

Research of the Invisible Magical Bark Prints by Birgitta Volz

"Madonna with Child", 2003 bark print from a German Willow tree with oil colour on Chinese paper size: 30 x 21 cm

She manifested on the bark, while I was working for a competition for the Catholic Church on that theme.

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Research of the Invisible Magical Bark Prints by Birgitta Volz including "The Namibia Expedition"

to print on "Livingstone's Baobab"



Mysterious bark images from a more than 3000 year old Baobab tree

Have they been carved or are they naturally formed by the tree?



Using expressive bark-prints, Birgitta Volz leads the observer into a world almost forgotten by our materialistic society, a world of structure and shapes, for which we can hardly find words not least, because these forms take a feature and form for a moment, only to escape the eye of the startled spectator in the next.

Matthias Behrend (art historian)

Birgitta working on a 4 m long bark print banner (top) and finishing a bark print on paper at her favourite Willow tree (below)



Left: "Crown of Thorns", 2015

size 100 x 70 cm direct bark print from a Willow tree



How I started Bark Printing:

I experimented happily in different techniques and produced plenty of nice looking pictures during my first 10 years as a free lance visual artist.

As I liked wood printing best, I started to find out how to print tree barks in nature. Apart from decorative structures and abstract compositions I did not at all expect any other results.



Opening of my first bark print exhibition in Kiox Gallery, Chemnitz, Germany, 1995

"Lineamenta arborum", large installation made of combined bark prints from 15 different tree species



One day I felt attracted by an unspectacular tree, which I had not yet specified. I started to work on a large abstract composition, as it did not blend in with the other patterns. Due to strong wind I lost control and gave up. When I looked at the result some days later in my studio, I was shocked. My composition looked like a life sized witch.

I hardly slept that night, as I could not find an explanation.

The next day I asked all my colleagues to come and have a look.

All of them asked me: "For Heaven's sake, how did you do this?"

I had no answer, but I knew that I did not make it. Purposely something had manifested through my hands.

I specified the tree as a willow (Salix caprea) and found this text (on the opposite page) in the Mythology.

I decided to solve this mystery.

This was the start of my spiritual research in 1996.

Ever since I met with many phenomena, which our society denies, trivializes or regards as not existent.

I met clairvoyant people from different fields, spiritual teachers and healers. I would never belief, if I hadn't experienced it all by myself.

And above all my perpetual question: "How does this work?"

Left side: Betula pendula 10, 1995 Birch tree Triptych Oil colour on Chinese paper, size: 300 x 70 cm

The White Woman or Salic Woman, as she is called in the Alps,

is a mediator between man and spirits. She can take human

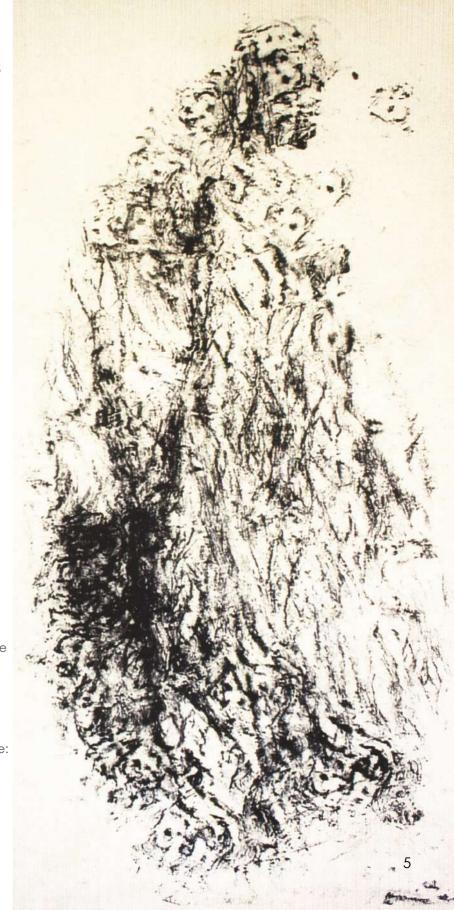
form. Her name, in the lan-

guage of the Alps "Salige",

has its roots in the latin word Salix, Willow-tree, that means the Willow-Woman,

the changing spirit of the Willow.

