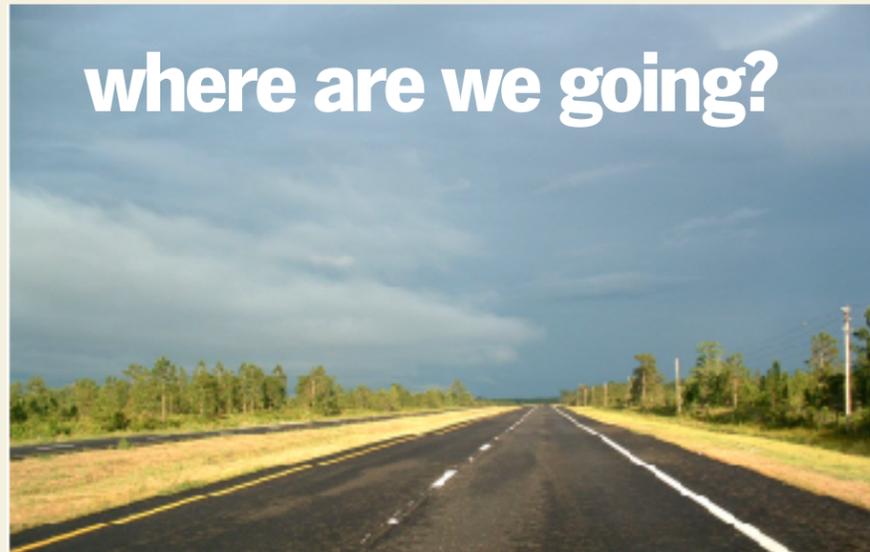


GreenCatcherUnion

where are we going?



The Reservoir: Rock Music and Mythology (continues from inside cover)

A mass communication electric. Love. Peace. Safe energy. Farm assistance. Freedom. A template and score for a better planetary way. We are calling ourselves with music again. Rock music talks about love a lot of the time, but we all know that obtaining it is difficult.

Just as myth works through culture?based fact and fantasy, rock presents its share of broken hearts and heroes, benefit shows for the poor and the imprisoned, and psychedelic trips to the moon and beyond. Is it plausible to think that rock has kept our faith in magic in dreams and personal visions alive in a world dark with war and greed?

Rock music today is less of an escape and more a medium for understanding; more a way to check up on the powers that be. The music soundtracks our own initiations and brings the emotions of racism, environmental destruction and war into our headphones.

Carl Jung, writing in Aion, stated that, "The present age must come to terms ... with the facts as they are... absolute opposition is not only tearing the world asunder, politically but has planted a schism in the human heart. We need to find our way back to the original, living spirit which because of its ambivalence, is also mediator and uniter of opposites." The theme of all mythology (is) that there is an invisible plane supporting the visible one."

Isn't the magic of rock music an ideal auger for communicating new ideas and shared consciousness?

We learn how man has treated this planet through the myths and folklore of our ancestors. And now we rework them for our children. Jung and Campbell might be saying that we should combine the forces of good and evil into a unity (or understanding); nurture and share all sources of world spirituality; and begin to work for a healthier planet. William I. Thompson explains, in The Time Falling Bodies Take To Light, that "the effort to displace the female seems to be at the archetypal foundation for civilization, for mankind has been at it for ages.

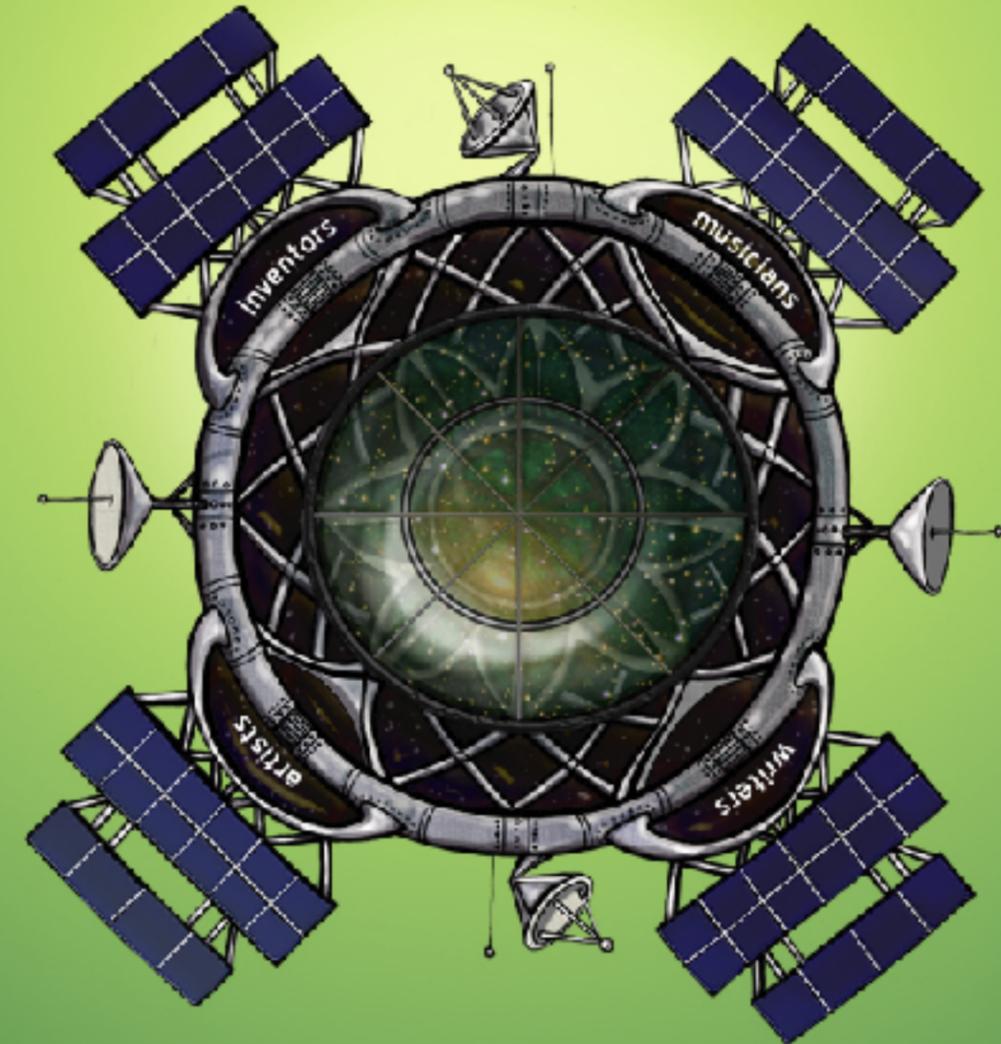
Whether he is challenging Mother Nature in flying away from her in rockets, or changing her on earth through genetic engineering, man has not given up the attempt to take away the mystery from the Great Mother ..." Does your mother, sister and/or daughter share and contribute equally in the patriarchy?

