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Conference 2.-3. April 2020 University of Burgundy – Dijon

If our environmental problems nowadays call a revision of the way we think of our relation to nature, i.e. the way we think of our own identity as humans as of the identity of "nature", it doesn't mean that it is only a question of ideas or theories. Because a real "relation" implies also feelings; is it possible to feel the so-called nature? Or to transform the feelings we usually have concerning the living beings? Aldo Leopold argued for example: "Examine each question in terms of what is ethically and esthetically right, as well as what is economically expedient. Something is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise" (A Sand County Almanac, 225). The education or refinement of our feelings could in this sense represent an important contribution to construct a new relation to nature, i.e. also another way to behave.

A second question connected with the previous one is to what extend works of art, or more generally art could contribute to such a transformation. The conference will in this sense also give the word to artists through workshops.

But as the ecological problems nowadays are not local but global problems and as these problems are also understood on the background of specific cultures, we intend to examine the question of our sensibility to nature and the question of the impact of art concerning the education of this sensibility not only from the Western point of view but also from the point of view of the East Asian cultures.

Jean-Claude Gens

Invitations to participate have already been sent to

Brigitte Bercoff et Martine Clouzot (UB University of Burgundy)

Stéphane Feuillas (sinologist Univ Paris Diderot)

Kuan-Min Huang (Taïpeh)

Graham Parkes (Vienna – Austria)

John Lewis (osteopath – Wales, GB)

Emmanuel Roche (osteopath Dijon)

Dandan Jiang (Jiatong University, Shanghai)

Elisabeth Caron (osteopath, Oregon, USA)

Jean-Philippe Pierron (University of Burgundy)

Gérald Hess (University of Lausanne)

Susan Stuart (University of Glasgow)

Kwok-ying Lau (Chinese University of Hong Kong)

Marko Pogacnik (sculptor) (Lubliana)

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