"Salic Woman", 1995, size: 205 x 100 cm Bark print from a Salic Willow Tree Oil colour on Chinese paper and canvas



I started to study perception, brain research and psychology and made a professional training to become a "Superlearning Trainer".

Over time I learned methods to bypass the filter functions of our brain, which construct our physical reality.

Short and sweet: We are only able to perceive what we think.

Everything else, which does not fit into our learned patterns, is filtered off. Our brain tries to modify or even eliminate strange experiences, if we have met them by chance.

The world beyond our visible world turns out to be the biggest adventure of my life.

The more I learn about the principles of our universe, the more I marvel every day about the beauty and wonders of our planet, which we are to destroy further every single day with our disrespect, ignorance and greed.

> "Meditating Tree Spirit, 2015 bark print from a Salic Willow tree size: 100 x 70 cm

About the Technique of Bark Printing:

The tree gets a good cleaning with a brush before I apply a thin layer of organic oil colour on the outer skin of its bark. Then I pin a paper or fabric on it and rub the colour through with soft pressure.

As I work entirely without chemicals and solvents my technique is completely harmless for the tree. The excess colour stays visible on the bark, until it is renewing itself naturally from inside.

The tree looks a bit different for some time, as the beauty of its structures is more prominent.

The prints need to dry over night in safety. If I am not yet satisfied with the results, I continue the next day. The print making is physically very challenging and like a meditation in motion.

I rarely see images on the bark. They are becoming visible to me only later in the studio. As most people are usually not able to see them easily, I shade around the beings and faces which I discover.

I try not to manipulate but to uncover them.

Different trees present me with different stories, depending on their continent and cultural environment.

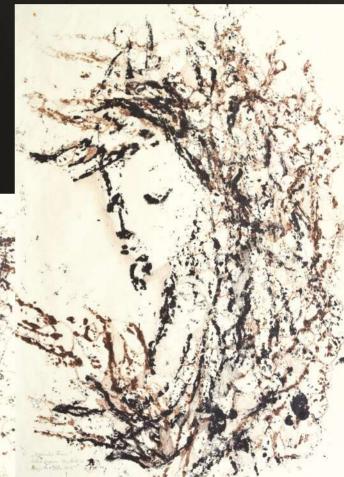
It seems as if the trees record the history of their place and of its "clandestine" inhabitants.



"Dreamer", 2015 bark print from a Salic Willow tree size: 40 x 40 cm



Right page: "Caressing Tree Spirits", 2015 bark print from a Salic Willow tree size: 119 x 84 cm oil colour on Japanese paper slightly shaded with colour pencil