What myths are you buying for your iPod?

Willi Paul founded PlanetShifter.com and this publication. Join in the conversation at www.PlanetShifter.com

GreenCatcherUnion

willipaul.com
a planetshifter publication



artmusicwritinginvention

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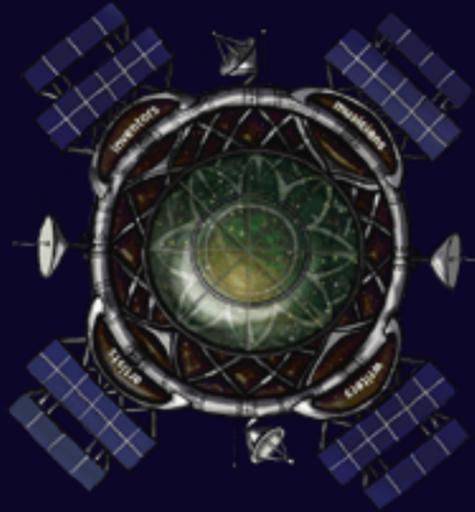
A passion for design, passionate for things **green**.



Contact **Eric**
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PlanetShifter.com is a collaboration to work network.

It's a think tank, a virtual water cooler meet-up, and a place to share and refine ideas about sustainability.

The community is driven by artists, musicians, writers and inventors.

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come together



FEATURE ARTICLE

The Reservoir: Rock Music and Mythology

<http://www.willipaul.com/rockmyth/rockmyth.html>

"Evil hearted women, man they" will not let me be I love my baby, my baby don't love me..." "Kindhearted Woman Blues" is a piece of rock music history by wailin' Robert Johnson, one of rock's mythic heroes. He helped to create a soulful magic formula today in the songs of Bono, Stong>Dylan, Clapton and other sound alchemists. This article cooks a cross-cultural pie, as the syzygy of rock music and mythology, the popular and the ancient, collide to make music magic. This material is from my unpublished manuscript entitled: The Reservoir, Rock Music and Myth, and uses songs and scholars primarily from this century. My goal is to initiate you into a deeper understanding of how mythic elements empower and enrich rock's impact in our lives -- while admitting from the outset that not every band is fueled by mythology and that most groups seem to quit after a short struggle.

Would you consider the most successful albums as great books, with individual songs, or tales, as chapters? "True stories?" Let's take a journey through a high tech, oral tradition evolution. One major assumption is that not only are rock bands interpreting or rephrasing classic mythology, but they are also writing for a new mythic base, a nuclear age storybook, if you will. Like R.E.M.'s Fables of the Reconstruction or The Smith's Louder Than Bombs. Look at the cover of U2's "War" record, what do you see? And feel?

Another key idea that runs throughout this work in that rock music shares symbols and themes from many cultures. What we have is a magic blending of influences, too complex for a feature story. African and Christian are two dominant mythologies that gave birth to jazz and the blues in America, and soon the Beatles tripped back from the mountain with Eastern myth and magic. From the Cross, to slavery, to beat crazy and the bomb, many lives are constantly guided by rock music. We find solace, angst, a consciousness and heroes in the pubs and CD's of "the business."

