

NICHOLAS BERGERY / ARTIST STATEMENT / December 2008, Key West, FLORIDA.

In this body of work I created Photographic Digital Fine Art Prints, Photo or Techno Paintings, digital collages of original tropical flora and fauna and panoramic photographs of landscapes, seascapes and skylines from Key West and south Florida. I photograph more than meets the eye see in a single glance. I am moved by the juxtaposition of the physical earth and metaphysical sky and clouds. From up in the clouds to down to earth, these images search for paradise hidden in panoramic landscapes. In my "Tropical Punch" print series of Cloud and Hurricane imagery, I am trying to capture the beauty and majesty of Nature, contrasted by it's fury and violence during the past couple of years of tropical hurricane storms in South Florida. In my DVD slide shows are Photographic and digital impressions and abstractions of Caribbean clouds in Key West and Miami Beach, some of the images are superimposed with hurricane satellite, radar and computer graphic imagery, appropriated from NOAA (the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency) and other internet sources.

In some of my Tropical Nature Photographic Collage body of work I superimpose and juxtapose my original photographs, with Heironymous Bosch's, as my way of depicting Man and Nature out of balance or man's indifference to preserving Nature and Men at war. I have also appropriated William Blake's Paintings that I superimposed into some of my photographs of clouds, using the sky and clouds as a symbol for heaven and the afterlife.

In the latest series, the kaleidoscopic like images that I created from my original photographs of flowers, are like symbols of the psyche and an image of wholeness. The Mandalas are geometric and psychometric images used for meditation or reflection on Nature. Wheel of life and sacred Paintings includes figurines of Jesus, Buddha, Krishna, deities and Nature Spirits. I was influenced by Tibetan 'Thangkas' in Carl Jung's book 'Man and his Symbol' and by a book titled 'Art Tantra', which included Mandalas, Yantras, wheel of life and sacred Paintings of Buddha, deities or bodhisattvas, as well as text on Indian Spirituality and Buddhist Tantric Philosophy. I tried to create my Photographic and Digital Fine Art versions of the Tibetan and American Indian Sand Paintings, including Nature Spirits.