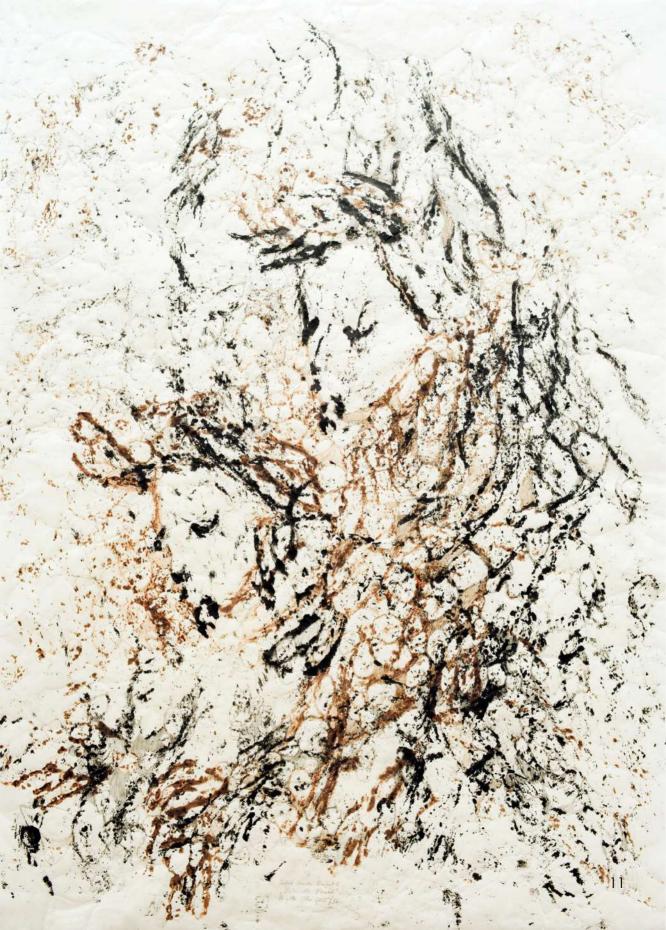


"Affectionate Tree Spirit", 2015

bark prints from a Salic Willow tree size: 70 x 50 cm oil colour on Japanese paper slightly shaded with colour pencil

"Dreaming Willow Lady", 2015





"Willow Gnomes", 2018 bark print from a Salic Willow tree size: 120 x 90 cm oil colour on Japanese paper slightly shaded with colour pencil



Top: "Vortices", 2015 size: 100 x 70 cm

Middle: "Chimaera" size: 100 x 70 cm

Down: "Wild Willow Woman" size: 120 x 90 cm

bark prints from a Salic Willow tree, oil colour on Japanese paper, slightly shaded with colour pencil





Birgitta's bark prints tell us a lot of stories, which reflect magically the place and the cultural environment, where the tree is standing.

They are read differently by each person.

Birgitta does not manipulate the natural bark print structures. She carefully shades around them to make them visible.

"Purgatory", 2014 -16 bark print from an Indian Maduca tree size: 95 x 98 cm oil colour on Chinese paper slightly shaded with pencil









Right side: "Ginkgo biloba Unikat 8", 2003 -16 size: 100 x 70 cm bark print from a Ginkgo tree oil colour on Chinese paper,



Top: "Beech-Faces", 1995-2018 size: 100 x 70 cm bark print from a European Beech tree

Middle: "Road Runner", 2017-18 size: 100 x 70 cm bark print from a Salic Willow tree

Down: "Birch Dwarfs", 2017 size: 70 x 50 cm bark print from a European Birch tree

Oil colour on Chinese paper slightly shaded with black pencil







Right side: "Bremer Stadtmusikanten", 2003 -16 size: 100 x 70 cm bark print from a Beech tree oil colour on Chinese paper,



Top: "Chestnut Spirits", 2003-2018 size: 100 x 70 cm printed from a European Chestnut tree

Middle: "Wingnut-Ghosts", 2003 -15 size: 100 x 70 cm printed from a Caucasian Wingnut tree