(Continues on page nineteen) ►



3
<http://www.planetshifter.com/gallery/3>
Willi Paul
Founder/Writer/Oakland, California

GreenCatcherUnion

a planetshifter publication

THE LANDING MANIFESTO

I started PlanetShifter.com with developer Cheth Rowe and graphic artist Andrea Fuenzalida over six months ago because we need everybody's ideas and vision to re-build a healthier, sustainable and just world. We need to take risks. I want us to reach past our self-interest and fears to risk and share in new sustainable solutions.

Somebody just asked me if I would have started this project if I had known where the world economy would be. I told her, "Yes!" We need to come together now!

PlanetShifter.com is a virtual people resource collective and transparent by design: you are a member and you have works to share and critiques to share and a new product or service to nail. We will strive to be inclusive, to allow all members equal access to the site tools and the data base.

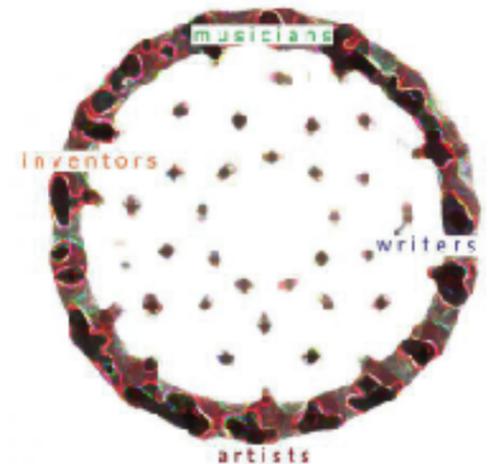
As you know, unlike other art upload machines like DeviantArt.com and Sketchloader.com, PlanetShifter.com will never own your paintings or songs -- just as to share them for a while!

When you bring an image to the group or discuss a point in a comment thread, you may be adding to the next big green thing. We are a free evaluation or test group for your idea. But if you start and stop at "log-in" we are hopeless lost without your ideas and active vision.

PlanetShifter.com is not designed or intended to be the photo-gossip mill at FaceBook.com or the late night groove pipe on MySpace.com. These places do play a small role in connecting us but do not foster the innovation and change that we need now. It is time to stop playing darts and begin re-tooling the scene.

PlanetShifter.com is an innovation space for a global reckoning.

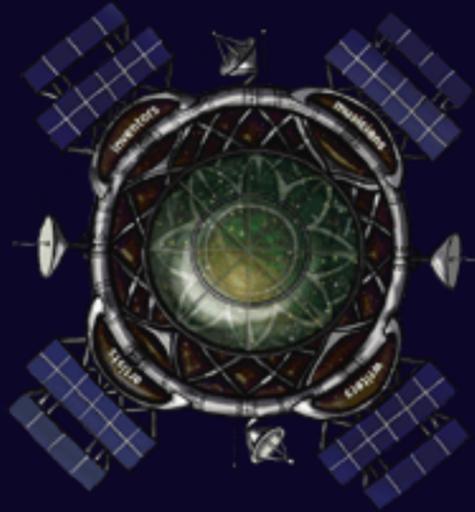
Please don't stop now. Know that we will return the effort you make as if our lives - and the life of the planet - depend on it. Discover the thoughts and ideas that we've collected here in our dream catcher, our Green Catcher Union.



GreenCatcherUnion

a planetshifter publication

seeking intelligent life



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come together



Jam out to Madi Simmons.
jah, hold our hand



51

<http://www.planetshifter.com/gallery/51>

madisimmons

MADI SIMMONS/Musician/Arcata, California
jah, hold our hand

<http://myspace.com/madisimmons>

Planting my garden,
working ot make this world a beautiful place,
thru positive, clean living., upfull music.
Respect and hope all is well,
Itz a new day, a new way...
and it feelz irie

www.PlanetShifter.com

89

<http://www.planetshifter.com/gallery/89>

rayallustrata

Polar Run

raya golden/Artist/Hollywood , California
rayagoldensunshine@gmail.com
<http://www.rayagolden.com>

"less talk more play!
here I am!
My Creativity is like
melting cheese"



71

<http://www.planetshifter.com/gallery/71>

imbroken

Lucas Cendejas/San Francisco, California
s0mewhatbroken@yahoo.com

no one's home

inside of a nice green succulent.

i try to consume the least amount of resources possible. i mostly walk everywhere i go, if i can help it. sustainability starts with the individual, so i try to make as little impact to my mother as possible.

61

<http://www.planetshifter.com/gallery/61>

LadyM

Marisa Lopez/Musician/San Francisco
marisalopez70@yahoo.com

Water, Water, Everywhere...

Creating and sustaining art, the written/spoken word, and music through a means of awareness of the living planet and beautifying the environment and changing lives/minds.

Water. The Earth is full of the H₂O. How much of it can we really drink? Well, unless it's boiled, purified, and filtered, not much.

Over the course of a hundred years, humans have polluted a number of perfectly clean bodies of water.

The Pacific Ocean is a 'landfill', heaps of trash are everywhere. Pollution has also been a factor in creating 'dead spots' in the Atlantic Ocean. This is a huge problem even close to home. Our drinking water is being polluted on a daily basis. Can we trust the tap?



