About the Artists

Dean Chamberlain
Dean Chamberlain is perhaps best known for his light painting photographs of psychedelic pioneers. His use of psychodelics has directly affected the manner in which he approaches his art, not only by influencing his subject matter, but also through stylistic inspiration. His work has been featured in print publications and on the CD Journey Through the Spheres: A Tribute to Terence McKenna. See www.deanchamberlain.com.

A. Andrew Gonzalez
After a series of mystical dream experiences at age 19, Gonzalez felt reborn and in the grip of a “calling.” Charged by this inspiration, he began to paint and developed his imagery as a tool for exploration and self-discovery. In his adult life Gonzalez studied under the master visionary artist Ernst Fuchs. Gonzalez does not categorize his art as “fantastic” or “surrealist.” Rather, influenced by romanticism and idealism, he considers his work as “Transpersonal Tantric” art. Psilocybian mushrooms have been a useful tool to Gonzalez, in working through ideas and directions for his art. See www.sublimatrix.com.

Alex Grey
Alex Grey is best known for his depictions of the human body that “x-ray” the multiple layers of reality, revealing the complex integration of body, mind, and spirit. His paintings have been featured on the cover of albums by the Beastie Boys and Tool, in Newsweek magazine, on the Discovery Channel, rave flyers and sheets of blotter acid, and have been exhibited throughout the world. His books include Sacred Mirrors: The Visionary Art of Alex Grey, his philosophical text, The Mission of Art, and the recent Transfigurations. Sounds True released The Visionary Artist, an audiotape of Grey’s art, philosophy, and vision practices. See www.alexgrey.com.

Mark Henson
Mark Henson was born in California, and formally educated with a degree in Fine Art from UC-Davis. He knew he wanted to be an artist when he was a child and has always been able to touch the core of creativity. He has traveled the world, spending time in the Far East and Central America. His work beautifully captures aspects of sexuality, spirituality, and expanded consciousness. See www.SacredLight.to.

Martina Hoffmann
Martina Hoffmann was born in Germany and spent much of her childhood in West Africa. In the 1970s she studied art education and sculpting at the Johann Wolfgang Goethe University in Frankfurt, and later went to Spain where she met the Fantastic Realist artist Robert Venosa. Inspired by his work, she took up painting. She has also developed her own line of jewelry and clothing. In the 1990s she joined with a group of women artists, “Vox Femina” in Boulder, Colorado—where she currently lives—who perform multimedia stage shows. Her psychedelic-inspired work has been exhibited internationally, and appeared in books, calendars, and magazines. See www.martinahoffmann.com.

Mati Klarwein
Mati Klarwein has been described as “the last living descendant of Surrealism,” having studied with Leger and been influenced by Dali, Magritte, and Ernst. He is not shy about admitting the influence that psychelddesics have had on his art, which spans so many styles that it cannot be pigeonholed into any single category. His work has been featured on about 30 album covers (such as Santana’s 1970 release Abraxas) and in numerous books, the latest of which is Improved Paintings. This incredible art book features a series of his works painted on top of other people’s art that he has bought at flea markets and garage sales. He has reworked these paintings, breathing bizarre new life into them.

Stevee Postman
Stevee Postman is a digital artist living in Portland, Oregon. Working with the union of technology and the organic, he creates neo-pagan, faerie-inspired visual transmissions. He is the creator of the Cosmic Tribe Tarot (see review in the MAPS Bulletin Vol. X, No. 3), and his visionary work has appeared in galleries, as well as on a calendar, book covers, posters, and in numerous publications. See www.stevee.com.

Penny Slinger
Penny Slinger, an honors graduate of Chelsea College of Art, London, began shocking and thrilling the London art scene in the ’70s with her bold creations. She works in many media. Her published books include the groundbreaking SEXUAL SECRETS—The Alchemy of Ecstasy. She has produced oracle cards, two full length videos, paintings, sculptures and collages, all of which have been exhibited widely. She married a visionary and humanitarian, the late Dr. Christopher Hills, and is now custodian of the GODDESS TEMPLE, dedicated to manifesting the energy of the Goddess on the planet. See www.goddessinternational.com.

Dirk Walter
Born 1958 in Germany, Dirk Walter lived in Brazil from 1966 to 1971, and moved to the USA in 1973. He received his BFA from the Philadelphia College of Art for printmaking, design and painting, and he currently lives in San Francisco. Walter remarks: “It’s difficult to list all the different things that become influences in one’s art but here are a few: traveling and living in other cultures, eastern traditions such as Buddhism and Hinduism, western esoteric traditions such as the tarot, astrology and sacred geometry, ancient Mezo-American art and archeological sites, shamanic journeys, transpersonal psychology, and the underground trance dance music scene.” Contact the artist via e-mail at dirkananda@yahoo.com.

