

Bohemiae sub Rosa - May 21 - 27 2006

A six day hike through Krkonose Mountains exploring the relation among body, art and landscape

Interdisciplinary workshop with Milos Sejn (Academy of Fine Arts Prague) and Frank van de Ven (Body Weather Amsterdam)

Supported by the Bohemiae Rosa Project, the Academy of Fine Arts in Prague, Karkonosze National Park in Poland and Krkonose National Park in Czech Republic



*„... there are Giant Mountains - Krkonose
close to a waterspring of the Elbe River,
they are ominously fabled by their Spectre,
which are called Rybrcoul or Kranonos by residents...“*

Bohuslao Balbino: Miscellanea Historica Regni Bohemiae, 1679

Since 1995 Milos Sejn and Frank van de Ven have co-operated in their bi-annual interdisciplinary open air Body-Site-Exploration projects in various National Reserves in the Czech Republic (Kokorin Valley, Plasy Monastery, Bohemian Karst, Bechyne Monastery with the Luznice River, Bohemian Paradise and Sumava Mountains) known as the Bohemiae Rosa Project.

This edition of the Bohemiae Rosa Project proposes a 6 day backpack hike over the ridge of the **Krkonose** Mountains starting from the confluence of the Kamenice and Isara rivers and ending on the highest Snezka – Snow Peak 1602 m waiting for the sunrise.

During the walk Milos and Frank will lead and introduce participants to the Body and Landscape work they developed over the last 10 years.

(see www.bohemiaerosa.org) An integral part of the workshop will be the individual artistic projects that participants are encouraged to formulate and work on for 2 to 3 hours a day. (in the fields architecture, landscape art, dance, performance, photography, sculpture, theatre, visual arts, biology and natural history). The workshop leaders are available to guide and support these. On the last day there will be a presentation of all projects.

Topics for the common program include:

- walking and wandering, silent walk, pilgrimage and nocturnal journeys
- various ways of experiencing body and landscape, a different sense of space and time
- peripatetic records, drawing, writing, immediate contact with surroundings
- mental topography of a location, myth, archaic mind and genius loci
- geology, archaeology and history of Krkonose Mountains

The body is a landscape in itself moving within the larger frame of the given surrounding environment. The vertical and horizontal layering of the landscape invites us to reflect upon our own layers and connections of self and imagination.

The selection of participants will be based on c.v. and the strength of their artistic proposition. A good overall condition is required. Trekking and staying in the open will in itself provide an entrance into the Body and Landscape theme.



Aerial view over Giant Mountains

Milos Sejn works in the fields of visual art, performance and study of visual perception, and conducts workshops, such as Bohemiae Rosa. His artistic concept was formed in his youth when he undertook many trips into the wilderness as a reflex of an inner need to get closer to nature's secret and observe the miracles, which happen in it. From the beginning of the 1960s he took pictures, drew, collected and described his observations of nature during these wanderings. Currently he teaches mixed media and the relationship of nature and art as intrinsic needs of the mind at the Academy of Fine Arts in Prague, and focuses on immediate creative possibilities, based upon relations between historical humanized landscapes and intact nature. <http://www.sejn.cz>

CD ROMs: Colorvm Natvrae Varietas (Centrum for Culture and Communication in Budapest c3, 2000); Make Your Own Island/Make Your Own Forest (Utrecht School of the Arts, Institute for postgraduate and professional higher education in the Arts, 2001)

Frank van de Ven is a dancer and choreographer who spend his formative years in Japan working with Min Tanaka and the Maijuku Performance Company. In 1993 he founded together with Katerina Bakatsaki 'Body Weather Amsterdam', a platform for training and performance. Since 1995 he conducts with Milos Sejn the interdisciplinary Bohemiae Rosa Project, connecting body

and landscape with art, geology and architecture. Interest in dance and theory led to the 'How to make yourself a Dancing Body Without Organs' Project. Together with Peter Snow (Monash University) he performs the famed Thought/Action Improvisations. An ongoing collaboration exists with musician Daniel Schorno, artistic director of Steim Amsterdam.
Films (video and 16mm): Dancing Plasy Times 8, CI-VIT, LOM and NOUGHTS.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

DATES 21 May – 27 May 2006, arrival day 21 May

Meeting Place: small town Semily /exact address will be announced later.
Accessible by train or bus from Prague through Turnov and Zelezny Brod.

Workshop Fee (including Bohemiae Rosa Ten Years DVD):
Euro 250 (students Euro 200) / adapted price for Czech participants.

Additional cost of food, camping, membership, accommodation in landscape (some nights in mountain huts) and support logistics: approximately 80 euro.
Travel expenses cannot be reimbursed.

All participants **must** have a personal insurance and must provide a copy of this before start of the project. The number of participants is limited to 8.

Please bring sleeping bag, backpack, tent, warm and waterproof clothes, raincoat and hiking boots for seven days living outdoors. Colours of tents, backpacks and coats need to blend in with the surrounding landscape.
Make sure your equipment is in good condition!

APPLICATION

Send us a short c.v, and a description of your individual Artistic Project before April 20 2006. Selections will be made before May 1. Upon selection you will be asked to pay the full workshop fee before May 10.