73

<http://www.planetshifter.com/gallery/73>

Tina

Christina Smith/Artist/San Francisco
crows baker beach

t_dogs_trip@yahoo.com
www.geocities.com/csmith2482/cinematography

Photography is a way of expression much like the other various art forms out there. But through shots of nature we can escape to a new place. Keeping nature beautiful for all to see is key in our society, not just for enjoyment, but for life. I incorporate green ways in my photography and film work. Pursuing documentaries on recycled art and nature.

Well, in some places, that answer would be no. Take rural northern Mexico, for example. A number of my own relatives had come down with parasites directly caused from drinking water that was unfit for human consumption. Waste water is not treated before it goes back out for use by the general population. It is also interesting to point out that bottled water is prevalently used in Latin America due to problems like these. Unfortunately, bottled water is yet another violation of human rights.

Disease we all know is in water. Now is important to find ways in which we can have clean drinking water without having to pay a \$1.50 at the grocery store. These are your human rights at stake. What ways will you find to exercise them?

Drink up. It's your right!



11

<http://www.planetshifter.com/gallery/11>

Drea

Andrea Fuenzalida/Artist
San Francisco, California
Killer Cactus, Mercury Fish!!

Surreal take on our negativity and pollution in our world, which takes place in what seems like the middle of no where.

10

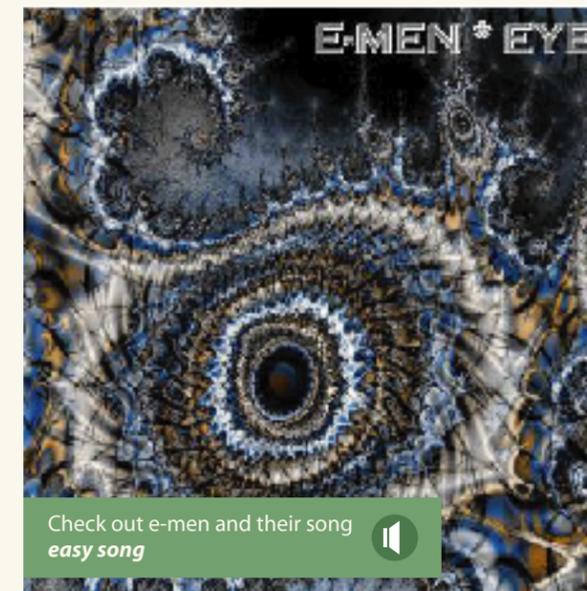
<http://www.planetshifter.com/gallery/10>

treythefarmer

Trey Farmer/Writer/San Pablo, CA
Future Home of My Chicks

<http://treythefarmer.blogspot.com/>

This is what you shall do:
Be loyal to what you love,
be true to the Earth,
and Fight your enemies
with passion and laughter.
- Ed Abbey



75

<http://www.planetshifter.com/gallery/75>

e-men

Rod Sáez/Musician/Santiago, Chile
easy song

info@centroartealameda.cl
<http://www.myspace.com/emen>

Easy Song is about being yourself, doing your best, but also being the worst person to the ones who try to put you down. It is not about revenge, it is about using energy in order of turning situations to your benefit.

Easy song is one of E-MEN tracks featured on the album EYE, this version is a remix made by the Santiago de Chile's project Pájaro de Mal Agüero.

EYE is the forthcoming album by E-MEN, submitted to the divine guideness of the acclaimed producer Sean Beavan and was worked on until January 2009.



39

<http://www.planetshifter.com/gallery/39>

ericneedle

Eric Needle/Artist
Embrace

e@longbow.net
<http://GreenFtLauderdale.com>
<http://BlueEarthSociety.com>

I care about what tomorrow is going to look like. I have kids.

When you start living your life for others, your perspective changes. Will they get to see manatees and dolphins, sea turtles and eagles? And what does that have to do with this art?

I try to make pictures about energy and emotion; truth, stripping away the facade.

What could be more alive than a Mommy holding her baby? Hope for the future.

See, it's our choice, what to do with all this information. We can embrace this life and make it what we dream it to be. We can be stewards.

258

<http://www.planetshifter.com/node/258>

Existential Detective

Courtney Elizabeth/Artist/Richmond, VA
Anonymous Comrades of the Seahorse
 Axis/Natural

While I must admit my cynical side believes that it is too late to truly save our planet, my despair does not make me inactive. My little family, we do everything we can do reduce our footprint here. We live in the suburbs of an artistic and musical small city, but we ride our bicycles everywhere, we grow and expansive amount of food, we use rain basins and recycle everything (be it to the city or re-purposed for art), and are very conscious of the amount of energy and water we use.

I am expecting my first child in June, and we will use cloth diapers and biodegradable disposables (for camping and such) and will be making our own baby food from our organic garden. We are saving money to purchase land with a small group of friends, where within a few years we intend to start a small artists' commune, living as self-sustainably as possible, off the grid.

My Creativity

All of us here in my little family are artists, both visual and musical. We scour the alley ways of this extremely wasteful city and bring home anything we can use. We do our painting on old pieces of wood and sometimes glass, and other things we happen to find. We salvage bricks from torn down historic buildings and use them to build our gardens. We also "dumpster dive" at a few local supermarkets, and are able to bring home massive amounts of free organic veggies and such.