Down: "Minotaurus", 2007-16 size: 100 x 70 cm printed from a Cherry tree

Bark prints with oil colour on Chinese paper, slightly shaded with black pencil

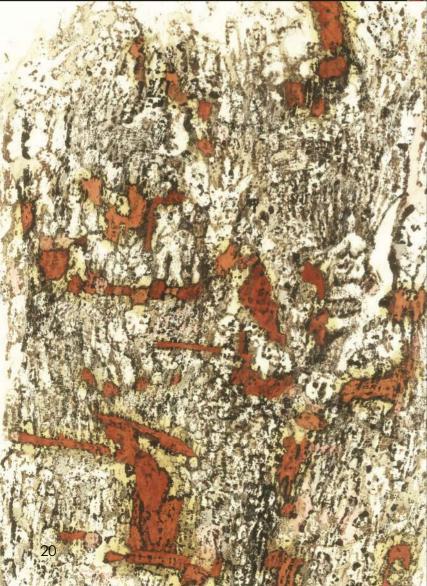


Top: "Small Universe", 2014 size: 30 x 21 cm

Below: "Animal World", 2014 size: 70 x 50 cm

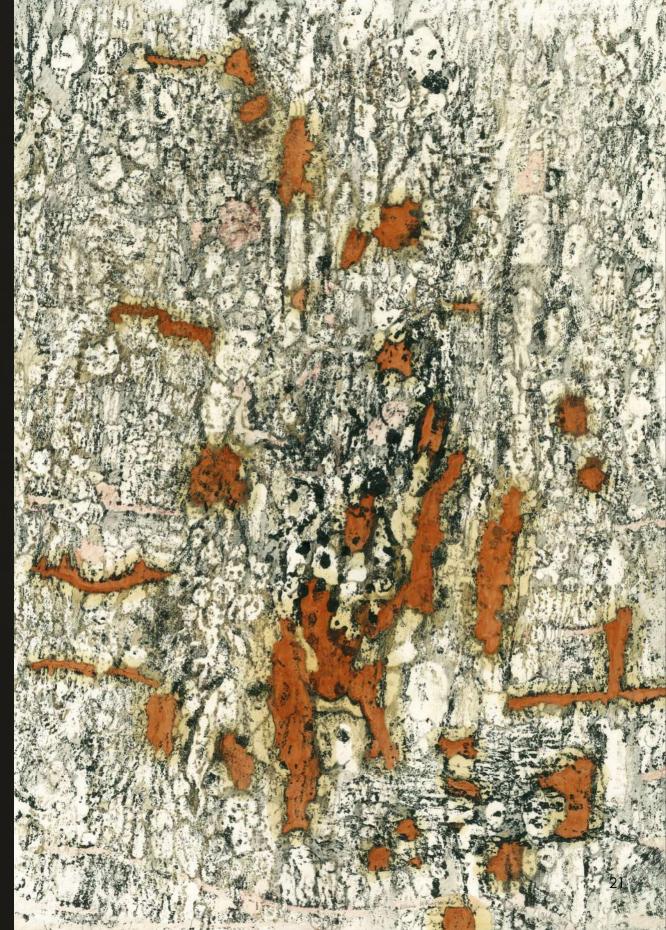
Bark prints in brown and black oil colour from an Indian Maduca tree on Japanese paper Painted with red oil colour and shaded with colour pencils





Right side:

"Small Kingdom" 2014 100 x 70 cm





Top: "Dancing Couple" detail from the print below

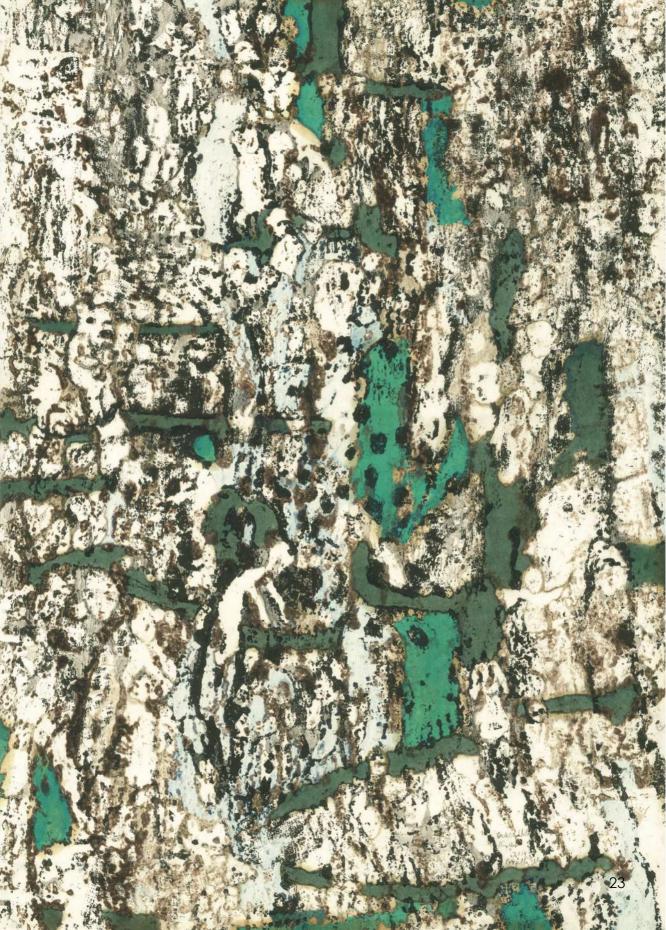
Below: "Bark Universe", 2014 size: 92 x 104 cm