INFORMATION

frank.bwl@wanadoo.nl

+31 - (0)20 - 68 425 68

bohemiaerosa@tiscali.cz

+420 - (0)723 - 701 658

www.bohemiaerosa.org

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Karkonosze>

Dictionary definitions

*site n., pl. -es [Latin *situs* "place, position", from *sinere* "to leave, place, lay"] 1. the actual or planned location 2 the place or scene of something (a camp site) / site vt., to place on a site or in position: locate

*body n., pl. -ies [OE, *bodig*, *cas*] 1. the whole physical substance of a man, animal or plant 2. the trunk of a man or animal 3. a corpse 4. [Colloq.] a person 5. a distinct mass [a body of water] 6. a distinct group of people or things 7. the main part 8. substance or consistency, as of liquid 9. richness of flavour

*exploration n., pl. -s the act or an instance of exploring / explore: seek to ascertain, examine into XVI; search into (a country, etc) XVII 1. to search through or into 2. to examine carefully and in detail especially for diagnostic purposes 3. to penetrate into or range over for purposes of discovery 4. to make or conduct a systematic search [Latin *explorare* "to seek for", from *ex-* + *plorare* "to cry out"; probably from the outcry of hunters on sighting game]

*landscape n., pl. -es [Dutch *landschap*, from *land*+*schap* "-ship"] 1. a picture of natural inland scenery 2. a portion of land that the eye can see in one glance

*mountain n., pl. -s is a landform that extends above the surrounding terrain in a limited area. A mountain is generally higher and steeper than a hill, but there is considerable overlap, and usage often depends on local custom. Some authorities define a mountain as a peak with a topographic prominence over a defined value: for example, the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* requires a prominence of 2,000 feet (610 m).

The adjective montane is used to describe mountainous areas and the things associated with them.

*forest n., pl. -s [Old French, "forest, hunting preserve", Medieval Latin *forestis*, from Latin *foris* "outside"] 1. a dense growth of trees and underbrush covering a large tract; *also*: an area covered by forest, 2. something resembling a forest especially in profusion (a forest of masts)

*wander vb., wan-dered, wan-der-ing [OE, *wandrian*] 1. to move about aimlessly or without a fixed course or goal : ramble 2a to deviate (as from a course) : stray 2b to go astray morally : err 2c to lose normal mental contacts (as delirium or madness)

*walk n., pl. -s [vb OE, *wealkan* "to roll, toss"] 1. a going on foot (go for a walk) 2. a place, path, or course for walking 3. distance to be walked 4a manner of living 4b social or economic stats (various walks of life) 5a manner of walking 5b a gait of a four-footed animal in which there are always at least two feet on the ground

Retrieved from Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia <http://en.wikipedia.org>.

*Krkonoše in Czech (known as *Giant Mountains* in English, or *Riesengebirge* in German) or Karkonosze Mountains (pronounced *kár-ko-no-she*) in Polish or is a mountain range, part of the Sudetes in Central Europe. The name is fairly ancient, appearing in the name of a people listed in Ptolemy as the Corconti. It may be Pre-Indo-European. The meaning was preserved, appearing in mediaeval Latin *Gigantei montes*.

The mountains stretch from north-west to south-east and form the border between Poland and the Czech Republic. The highest mountain is "Śnieżka" (in Polish)/ "Snezka" (in Czech), 1602 metres above sea level. Situated on the Czech-Polish border it is also the highest mountain peak in Czech Republic. Large areas of Karkonosze Mountains are preserved as a national park by both countries. The mountains are famous for its skiing resorts and are growing in importance as a less expensive and, in some cases, nearer alternative to the Alps for tourism.

*The Corconti or Korkontoi were a tribe of Greater Germany in the *Geography* of Ptolemy (2.10). They were in the vicinity of Asciburgius Mountain somewhere near the sources of the Vistula. Asciburgius gives away their location, as it is on the edge of the Krkonoše range in Czech, the Karkonosze in Polish.

It is clear that the people were named after the terrain, but the identity of those people is not entirely clear. Ptolemy considered them Germanic. Some have hypothesized that they were Marcomanni, as those people were in the region. So also were the Quadi; moreover, Ptolemy also lists the Quadi and Marcomanni. We know the latter were newcomers in the first century AD, but the residents of mountains are usually hold-outs from an earlier culture. Mountains are easier to defend and the people living in them are more isolated.

And finally, the Germanics did not adopt the name of Krkonoše. They chose instead Sudeten, or Riesengebirge, "Giant Mountains", because that is what Krkonoše means. The name is not Germanic, but neither is it Slavic or Celtic; or at least, no strong derivations in those languages have been found. Very likely, it is not Indo-European at all, but is Pre-Indo-European. One might connect it to the hypothetical Urbian root, *K-K-, "to swell, inflate; big, huge", from which Sorin Paliga derives German *Gigantes*. Possibly Sumerian *kur-kur*, "mountains", is related. Such derivations at this point are weak and speculative.

One does want to ask, who were the ancestors of the Corconti? Were they included in Greater Germany because the Germanics held it or because they spoke Germanic? If they did speak Germanic, how long had they spoken it? Questions such as these may someday have an answer. Meanwhile, there is something of a rivalry between the Slavs and the Germans about who occupied the mountains in antiquity. In the absence of solid evidence, the contention is likely to continue. In respect to the above article, there are people living around the world today with the family name *Krkonoska*. These people are descended from Northern Bohemia. Perhaps their genetic code holds the key and then one day...