

Women are perfect

by Niña Van den Bosch

The Art Center HOres is not your customary art gallery. It claims to be inspired by a vision. It is enacting a mission. When I set up my gallery I was guided both by passion and enthusiasm. I wanted to enable artists to make a statement. I wanted to share images with everybody. I wanted to exhibit women's power, beauty and vulnerability. I felt I had to demonstrate how they are perfect while at the same time showing imperfections.

For me it is incomprehensible that nowadays there still exists female genital mutilation. (FGM). How long will it take for governments to effectively put an end to this crime? As of today there are between 100 and 400 million mutilated girls or women especially in Africa and the Middle East.

Heinz Rabbow paints women's faces expressing humanity together with qualities such as integrity, bewilderment, childlike innocence and purity. Linde Ergo sculpts how women can be both powerful and free. Rietje Geurs' importance as an artist resides in the demonstration of how the participants in her group sculptures mutually support each other. These are but a few of my artists. They share a common goal i.e. make their authenticity and their commitment inspirational.

**FOR ME ART IS LIKE A PLATFORM FROM WHERE I WANT TO GIVE
FULL VENT TO MY LOVE FOR HUMAN MANKIND**

Grandmothers, mothers and men invoke their religious beliefs in order to perpetuate this abuse, as they believe that it will be beneficial for their girls. Their safe conduct to getting married! Even in Europe the risk runs high due to immigration, where up to 500,000 girls and women are potential victims.



**THE FEMININE ENERGY LIES
IN THEIR SEXUALITY. IT IS OF
THE HIGHEST LEVEL. WITHOUT
IT WOMEN CAN NEVER ASSUME
THEIR TRUE POWER. GENITAL
MUTILATION IS A REFINED
TECHNIQUE TO ACTUALLY AND
SYMBOLICALLY DEPRIVE WOMEN
OF THEIR INTRINSIC ENERGY,
AND TO FORCE THEM INTO
SOCIAL SUBORDINATION.**

For sure one cannot change a culture single handedly. But it is definitely possible to bring about a change of mind or a shift of perspective. And it should take no more than a second to cause the click.

Art can help!

Threatened women often do not know the strength of their feminine energy. To me and to many other people it looks unreasonable that these practices subsist and remain unpunished. Uninformed women are willing to consent. They do not grasp the full extent of their womanhood.

The practitioners of the mutilation defend their source of income and refuse to stop their trade. FGM is in all likelihood an early Egyptian practice, possibly of Ethiopian origin. The ritual is conducted on the basis of religious belief. It may also relate to rites of passage or to ideas about physical beauty, virginity or matrimony. However the opposite is true. Mutilation results in women's lack of resilience and of pugnacity and contributes to their submission. My plea will invariably admonish women to unite in order to protect their children against this madness. The female body is of a perfect nature. Nobody has the right to interfere with it. GFM is an invention of men, an instrument to promote submission, a technique to insure their control over women.

The victims are unaware of all these effects. They accept traditional customs as part of their religion. They do not doubt their correctness. They cannot miss something they do not even know is their right.

I can feel the pain in my own body. My commitment could not be greater. It is all about us, women!

**IF THERE IS ONE THING I WOULD LIKE TO REALIZE, THEN IT
IS TO BE THAT INITIAL WAVE THAT CAUSES A LAND SLIDE AND
ERADICATES THIS EVIL!**

No adult woman in her good senses is willing to give up her womanhood. Children with no voice have to suffer their sad fate. They do not doubt that FGM is the way leading to womanhood. They should know better and understand that mutilation makes their access to womanhood impossible.

About 6000 girls are mutilated every day! Nobody will ever know the exact number. In Belgium presumably 4000 girls have to undergo this treatment. Not to mention the pain, the lifelong physical consequences and inconveniences.

It is of paramount importance that everyone should know that FGM deprives women of their sexuality and their energy. Only when women are protected, respected and cherished everywhere in this world, only then will the true potential of women prevail! All women should unite to put an end to FGM. If this happens, then a new era can begin.

**WE DO NOT HAVE THE RIGHT TO CONVICT, WE DO HAVE THE DUTY
TO CONVINCE**

I intend to specifically promote Art that propounds the feminine world in all its beauty and virtue. I want to stand firm and be seen. I feel entitled to respect. I am capable of sharing with others. I am grateful for my share of talents and for my motivation.



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in their imperfection



Conceptual Art "Beneath The Surface" by Koen Soberon