Right side: "Branch Rider", 2014 size: 70 x 100 cm

Bark prints in brown and black oil colour from an Indian Maduca tree on Japanese paper

Painted with turquoise oil colour and shaded with colour pencils





"The Namibia Expedition"

to print on "Livingstone's Baobab"

organized by the travel book author and journalist Konny von Schmettau



This mighty Baobab has a circumference of 29 meters and is probably more than 3000 years old.

It is located near the village of Mbilajwe in the Caprivi area of Namibia.



The bark with the carving of "David Livinston's Signature" from 1851



Bark print of "David Livinston's Signature", size 100 x 70 cm, 2018 from the Baobab tree with oil colour on transparent foil

Sensational Discoveries at Livingstone's Baobab Namibia / Caprivi Area / Katima Mulilo / Mbilajwe Village

In 2016 Namibian travel book author Konny von Schmettau re-discovered the lost signature of Africa Missionary and Explorer Dr. David Livingstone in an old Baobab tree.

Beginning of May 2018 she set together another expedition with her friend, artist Birgitta Volz to discover more about this incredible tree. The mighty Baobab is about 29 Meters in outer range and approximately 3000 years old.



The two brave ladies were camping under Livingstone's Baobab in the wild, only together with 2 young Mayeyi people.



While intensively researching on the tree, the expedition team discovers more fascinating details in the trunk and bark every day.

Not only David Livingstone engraved his name in the bark, but also his wife Mary.

And a line of initials was found: D-M-W-S.

D for David Livingstone,

M for Mary Livingstone,

W for their friend William Oswell and S for the king of Makololo, Sebitwane.



Mary Livingstone's Signature on the bark

Following Livingstone's journals, they had set their camp under the Baobab in August, 1851,

"Can it really all be coincidence what we see, just grown by the ages old Baobab?" - The expedition team asked themselves this question many times, while they discovered new sceneries on the bark every day.

A lion Goddess, huge faces, full figures with hands and feet, even a life sized man showing clearly on the bark, made visible and brought alive by Birgitta's colour.

Who lived here in old times, which people have produced this wonder? It's common knowledge that the Zambezi Region has seen many tribes passing within hundreds or even thousands of years. Some of them stayed in the region for some time while others went forward to new destinations. Who where those sharing their lives and stories under the Baobab? Where and when did they come from?

Tree lovers say that the bark of very old trees can show the stories of the people living around them. Is this "just stories"? If so, how is it possible that Birgitta Volz' bark prints show faces, animals and scenes?

How can we date and explain the art work in the bark of Livingstone's Baobab? The expedition team is constantly busy with their research to find out more and would love to set up a third exhibition with more expertise.

Text based on a full page article in the "Allgemeine Zeitung" Windhoek from 13.5.2018 by Konny von Schmettau

Birgitta next to her "King & Queen" banner, which is placed next to the bark, where it was printed from.

Size: 175 x 156 cm, 2018 Bark print in brown and black oil colour from the Baobab tree on banner fabric.

Mary Livingstone has carved her signature into the king's upper head. Right page: "King & Queen", 2018 size: 119 x 84 cm

Bark print in brown and black oil colour on Japanese paper, shaded with colour pencils.

The royals are formed out of the faces of their people.





4 small Lion pictures, printed from the face and the mane details of the large "Lion-Goddess", which shows on the bark.