95

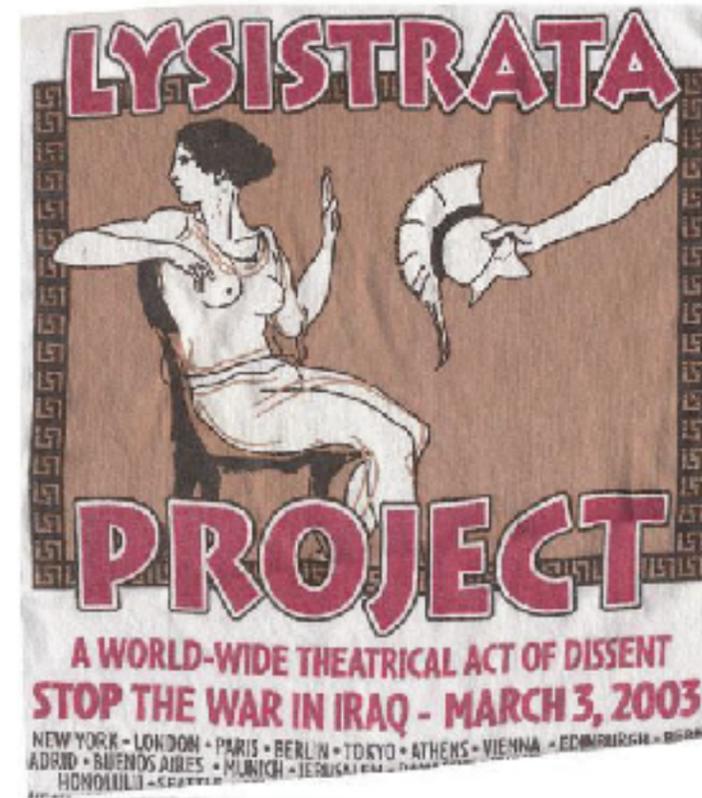
<http://www.planetshifter.com/gallery/95>

shalaRosa

Shahla Rosa/Artist/San Juan Capistrano
Deca arcade of the psyche
alternative/organic

We have to keep those balances in our lives in order to survive.

My creativity comes from nature which is green and blue, nature itself creates a balance, if we are to survive balance must be found. The balance, that nature creates is everything to 4- elements in the universe. These elements are; water & fire, air & earth. Nature as a green planet is a system of production and reproduction - this is the major foundation for building sustainability.



4

<http://www.planetshifter.com/gallery/4>

Cheth Rowe

Cheth Rowe/DevTeam
3/3

March Third has a history of social change. Six years ago (three plus three) a world-wide effort culminated in over one thousand simultaneous enactments of the ancient anti-war play Lysistrata across the globe. This picture of my faded T-shirt bears witness to my involvement (and to the age of much of my wardrobe).

Well, the war still lingers; and some say that's no longer our biggest challenge. Clearly it is time to renew our efforts to catalyze change.

Let's shift this planet!
Long live the works of three three!



69

<http://www.planetshifter.com/gallery/69>

keegan

Keegan Roberson/Artist
San Francisco, California
distracted by dreaming

www.pinupsbykeegan.com

Loving and respecting Mother Earth is something that was taught to me from birth the way some children are raised with religion. I'm very interested in all aspects of the environmental movement, from animal rights to wildlife and wilderness protection to environmental justice and consumer protection to human rights and corporate accountability. Our existence is a web, and all of our actions radiate out from us through the myriad ways we are connected to the world and each other.

Consciousness is the the first step - consciousness of of the biosphere as a living entity, and the power of our decisions within it. I'm vegan for life and I try to live with the smallest footprint possible. The wonderful and rich variety of life on this planet and the healing power of the beauty of nature are gifts that must be protected and treasured for all generations.



88

<http://www.planetshifter.com/gallery/88>

MichaelOB

Michael OBrien/Writer/Fort Lauderdale
www.greenbroward.net

There is only one issue for the next two years: Climate Change

Now that the national election has been decided and a new President chosen, the environmental movement stands at the crossroads of history with a difficult task and a singular opportunity.

A great many people have worked very hard to give us a chance at saving our civilization and the planet as we know it. Barack Obama was the only viable candidate that was willing to make a science-based commitment to stabilizing the climate. Had the election gone the other way, we would have certainly missed the very narrow window of opportunity that we have to avert planetary ecological disaster.

But I have to say that today the work really begins. Holding the new President and Congress to this difficult commitment and getting it enacted within the next two years will be a challenge. There are many pressing problems such as the economy and two wars and healthcare. These problems are much more in the minds of most Americans than the effects of global warming.

However, this is a good day, and there is sunlight peeking through the clouds. Hope still remains that mankind can solve the climate crisis.

Now it is time to fight this fight and not be distracted by the hundreds of other issues we face. Nothing will be as important to human history as the result of our efforts over the next two years. Every other issue we face is irrelevant if we do not succeed in stopping global warming. And we will determine that eventual outcome within the next two years. Start the time clock, we have two years to make it happen. Get involved NOW!



