

A JOURNEY TO THE PANGAEA

We live in an incredible planet. The scientific knowledge that humanity has developed made us aware of fascinating geological and cosmological facts nevertheless eclipsed by our mundane endeavours. It is estimated that one third of today's world's population cannot see the Milky Way due to light pollution in the night environment, anyway we just don't pay attention to the stars at night anymore, they're always there...

So I wanted to recall the astonishing processes in time and space that created our planet and the evolution of life to put in context the importance of our current societies, to see the bigger picture. A very good friend of mine asked me a few weeks ago if I thought Travelling in Time possible. I said No, because I'm not believing in a universal archive that keeps accurate track of all the previous forms of matter and energy and its continuous transformation and movement. Although at least, with my imagination, I can travel in time to places inspired in existing places millions of years back in time: The Pangaea, when all continents were a single land mass with non existent countries or borders.

It was a reality for millions of years. An Earth that wasn't labelled or defined according to human laws and rules that serve a few in a fight for supremacy. Longing for freedom is a strong human desire and it is maybe why we can find references to Pangaea in many projects from art exhibitions to scientific research and even commercial representations of Pangaea printed in mugs and duvets, sadly as a political map. And yet, life in Pangaea would be so hostile for us. Large extensions of desertic land, Pangaea breaking apart and a considerable amount of gigantic reptiles roaming around, altogether seems an appropriate metaphor for the current state of things...

The Permian Triassic extinction event related to Pangaea is relevant nowadays as we seem to head towards a mass extinction in our egocentric Anthropocene period. The alarming news about the melting of the poles are forgetful about the fact that they've been melting and freezing many times in natural cycles... and yet it seems clear we'll be facing a deep adaptation time for humanity due to the extinction of life diversity, that we've enclosed with fences and turned into meat. It is truly fascinating to follow the tree of life and our evolution from deep sea Coelacanths, Pikaia and amniotes to our cousins the dinosaurs and their grandchildren the birds; from our therapsid ancestors, the first reptiles developing mammal attributes, to our brothers in the animal kingdom... I belong to Earth, not the other way round, and I'm in my own process of transformation and extinction.

The reference to the caves is recurrent in my work as an enclosed space for meditation beyond time, containing the first human artistic expressions and in Plato's allegory telling us we're definitely still in that cave, looking at the shadows until we see the exit in that precise moment of human awareness.

I have found inspiration in this theme of Pangaea to create ceramics evoking the relation between ritual objects and the evolution of living forms and large scale ink drawings referencing the cosmos and the creation of our planet, all of which ultimately has helped me to recall our origins and hopefully become a little less ignorant by awakening the magic energy of ancient times which I hope to have conveyed in these artworks.