Also the "big Lion print" on the next double page is formed entirely out of tiny little lion images. Is it possible that the "Lion consciousness" has entered the tree and manifests in every detail.



Small Lion pictures size: 30 x 21 cm, 2018 bark print with black oil colour, shaded with colour pencils.

Birgitta with one of her large Lion prints size: 245 x 97 cm, 2018



The 6-armed "Lion-Goddess" is our most amazing discovery on the Baobab. We could not yet trace something comparable in art history. She is placed so high up on the bark that she must have been growing there for centuries. "Lion-Goddess", size: 84 x 119 cm, 2018 Bark print with black oil colour from the Baobab, shaded with colour pencils.

It looks like a miracle that she is formed entirely by tiny little lion heads. It seems as if the Lion consciousness has entered the tree and is manifesting through every detail. Has this Baobab been a natural place of worship in former times?



Is it a carving or could it be natural?

Does the figure continue under the soil level?

Might it have been a visual warning for travellers to beware of the surrounding swamps?

It looks like carved, but you can't carve in this narrow notch of the tree unless it was done centuries ago, before the

tree formed the niche.





Up: Boabab bark print with oil colour on Japanese paper, 2018 size: 70 x 50 cm

Right side: Boabab bark print with oil colour on banner fabric size: 150 x 51 cm, 2018 Quite spooky looks this human looking figure, which tries to reach out of the earth.





Left side:

"Baobab-Portraits", 2018, size: 70 x 50 cm Baobab bark print with oil colour on Japanese paper, slightly shaded with black pencil.

> Right side: "Two Baobab-Portraits", 2018 size: 30 x 40 cm





4 human portraits are located in the badly accessible notch above the figure reaching out from the earth.

They seem not to carry African features, but do look more like having Greek profiles and beard styles.

Are they carved or grown by the tree?

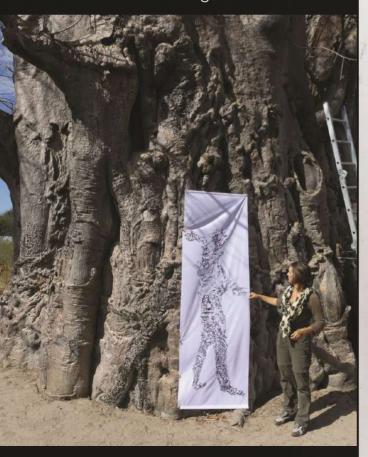
How old might they be?

Did the Egyptians and Ptolomaeans eventually follow trading routes leading that far to the south of Africa? Life sized image of a human body with African features, who seems to be part of a much larger carving. He looks like carrying a load in his arm and balancing one more on his shoulder.

The bark on the Baobab still carries a lot of hidden secrets.

We would love to come back and them make visible too.

If they have been carved so three dimensional, how does the Baobab mange to coat them again with a healthy cambium? Most other species of trees wouldn't survive such carvings.



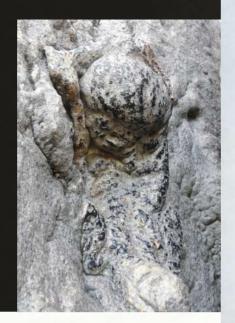


The "Baobab Servant" seems to be part of a huge mysterious frieze. Is it imagination to see bodies in tantric positions? Who made all of this?

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The "Baby in the bark" is another mystical discovery where we wonder:

"Was it carved is is it appearing naturally on the tree?"

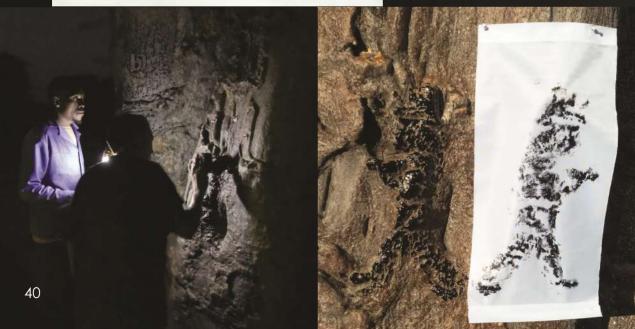






above: "Baobab-Frieze with lot's of Faces", 2018 size: 100 x 70 cm left: "Baobab-Goblins", 2018 size: 50 x 70 cm, oil colour on Japanese paper, shaded with pencil.

