



Ms. Sonia Deotto

Recipient

International Award 2019 for Promoting Gandhian Values outside India

When our heart feels the pain of bees falling on the city cement, surrendering before the radiation emitted by our exasperated technology, the echoes of Mahatma Gandhi's Hind Swaraj reach us in all their clarity: "This civilization is such that one has only to be patient and it will be self-destroyed".

On the other hand, when the people of a land called India treat you like a daughter, embracing your dream of serving peace, no matter the color of your skin, or your biological origin, the breath of life powerfully inhales the hope of reversing the process of this suicidal civilization.

This unconditional love is what has driven me from the end of the past millennium to take a leap into the void. What in Italy used to be my empathy towards conceptual-social art, in India transmuted towards the "art of essence", an art of the awareness of being one with the universe, beyond our limitations and prejudice: an alchemical instrument to transform the heart of others, and with them, struggle against violence in the world.

Thanks to the wisdom of the teachers I have found in this search for truth, a perception of a World Mandala has become stronger: seen from outer space, the Mandala of our World emerges like a blue sphere in rotation and in perfect balance with earth, water, fire, and air, the basic elements of life which, interconnected, manifest in many forms.

With this perception of inherent harmony, an aspiration arises to create instead of destroy, and with it, the intention to offer our hands, heart and head, to educate ourselves and educate each other in the practice of Ahimsa or love, the most powerful instrument of peace regeneration in the planet.

We can all be artists of Ahimsa in this World Participatory Theatre, because the art of essence, or the art of Mandala, is inherent to the existence itself, and hence it inhabits those of us who feel the urgent need for action to rebuild society up from the strength of love.

Tolstoi writes "Universal art arises only when some one of the people, having experienced a strong emotion, feels the necessity to transmitting it to others". This statement leads us to see the Mandala as a useful art at the service of human feelings, an act of disobedience against human decline and in favor of respect towards all living species. That is the nature of OraWorldMandala, a concept that integrates an invitation to communicate, expressed through the Latin root Ora, but in a planetary dimension where the human continent is represented by the term World, that primordial, mandalic circle.

This is why I want to dedicate this important acknowledgment to the indigenous peoples, to peasants, to the religious and agnostics, to the students and professors, workers, adults, children, women, and men who, in the antipodes of the world, India and Mexico, and also now in Italy and the United States, have decided to experiment with the art of Mandala, placing Ahimsa at their core, and acknowledging the

main axes of the Constructive Programme of Mahatma Gandhi as their guide for action: community unity, constructive cooperation, and autonomy.

The creative representations of the primordial elements of life, co-created by members of communities who are experiencing social conflicts, are the instrument to attain “unity in diversity” in our World Participatory Theatre. We call them Mandala Peace Actions, from which Ahimsa encourages communities to develop constructive works that respond to actual needs in agreement with our capacity to fulfil them, and not in accordance with imposed powers.

In this collective journey towards the common well-being and autonomy of the peoples, we invoke the insistence on Truth, for the power of Ahimsa to make visible what is invisible in this re-enchantment of the world.

I also express my deep admiration for the award winners of 2019 and all their predecessors, tireless artists of Ahimsa and Truth. And last but not least, I want to thank the generosity of Jannalal Bajaj Foundation for singling me with this important acknowledgment which I humbly accept with commitment on behalf of the all OraWorldMandala participants. The memory of Jannalal Bajaj represents a great inspiration and incentive to achieve our mission of bringing Ahimsa to reign in the world.

Victoria al Planeta Ya!

Jai Jagat, Jai Jagat, Jai Jagat Pukaare Jaa!

