

RESPONSE TO THE WORK OF JOANNA JONES* **1985, Huet Southard**

Huet Southard was a London-based philosopher and playwright who died in 1990

Taste. Touch. Sight. Smell. Sound. Via this tribe of senses we reach out; we experience a world of complexity ever changing. To the prophets of old sound was the precursor.

"In the beginning was the word". Next came light, then the triad of taste, touch and smell.

From the Renaissance until the turn of this century our Western culture elevated sight to the throne of honour. Seeing was believing.

"A good painter has two chief objects to paint" wrote Leonardo de Vinci, "man and the intentions of his soul; the first is easy, the second hard".

But how to make the "invisible" visible? Oversight is the visual route we all take when assimilating the world without into our world within. As we see so we understand. Insight is the visual route that the world within us takes when it tries to reach the world without. As we understand, so we see.

The language of oversight is new re-ordering within accepted boundary lines. The language of insight is broader boundary lines opening the way to new forms of ordering. Along the first route previously accepted assumptions are unconsciously reiterated. Along the second route accepted assumptions are challenged and if found inadequate thrown on the scrap heap.

Changes in the geography of our consciousness do not happen in the out there. We create those changes within us and then search for a language to communicate those changes to the world we share in the out there. The trigger is feelings. Jacques Hadamard's research into the mathematician's creativity has shown that nearly all tackle their problems not in verbal terms or by algerberic symbols but rely on visual-feelings from which is created imagery of a vague hazy nature. Einstein, when asked how did new insights appear to him, said they arrived as visuals, which were somewhat muscular.

If we are to re-see the world in terms of global unity, in terms of relationships where Nations and Individuals have the right to be truly themselves then we need to re-explore pre-language. We need to re-see how feelings cross the threshold into visual insights. In the west we chose to develop our language as a sequential one word at a time form of explaining. In the far east language grew as ideograms where multiplicity of meanings can reside within each character. Yet behind these differences lies a common source: the visual-tactile imagery of pre-language. In times of great change it is the hidden language that determines our future.

** First published 1985 in Joanna Jones "Schauplatz" Berlin Catalogue*