Birgitta printing late on the "Small Traveller", mini banner 67 x 33 cm - with the help of Austin Makumba and Konny



Detail of the frieze from the pages before. Have these once been carvings of tantric bodies?



left: The Livingston Museum in Sangwali temporarily converted into Birgitta's studio.

right page: "African Stories", 2018 119 x 84 cm, oil colour on Japanese paper, shaded with colour pencils Bark print from a Marula tree, where the village was located in former times. This tree seems to tell the stories of the place. You can find the queen with her ladies and children, the village men and lions on it.

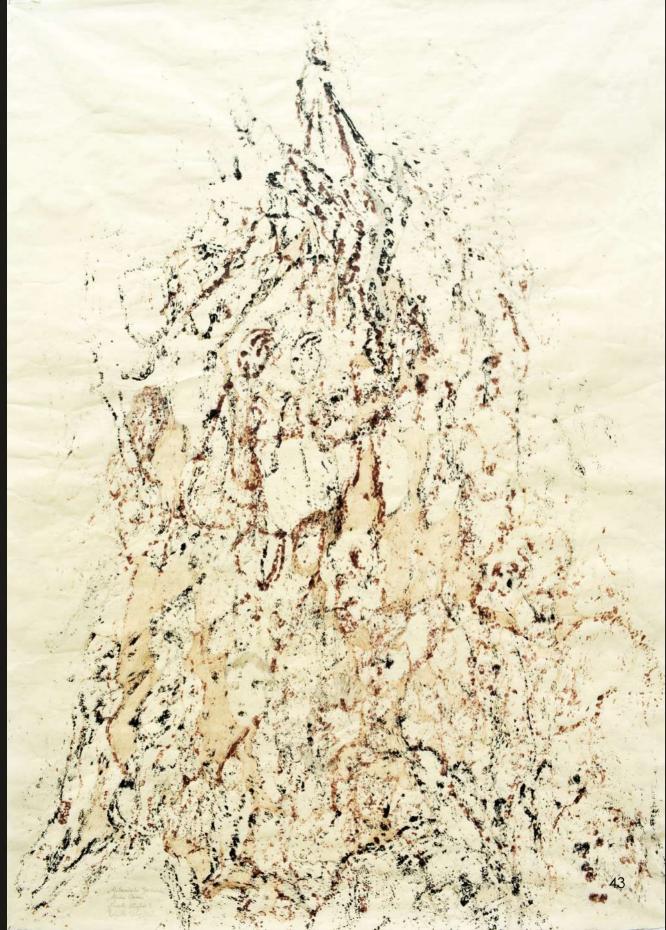




Birgitta just finished a large banner from the Marula tree.

left: "Sebitwane" King of Makololo, 2018 size: 100 x 70 cm oil colour on Japanese paper, shaded with colour pencils

Bark print from a Marula tree, which is located next to the Livingston museum and close to Sebitwane's grave. It looks like he manifested from the bark and is formed by the portraits of his tribe's people.

