did. Later we discussed the possibility of leaving a sign at this place. In my search for the right medium of expression he gave me advice about using of the right material. We came to a conclusion. One phonecall to one of his followers in Abu Road and the company, which delivered the marble for his tempel, offered to produce a marble plate for my installation. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SMILE was carved into the plate as a tribute to the tribal people of India, for their patience and friendliness towards foreign man, who came with nothing more but an Indian travel guide knowledge. "Thank you for your smile" stands for the respect which I have for the great indian history, philosophy and spiritual stability of the minds of indian people.

Dedicated to the most wonderfull personality of the great Baba, "the blind beggar", the friend Mahant Narsingh Wase.

With many thanks to Bhartiya Marble & Granite articles in Abu Rd.

Tilman Kuentzel, Mt Abu 7.3.97

BE YOURSELF

Go placidly amid the noise and haste and
Remember what peace there may be in silence.

As far as possible without surrender -
be on good terms with all persons..
Speak your truth quietly and clearly
listen to others, also
even to the dull and ignorant;
they too have their own story.

Keep interested in your own career
however humble;
It is a real possession in the
changing fortunes of time.

BE YOURSELF SELF

Especially do not feign affection
Neither be cynical about love
for in the face of all aridity
and disenchantment
it is perennial as the grass.
whatever your labours and aspirations
in the noisy confusion of life:

KEEP PEACE WITH YOUR SOUL

Vashista Ashrams first edition
"Akshaya Trutiya" 1990

You find the marble plate if you go down to the
Gaumukh Tempel and then turn right and walk along
a small path which leads to the Agni Kund. Before the path
turns to the left into the forest you will see big
rocks on the right side (hill side).
From here you will see the plate and miniature prints on
white painted squares. For to see them in detail you can
climb up ca. 10 m. therefrom you will have a panoramic
view over the valley.