

FEBRUARY 2016

## HEROIC LANDSCAPE



Acrylics 40 x 60 cm (2016)

If we turn our gaze outwards we initially perceive the surrounding area, a little further outwards, as background or stage design, the view trails off into the landscape; the outer landscape, the photography of the back ground, which usually concludes with a horizon.

If we look inward we can perceive an inner landscape, the landscape in the head which consists of dreams, imagination, emotion, intuition and aptitude. It is not a landscape of which one can take photos. And usually this landscape is pretty difficult to describe with words, it works much better with music or painting.

The Arabic world traveller Ibn Battuta (14th Century) thought that the landscape, meaning geography, topography and climate, shapes people; so this means that in comparably similar areas similar human characteristics develop, that the cultures resemble each other with similar customs and traditions.

The land of our childhood, the landscape which we grow up in, has a big influence on us. The Dutchman in the flat lands takes often a different view on things, values things differently from the Engadine in the Alps where all around high mountains form the horizon. A resident of the Mediterranean coast has a different opinion of winter than a resident on the shore of Lake Baikal. Where one feels safe, the other feels threatened.

And then there is the sky above the horizon. At the North Sea huge heavens span across the landscape reaching as far down as the low lying dividing line where water and air separate. Man moves in the sky, so to speak.

As stark contrast, our cities. Sometimes one can feel the bright strip above the deep canyons of houses, but above all our gaze discerns concrete, asphalt, glass and some kind of flashing lights. Man can barely move, he gets moved and often forgets that there is a sky high above the stone dungeon.

Considering that the inner landscape which we carry inside is influenced greatly by the outer one, one can ask where the present urbanization is leading to.

Whether one can counteract with landscape paintings?

It would please the painter.