99

<http://www.planetshifter.com/user/99>

natalilly

Nathalie Gattenberger/Artist/San Mateo , California
Elf Cottage

natdiggitydawg6@gmail.com
www.nathaliegattenberger.com

Always inspired, open minded,
glad I'm not blind... take in all the beauty and colors
on this earth and let my imagination go wild



70

<http://www.planetshifter.com/gallery/70>

Chris Dyer

Chris Dyer/Artist/Montreal
www.positivecreations.ca

Nature is Communicating

I am of the belief that there is many ways and levels on making things better for the all.

My approach is on a more vibrational and spiritual way, hoping to inspire higher consciousness through the art I make. I hope to bring unity of cultures, races and species through my work. But this then trickles down to the way I am as a human, that will care about nature and the planet's survival.

As a public figure I hope to be a good role model as well. I am not perfect but aim to do my part. Something that is sustainable about the art I make is that I recycle old broken skateboards that would have ended up rotting in a landfill, and give them eternal life as pretty and meaningful artwork.

Hope you can enjoy it too. Love n light, Chris

24

<http://www.planetshifter.com/gallery/24>

ShineBuy Oy

Keeranun Faiupara/Artist/
Bangkok, Thailand
Green Jewelry

oy@shinebuy.com
<http://www.ShineBuy.com>

Green is for the world sustainability. It's related to everyone's health and good mind. I make green jewelry.



Chris Dyer photo by Alia-Mirza





66

<http://www.planetshifter.com/gallery/66>

MindPickin

Jessica Perlstein/Artist/San Francisco, California

conscious love explosion

MindPickin Designs is the artwork of Jessica Perlstein. I seek to express the expansion of consciousness among all life forms. Realization of the connectivity prevalent in all of nature starts with a change in conscious awareness. This realization forces one to become compassionate towards all beings, and allows one to open up to subtle universal energies.

97

<http://www.planetshifter.com/gallery/97>

michybunny

Michele O'Brion/Artist/Oakland, California

Daisy (below left)

Half Moon Bay (below)

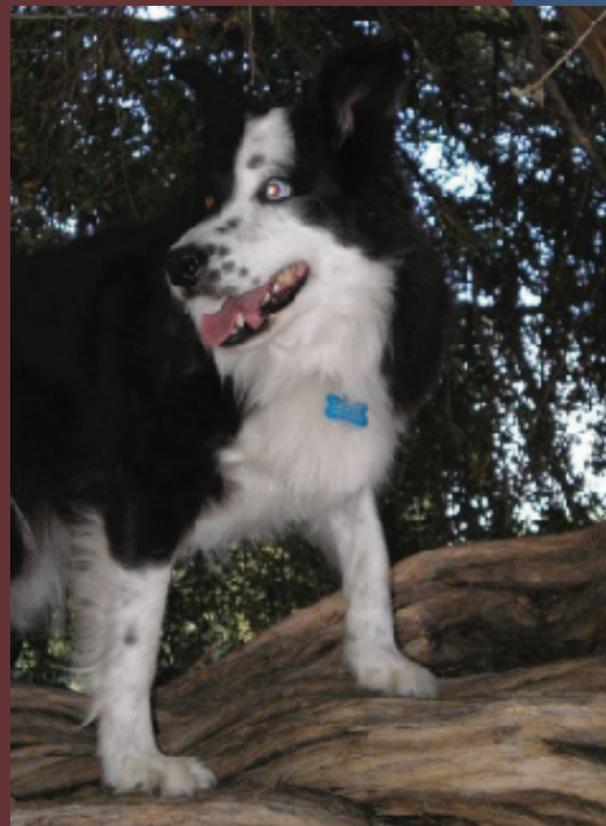
"Save the Earth!"

The Reservoir:Rock Music and Mythology (*continues from inside cover*)

Andy Partridge of XTC stated In SPIN Magazine that "today's pop songs are the nursery rhymes of the future." And the San Francisco Oracle, a local paper from 1967, issued a credo for rock music, and offered, in part, "that rock is creating the social rituals of the future."

We need to separate this phenomenon into its parts to better understand the whole. There are four. The music is one. The sounds or the rhythms that propel everything else. Mickey Hart and other artists believe that rhythm is connected to a "mythic time keeping" that extends from our "big bang beginning," through our heartbeats, and into today's music. A collective cosmic drumming.

Album art, posters, and all of the media that rock music produces is the second component of the power of rock music and myth. These illustrations have reinforced and educated the listener, often with the musician's own designs, like Robyn Hitchcock's "post-nuclear croquet garden" painting on his "Globe of Frogs" album. While art is a transformational, or alchemical match, photographs of bands document their changes and bring us closer to our rock family. Third, lyrics say what we can't sing on our instruments. Dylan brought a folk poet troubadour spirit, to rock early on, and artists have been listening ever since. And fourth, live performance combines sound, art and words with anticipation in a mass communication dynamic, a shared ritual flow that mimics, to a degree, a religious service. As a test of the four components I've just described, two definitions of myth are offered. Do they fit together? Please try substituting rock music for myth here: Carl Jung, in *Essays on a Science of Mythology*, defined myth as a story about heroes involving the gods, and a rite or phenomenon of nature, with the capability of transformation. Joseph Campbell, writing in *The Power of Myth*, gave us four functions of myths: mystery, cosmological (or to explain), sociological, and pedagogical (or how to live).



