

# ARE WE LISTENING? or STILL NOT LISTENING?

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**Here we are...all 8 Billion of us...together.  
Mother Earth has told each of her children to go to their room and sit and think about what we  
have done to hurt her!**

In the mid 1960s I graduated from the New England School of Art in Boston and soon after going to WOODSTOCK, dropped out and began a life as a hippie. I then moved to Maine, deep into woods where I felt closer to the earth, my chapel in the pines. I was a painter.

In the mid 70s I found my passion for wood carving and began carving wooden birds. I also did a few whales, with faces of humans on them, as guardians of the Earth. That began my interest in using art to express nature and the delicate balance we have with the divine world and how we were not treating the earth and the living beings on it with love, compassion and kindness.

1986 brought on the horrific Valdez Oil Spill and with that I created STILL NOT LISTENING. It was seen by a Japanese Master Carver who requested it to go to Japan for two years of museum exhibitions and then it came to Boston to the Museum of Science for a public viewing period. After a few exhibitions it sat in my studio for several years. Then, the Gulf Oil Spill occurred, and I called my longtime friend, curator David J. Wagner. I told him that I thought it was time to bring this sculpture once more into the world to view, for we were Still Not Listening! So, Dave called Bob Bateman and Kent Ullberg who both had created art pieces that were depicting environmental issues of the Valdez Oil Spill and other disasters of the planet. These issues being perpetuated by the greed of man and not understanding the precarious position that we were all in. Within weeks, David had created ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT, which toured the United States for many museum exhibitions.

At that point, I had already carved a killdeer in maple burl wood that was doing the feigning of a broken wing, which they will do to draw an intruder away from their ground nest with eggs in it. I then got the idea of putting a black carbon footprint on the ground to illustrate what humans were doing to interfere with the life cycles of so many birds and other critters. This piece was included with my work for ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT and at that time, prior to the opening of the first exhibition, I created another piece that was near and dear to my heart, something about bees. I made a mobius circle of infinity and placed on its surface the design of a honeycomb with a bee attached to it. It is titled MO-BEE-US.

Most of the work that I create in paintings and sculpture reflect the beauty of this natural world and our relationship to that world. However, at times my concern for this life force moves me to create art that has an Environmental Impact, such as my turtle sculpture THE GREAT ESCAPE. This piece shows a sea turtle with the shadow of a fishing or shrimp net on the shell of the turtle. This turtle is gratefully 'escaping the net' and hence THE GREAT ESCAPE.

It is now recognized that we are into a global climate change! This warming of the planet is causing much devastation. I need not go into detail of that which is happening, for it is most obvious when we look at icebergs melting, islands going underwater and many wild creatures becoming extinct!

We must all become good stewards of this earth. I feel that as an artist it is important that we show the world through our art, a vision of what we are doing and how we must stop this crazy suicidal march into oblivion. I feel honored to think that in my varied work as an artist I have often been classified as a “visionary wildlife artist”.

Now, during this time and with the worldwide infectious Corona Virus, ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT II is touring the United States and Canada. Maybe it is also time to really consider the words of John Lennon in his song, IMAGINE...“Imagine all the people, living life in peace!” Let’s make this song our planetary anthem!!!!

With all of my art, I create a poem for each work and here I shall include and conclude with the poems for each of the works mentioned in this writing.

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#### THE GREAT ESCAPE



Swept into bondage  
By the silent, creeping, hideous net  
Its' weave to take my soul  
Its' desire to feed its' greed

Caught up tight

In the corporate grip  
I learned to see through  
Their ruthless lies  
And sweeping my mind clear  
I escaped under the shadows  
Of impending death

MO-BEE-US



A Mobius strip  
An unending story to tell  
Forever with bees  
May all of us dwell

Resisting man's foolishness  
Gmo-pollution-disease  
Our request for life,  
Mo' bees for us please

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ONCE IN A BLUE MOON



A whale of a vision  
I saw in my mind  
A great diving behemoth  
In moonlight did shine

For a moment it stood  
With flukes to the sky  
As an angel of night  
A moon face on its flank  
I knew as I watched  
This was no cosmic prank

#### CARBON FOOTPRINT



Feigning my wing broken  
To lure intruders away

They come, greedily,  
Stumbling foolishly,  
Or unseen, unknown

But there, a dark presence  
Leaving their careless footprint  
On our Earth

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## STILL NOT LISTENING



Mating dance  
Spring ritual  
Plundered by  
Technologies intrusion

Dance of the dead ensued  
Echoing 20 years  
Our cries are still not heard

Listen to me  
Your canary  
In the coal mine

Listen to me  
It's time to  
Let your light shine

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