Fred Weidmann
Fred Weidmann is a Swiss visionary painter, illustrator, and designer. In 1970 he received his doctorate in Sociology at the University of Cologne, Germany. In 1999 he collaborated with Jochen Gartz, Christian Rätsch, and Paul Stamets to produce the Magic Mushrooms 2000 calendar, which featured his art augmented via computer with photos of psilocbicyan mushrooms of various species. See www.art-online.de/weidmann.html.
While researching the themes of this issue of the Bulletin, we came across many additional resources that may be of interest to MAPS supporters. The spiritual aspect of psychedelics alone has been covered in numerous books and articles. As a starting point for those who desire to investigate further, consider the following…

BOOKS


Stolaroff, M. 1994. Thanatos to Eros: 35 Years of Psychedelic Exploration. VWB.


ARTICLES


Freid, J. May 1996. “It’s Better When You Swallow—Warning: These substances may enhance your sex life. One man tunes in, turns on, and drops in on his girlfriend with the latest sex drugs,” Details.


Web

Council on Spiritual Practice: The Entheogen Project
www.csp.org/practices/entheogens/entheogens.html
The purpose of the Entheogen Project is to systematically gather knowledge about the immediate and long-term effects of entheogen use and to explore how public policy might accommodate responsible spiritual practices incorporating entheogens.

Drug Profiles: Drugs & Sexuality Bibliography
www.doitnow.org/pages/364.html
A selection of relevant citations.

Erowid
See their “Spiritual and Ritual Use of Entheogens Vault” (www.erowid.org/entheogens/spiritual.shtml) for a collection of links to texts and sites related to the spiritual use of entheogens, and their “Experience Reports” (www.erowid.org/experiences/) for personal accounts that can be searched for the categories “Sex Discussion” and “Mystical Experience.”

Flashback Books
www.flashbackbooks.com/fbb5.html
Great selection of rare books on psychedelics/Cannabis and sex.

Psychedelic Library:
Psychedelics & the Religious Experience
www.psychedelic-library.org/relmenu.htm
Part of the Schaffer Library of Drug Policy, includes full-text HTML versions of some of the articles mentioned in our listing of print resources.

Religion and Psychoactive Sacraments:
An Entheogen Chrestomathy
www.csp.org/chrestomathy/a_chrestomathy.html
Thomas B. Roberts, Ph.D. and Paula Jo Hruby, Ed.D., Editors. A bibliography, with excerpts, of books, dissertations, and topical issues of journals about religion and psychoactive sacraments. Indexed by Author and Title, regularly updated; currently contains over 500 references. The Chrestomathy came in printed form at one time, but the ongoing updates have made this unwieldy and this valuable collection is now housed on-line.

“Sex, Drugs and Altered States of Consciousness”
www.paradigm-sys.com/cttart/sci-docs/ctt78-sdaas.html
Charles T. Tart wrote this article as a chapter (unpublished in print) for a book on sexuality, applying his systems theory approach to understanding altered states of consciousness to the altered state(s) produced by high sexual arousal and orgasm.

Spiritual Emergence Network
www.senateciis.org
Information, referrals, and support for individuals experiencing difficulty with their psychospiritual growth. Education for psychology students who wish to specialize in spiritual emergence and psychospiritual issues. Practice development and training for licensed mental health professionals who wish to serve clients with spiritual issues. (415) 648-2610 for referrals.

The William James Awards
www.csp.org/WmJamesAwards.html
The Council on Spiritual Practices offers the William James Awards for masters’ theses and doctoral dissertations focusing on empirical studies of primary religious experience and its consequences. Grants are awarded to pay direct expenses of student thesis research, up to $500.00 at the masters level and up to $1,500.00 at the doctoral level.

Periodicals

The Entheogen Review, 10(1) 2001: “Moving Into the Sacred World of DMT,” and 10(2) 2001: “Just a Wee Bit More About DMT.” www.enteogenreview.com

Gnosis 26, Winter 1993: “Psychedelics & The Path.” Articles on the use of psychedelics for spiritual purposes.


Shambala Sun 7 (6) July 1999: “Sex. It Works on so many levels.” Articles on Alex Grey’s art, Tantra, Annie Sprinkle, and more.


Tricycle 21 Fall 1996: “Psychedelics and Buddhism.”
www.tricycle.com/pastissues/backissues6.html