The Reservoir: Rock Music and Mythology *(continues from inside cover)*

For rock, like myth, is a road map, like writer Paul Williams insists in *The Map or Rediscovering Rock and Roll* (A Journey), we must learn to read it. We are children of a complex, dangerous and infinite Universe. From "Starfish," The Church sing for us. Notice how all of the parts spell magic in their hit song, "Under the Milky Way": "Wish I knew what you were looking for, Might have known what you would find, And it's something quite peculiar, Something shimmering and white...."

We hear and see symbols through rock music and art. Band names and titles of records and songs contain important cues, many political or humorous, but some for "mythic punch." Album art work is the first to be interpreted and often carries the same meaning all over the world. When musicians combine song lyrics with complimentary symbols, mythic meanings are reinforced and deepened. Symbols and metaphors are the seeds, our invitation to the feast. And many symbols, like numbers and colors, have ancient meanings and universal power. Campbell might have asked at this point: Do we know the power of these symbols? Have we lost our connections to the mythic reservoir? Tough questions, but we do know that some symbols "work." So often, specific sounds of chords foster specific meanings or moods, like the frenetic thunder cry of Hendrix, or the unmistakable sonic wail of U2's, The Edge, or the vocal poetry of Joni Mitchell's rock signature. Do we use beats and sonic symbols from prehistory? Do we still listen to the sounds of rain and birds, like Hitchcock says? Is a thunderstorm an ancient soundtrack and a precursor to rock and roll?

Jung long studied dreams and the subconscious and discovered that certain patterns in our dreams are common to everyone. These "archetypes" often relate to the symbols that rock artists utilize to charge their songs. While many mythic symbols or archetypes come from prehistory, the Bible or the Middle Ages, many twentieth century fears are precipitating new images and symbols for folktales and myths still to be fully realized, like those surrounding nuclear destruction and global warming, AIDS or Apartheid.

New or borrowed symbols have appeared as social catalysts and glue. The peace sign, for example, is synonymous with rock music. Symbols and music, bound together in many ways - both light and dark. Archetypes bridge our dreams with our ancestors, our myth making with myth interpretation. Symbols are alchemic, meaning that they combine science and spirit, known and believed. They are dream pieces, soul windows, and assist us in seeing how the many parts rock and roll music fit together as a conscious force. There are endless examples such as R.E.M.'s name itself which refers to a sleep/dream state. R.E.M.'s images evoke the dark and demonic, like their gargoyle on *Chronic Town*, or their weird dash of "reality and madness" on the cover of "Document #5," or their "Green" record cover?? that isn't green at all, but orange. What does orange mean to you?

The Church, from Sydney, illustrated their first release, "Of Skins and Heart," rather simply, until a deeper meaning is gleaned through the scientific heart image and colors. They could be saying that while we have different colors of skin, we all share the same life force symbolized by the heart: a symbol of courage, strength, and of the cosmic Christ in mythology. The colors, red and blue, mean the fresh blood - tired blood cycle in the flow of life. Why can't the heart symbolize the earth?

David Byrne, in a Rolling Stone interview, said, "In my teens, a lot of us felt that rock was a very direct kind of communication and not just music. There was also a lot of visual things that went along with it, a lot of the things that were making very direct connections that bypassed any need for translation." Now his Talking Heads make this connection magic. Why do the followers of the Grateful Dead do their self-affirming dance with blood red roses and skeletons? Why the devil tattoo on a Guns 'n' Roses fan? Did you know that the letter X, i.e., the band formerly from Los Angeles, is defined in part by Random House as "Christ," "Cross," and "a person, thing, agency, factor, etc. of unknown identity?" When we begin to fill our musical reservoir with understanding through these mythic symbols, then we approach what Joseph Campbell meant by *The Power of Myth*.

What is on Pink Floyd's "Dark Side of the Moon" album cover? The number one symbolizes the unity, three is the Trinity. Seven symbolizes musical balance. Look at your musical collection. What numbers are used by whom and when? And what about colors? Under a "Blood Red Sky;" "Yellow Submarine!"

U2's recording entitled, "The Joshua Tree," is a famous desert plant important to a Biblical home. Do you know the Christian symbolism surrounding it? Bono's great symbols keep spinning from the Irish foursome; 21st Century sound alchemists? One song from their experience describes a dream, a desert journey "In

The Reservoir: Rock Music and Mythology *(continues from inside cover)*

God's Country": "Desert sky, dream beneath the desert sky, rivers run but soon run dry, we need new dreams tonight, Desert rose, dreamed I saw a desert rose, Dressed all in ribbons and in bows... Sad eyes, crooked crosses, in God's Country ..."

Often mythology incorporates two important story themes: initiation and tradition. Our history is found in our social codes and rituals of passage. As we mature, we learn how to choose, how to select the best path for success to the ends that we desire. We are initiated as we pass various institutional tests. In short, we are products of social, political, and religious rules of behavior. Rock musicians have been sharing their passages ever since the blues banged into the electrical sixties, passing on their experiences and challenges to the new guard in the Age of Aquarius.

