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Interview with Julia Butterfly Hill

Julia Butterfly Hill is an environmental activist who lived for over two years in an ancient redwood tree calling attention to the plight of old growth forests in a courageous stand against Pacific Lumber in Northern California. Through her [Circle of Life Foundation](#), she continues to speak out against injustice and environmental devastation nationally. Julia Butterfly Hill has recently published a book called "One Makes the Difference". This was an email interview conducted in 2002.

Q: Many artists are collaborating with environmental and community groups, resource managers and educators to create environmental art. What has your experience been with this type of collaboration?

I believe that creativity is absolutely vital to the success of shifting consciousness and actions. Creativity is about the expression of life-force energy, reaching out to find the common language of heart, spirit, and intrinsic understandings that cross perceived boundaries and transform consciousness. Through this we transform the world. I always feel blessed when creativity flows through me, and I love when I have opportunities to share this part of myself in the activism. This collaboration between art and activism is a big part of why I chose to move my life to the Bay Area of California where this type of partnership thrives.

Q: Is your newest book, "One Makes the Difference", about how anyone can help the environmental movement?

Interview

Julia Butterfly Hill

ONE MAKES THE DIFFERENCE is about inspiring actions that change the world. It is a montage of facts, ideas, resources, stories, and meditations with the focus of activating us all into more loving, respectful, conscious, and joyful living. It is based on my response when people come and thank me for showing that one person CAN make the difference. I always respond with, every moment there is a choice, every choice has impact. Every choice changes the world, therefore we all DO make the difference. The kind of difference we make is up to us. Every moment we all make choices to be the healer and hero for the world or to be hurtful and destroy. This book is about taking our power to change the world back into our consciousness, heart, spirit and actions. There are numerous points throughout the book that highlight the importance of creativity in creating positive change.

Q: How can we create more demand for environmental art or environmental anything? Any ideas?

When environmental art and activism redefine's itself as Life Art and Activism, then more people will be inspired to become involved. When we define it as "environmental", it becomes something separate from life-- a category to choose from instead of a way of celebrating and honouring the sacred interconnection of all beings. The more we define ourselves as Active Life Artists, the more people will be unable to resist the excitement, fun, joy, and pure love that we embody.

Q: Judging from the schedule on your website you've been busy! How are you?

I am extremely busy. I get more requests for my help than I can possibly fulfil, even if I were to never sleep and do nothing but help. I love being in service to our world, so I have a hard time sometimes telling people that I truly honour their work and passion, but I just can not do it all. I started the group, Circle of Life, with the express purpose of supporting spiritual activation-- activation from the heart that honours the sacred. We are doing our very best to help people become consciously active in every aspect of their lives, helping them to connect to what and who they need in order to do so.

Q: The shape of a tree can be beautiful reflecting its function and circumstances: life is art. How did your years in Luna, affect your sense of what is beautiful?

Interview

Julia Butterfly Hill

Living in Luna showed me so clearly how where this is beauty in the world, there is health, balance, beauty and strength. Where the beauty is gone from destruction of the natural world, we see a loss of all we need to not only survive, but also to thrive. I found how even the shapes of the needles have a role to play in the health and function of the forest. Where there is a burnt, destroyed clearcut, there is no beauty, there is no healthy, functioning ecosystem to call in, store, and release water; store carbon, clean up the air, and reduce global warming; provide herbal remedies, food, and other non-commercial uses. The list goes on and on. Not only was the Creator of Life brilliant beyond belief in making an intricately interwoven system, but also wove astounding, breath-taking, magical beauty into the very ability of Life to thrive. We are truly blessed to be gifted with life on this Sacred Earth.

Q: Can you think of any places or environmental organizations that might be interested in environmental art projects?

I think lots of groups are looking and willing.

Q: Lastly, any thoughts on greenmuseum.org?

I do my best to never sit down in front of a computer screen, so I have not seen your site, but I am sure the people I work with would never have recommended it if it was not good. Best of Blessings.