

Ad Infinitum

There have always been two aspects that inform my art, the mind of the philosopher and that of the photographer.

Imagine a circle! Let's stand in the center of this circle and let's picture that all knowledge is arranged at the circle's periphery. In pre-Renaissance times, the periphery was still well defined in terms of space and time. The earth then was considered to be flat and the horizon was the outside edge. Time then was measured by the movement of light, neatly divided into day and night.

During the Renaissance the humanists dignified the value of man and shifted focus from the afterlife to a better life here on earth. This set in motion a quest for knowledge that continues to accelerate into our own time. Back then the sciences started to be clearly defined, Universities were founded and with Gutenberg's printing press knowledge and information began to be distributed.

At the end of the 18th century, at the time of Johann Wolfgang von Goethe in Germany and James Boswell in England, a well educated person was still well conversant in all major topics. Is this still possible today? It hardly is, as knowledge in all fields has exploded, borders have fallen and peripheries continue to be pushed out into the infinite. The whole universe has opened up and is available to everyone. Just think of the Internet today and how it grows from its very own. We have embarked on an incredibly innovative period, where we are seeing the early glimmers of technological, biotechnological and environmental advances, to name just a few, that will revolutionize our world just as much as Renaissance science had transformed life then. We have moved beyond the dimensions of space and time where history, future and the present have merged into one.

My photography stands at this infinite moment. It's a magical moment, as my images combine past scientific progress with possible future developments, where we deal with a collapse of time, a merging of reality with fantasy. It is exactly from this space of polarized energies where my creation and development evolves. My universe of inspiration encompasses philosophy, literature, music & arts, engineering, chance, cosmology, biology and birds & insects. Conceptually I create my inner, often enigmatic "vocabulary", which I then combine with the external world to create a new visual landscape.

Karin Hillmer 2009

To see a world in a grain of sand,
And a heaven in a wild flower,
Hold infinity in the palm of your hand,
And eternity in an hour.

By William Blake