Jackson Browne is a storyteller from the heart, a soul who shares his passages through a folksy rock swing. He sings a song of growing pains on "Fountain of Sorrow" from *The Pretender*, and about a journey with maps and charts on "Farther On" from *Late for the Sky*. Cat Stevens' *Tea for the Tillerman* is a classic collection of songs from the road to find out, especially his ballads "Where Do the Children Play?" and "Fathers and Sons." These tunes are adding to our growing body of rock mythology. Have you shared your life passages with your children?

As young people, we require honest feedback such as testimony and direct experience. Our traditions are now more fluid, under attack from apathy and extremists, alike. From our first day in Kindergarten, to the Girl Scout Oath, Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday, and on to our first rock concert, traditions help form our attitudes and ritual bases for adulthood. These social cues and rules are our personal responsibility. For many, rock music this provides information, guidance, and alternatives on our journey to acceptable initiation rites. Lennon demanded that we "Give Peace A Chance." Are you listening? Or just buying?

Think for a minute. How many love songs do you know? How many do we need? We all lose when the planet goes to war, divided. Perhaps it's time you sang: "Get Up, Stand Up"? Rock music scholars D. Hibbard and, S. Kaleialoha, in *The Role of Rock, A Guide to the Social and Political Consequences of Rock Music*, wrote that, "the rock songs of the late '60's brought forth alternative values and visions on many levels. The music was in itself a bold statement with all sorts of fantastic phantasms swirling around and through it. Whether denouncing the war, celebrating drugs, or redefining love and sex, the songs declared freedom, sensation, and life. They made the young aware of themselves, reconfirmed their beliefs and acknowledged, within a positive framework, the changes taking place. The sound brought together a generation, created a 'mystical fusion' and gave the young a shared experience and an articulate, although not necessarily accurate, expression of what is and what will be. Even more important, rock music transcended dreary reality to offer America an optimistic utopian view of the future."

In *The Uses of Enchantment*, Bruno Bettelheim told us: "Myths and closely related religious legends offer material from which children form their concepts of the world's origins and purpose, of the social ideals that a child could pattern him or herself after. These were the images of the unconquered Achilles and wily Odysseus; of Hercules, whose life history showed that it is not beneath the dignity of the strongest man to clean the filthiest stable; of St. Martin, who cut his coat in half to clothe a poor beggar. And Freud referred to (Oedipus) to make us aware of the inescapable cauldron of emotions which every child, in his or her own way, has to manage at a certain age."

Our cauldron "boileth over." Late sixties rock music was protest connected, anti-war, anti-establishment, perhaps even anti-tradition (or for new traditions?). Paradoxically, Woodstock celebrated free love and global unity under a war-angry, drug infested and disillusioned black rainbow. Punk music captured this energy after a commercial "Top 40" backslide in the 1970's.

It is clear that if mythology and rock music can guide us through a confusion of bent traditions, shooting matches at City Hall, and TV-centered materialism, must learn to distinguish between our heroes and the clowns. We are always standing at the crossroads. The Police, from *Synchronicity*, lament our faltering human baton pass in their classic song, "Walking In Your Footsteps": "...If we drop the atom bomb, will they say that we were dumb, ya ... walking in your footsteps...."

Joseph Campbell, in *The Power of Myth*, described John Lennon as a hero, an innovator who brought a new spiritual depth to popular music through the meditative powers of Eastern and Oriental music. Campbell told us that "a hero must leave the old and go in quest of the seed idea. By experiencing something for everyone and reporting back his or her findings, a broader shift in understanding is possible." Heroes speak with our symbols, to our traditions, and challenge our surface initiations. The hero is key to the power of rock music and myth.

Greil Marcus, writing in *Mystery Train*, states: "It's easy to forget how young this country is; how little distance really separates us from the beginning of the myths, like that of Lincoln, that still haunts the national imagination. We make choices ... about what is worth keeping and what isn't, trying to create a world where we feel alive, risky, ambitious, and free ... We make the oldest stories new when we succeed, and we are trapped by the old stories when we fail."

The shaman, or medicine man, or healer, or Buddha, is an ancient title and community role, a hero and teacher common to many world people and their myths. Are there shamans with guitars today? Both Robyn Hitchcock and The Church's Steve Kilbey in recent interviews (*Night Sites & Sound*, *Soundcheck*) feel that role is possible, that the rock show is more than a performance. Both felt that they were evoking and/or invoking something through their work and live gigs.

What about the electricity and the sheer noise levels of modern rock concerts? A trance generator? Is this gathering an attempt to share a common consciousness? An initiation? R.E.M. is a band that has brought many people together with a magical mixture of surrealism and pop appeal. Consider Michael Stipe a shaman on a voyage: "Take your turn, ... take your fortune...." (from "Pilgrimage," on *Murmur*) and "Take your instincts, by the reigns..." ("Worksong," from *Document #5*). By combining symbols from mythology and pop culture with common themes from the human experience and music from across the world, rock music seems to work a universal beat. [\(Article concludes on back cover\)](#)



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