

Divine Marriage

Plate 17

October 1990 to November 1990

Brasilia, D.F.

acrylic on paper

50" x 70"



This *couple's embrace* symbolizes the divine marriage, the unity of my masculine and feminine polarities. Our divine nature is realized when our mind and the heart unite.

Journal entry, March 2, 1990: "Today I repainted the man/woman tree embracing. They were two separate figures, and I took away the line separating their bodies and they united as the base of one tree trunk."

The masculine and feminine principles uniting at the base of the *tree* suggest the integration of opposite polarities such as the conscious (masculine) and the Unconscious (feminine). This union creates a third way of knowing and being, the ego-Self state. One of the principles of alchemical philosophy states that when two opposing polarities converge, they create a new, third element: *The two becomes three*. Three is a number of integration. The healthy psyche struggles to maintain a balance between inner polar opposites, such as the ego-logical mind versus the Authentic Self, or the masculine versus feminine principles. This painting, *Divine Marriage*, portrays this movement toward a state of internal balance.

Masculine and feminine characteristics often represent left and right-brain intelligences. In this context, the terms "masculine" and "feminine" do not relate to gender; rather, to specific expressions of human behavior which are innate to every person and necessary for optimal, balanced whole brain functioning.

The feminine principle trusts in divine guidance, allows responses to emerge from within and can wait in the mystery of not knowing, without demanding the answer come. This is the natural state where all creativity stems from. The masculine principle, on the other hand, is related to logical cause and effect, if A then B (linear intelligence), and is more comfortable in the world of mental abstractions than in feelings. It values intellectual knowledge, factual information and is objective. It is organized, concrete, follows directions, gets things done on time and doesn't dilly-dally to smell the flowers along the way. It competes to get there first so it can win the prize. Our masculine side pays attention to the thousands of practical details and lays the groundwork of knowledge for the creative inspirational "Aha" or "Eureka" creative insight. Masculine intelligences value recognition and approval from others. The masculine principle is goal-oriented and focused on productivity, discernment, and making decisions. However, it is also the masculine principle that empowers us to reclaim the courage to overcome obstacles and to persist in fighting for principles in which we believe.

The feminine principle allows us to disengage from Core Limiting Beliefs that support victimization. The characteristics of the feminine principle include a sense of caring for life, an ability to relate on deep emotional levels, of being in touch with one's maternal instincts, of co-operation, valuing relationship, introspection, intuitive wisdom, peace and the heart's voice. Feminine ways of knowing also include a reverence for nature and for the sacredness inherent in all forms of life.

Non-linear, right-brained cognitive processes such as our **Innate Authentic Multiple Intelligences, I.am.ITM**, can be freely expressed in movement, art and other forms of creative self-expression. Imprinted in the feminine principle are the **I.am.ITM** - giving voice to our emotions, intuition, imagination, creativity and symbolic ways of knowing. The feminine principle receives information from the Unconscious. It believes that male or female, all humans have a source of inner wisdom that can provide guidance and direction. When we are fully connected to the feminine principle not only do we have access to our inner voice but we also feel in harmony with the natural order.

Carl Jung believed that art is a feminine means of expression in comparison to the masculine form of expression *logos* (logic), which communicates through words and numbers. Art is a non-linear symbolic language

that defies rational constructs of cause and effect. In contrast *logos*, being masculine, contributes to linear thinking, structure and clarity of organization.

Both genders have masculine and feminine characteristics. Whereas many men have developed such feminine qualities as nurturing, vulnerability and receptivity, there are many women with strong masculine qualities, including assertiveness, attention to detail and organized activity (i.e., work, religious groups, charities, and/or parent-teacher associations) outside the home. Ancient Chinese philosophy refers to feminine and masculine characteristics as Yin and Yang respectively, believing that when they are out of balance, conflict and disharmony results.

In our Western educational system, masculine ways of knowing are rewarded. In failing to provide opportunities for the feminine side of our nature to develop, our schools produce young adults who must struggle with this imbalance within themselves. The emphasis on memorization and competitive testing further reflects the stranglehold of the masculine on our culture's collective mental mindset. Disconnection from the feminine ways of knowing is a great cultural tragedy. Only when our educational system begins to teach to both feminine and masculine intelligences shall we create that integrated third way of knowing that can restore a healthy state of well-being and balance to our psychologically stressed, anxiety-ridden society. The masculine principle needs to have a more receptive relationship with the Unconscious and our **I.am.I**TM. For this to happen, educators must emphasize respect for feminine ways of knowing as an equal partner with the masculine. Blaise Pascal, the 17TH century French mathematician who was known as the father of reason, wrote "There are two excesses: to omit reason, and to admit only reason."

The symbolic image of an *embryo* appears in between the couple's embrace. Looking at this symbolic painting twenty-three years later, I believe this *embryonic form* is the child of this Divine Marriage, a third way of knowing that I have come to call Whole Brain Learning. My passionate interest in creating a Whole Brain Learning approach could well have been conceived here, in the symbolic image of the *embryo of light*.

Whole Brain Learning offers educators multiple opportunities to teach to both masculine and feminine intelligences so that future generations of students can have the opportunity to benefit from a Whole Brain Learning curriculum and engage in the world in a balanced way. The Whole Brain curriculum that I am proposing would teach courses that develop the mind, body, and spirit, including, but not limited to The **I.am.I**TM Method of Spontaneous Painting, Nonviolent Communication, Yoga, T'ai chi, Biodanza and various movement approaches, Meditation and Journal Writing. Spontaneous Painting is an approach to art education that integrates aspects of transpersonal and humanistic psychology, systems science, group facilitation approaches and expressive therapy, to form an interdisciplinary new domain of knowledge that does not yet exist in public education. Not only is education about preparing future generations for the job market, in its purest and ultimately most effective form, it needs to address each student's unique potential while encouraging his or her ability to listen, to love, and to have satisfying relationships. Compassion, peace of mind, and serenity of character need to be perceived as educational outcomes that are just as important as the student's grade point average.

Imagine yourself taking a course like Spontaneous Painting that opens your heart to the pulse of the life force. Imagine releasing your hidden emotions onto the canvas. By discharging them, you begin to access your inner voice, your Authentic and Higher Self and can begin to co-create a society of Self-connected individuals.

SPONTANEOUS PAINTING

True change occurs as we stop being dominated by limiting beliefs, expand our consciousness and develop what only each one of us can contribute to the world. This is an intention of Whole Brain Learning.

Affirmations

My feminine and masculine intelligences are balanced for my mental health.

Future generations will be nurtured by Whole Brain Learning.