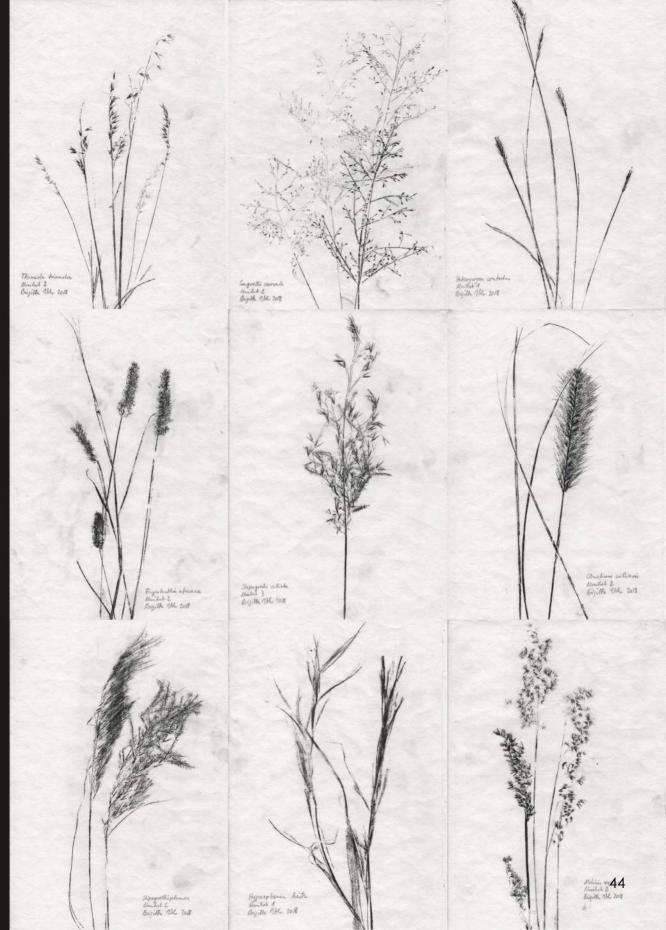


David Livingston's Paradise on Earth

was an additional section in the FNCC exhibition. Birgitta tried to create the ambience of the Linyanti Swamps with her plant prints combined with Konny's photographs.

Right side: Series of 9 grass prints with oil colur on Japanese paper, size: 30 x 21 cm each below: Konny von Schmettau's photographs of the Caprivi area and 3 of Birgitta's plant prints, oil colour on Chinese paper, size: 100 x 70 cm and underneath: Series of plant prints on delicate banner fabric, each 150 x 61 cm





Exhibition of the results of the Baobab expedition in

the FNCC, Windhoek, 2018 (Franco-Namibian Cultural Centre)

Bark prints by Birgitta Volz Photographs by Konny von Schmettau

First work: below "King & Queen" banner, 2018, size: 180 x 156 cm Bark print in black and brown oil colour on banner fabric







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Lion corner: "Lion Goddess" banner 1, 2018 size: 240 x 76 cm





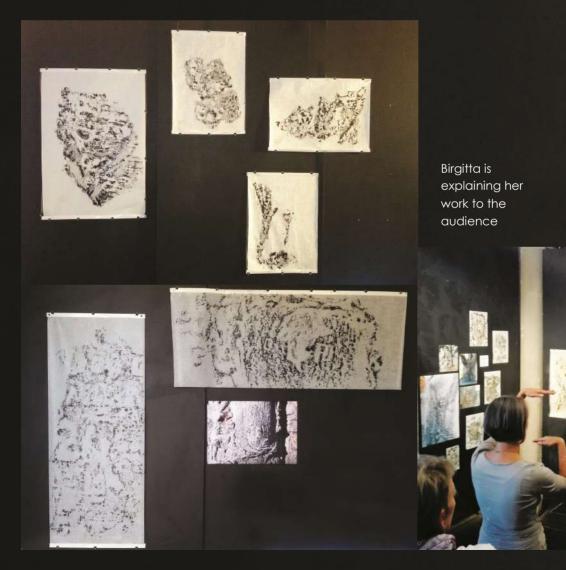


Impressions from the Exhibition in FNCC

Left page: Francois Lottering with Birgitta Volz and Konny von Schmettau Francois Lottering in action in front of the screening of his video "Tree Art by Birgitta Volz" Birgitta talking with Namibian state archaeologistAlma Nankela about the planning of a third expedition. Konny von Schmettau would love to it organize in 2019 with more experts, to do some excavations on the site.

Below: Some of the bark prints shown in detail on previous pages

2 delicate banners with prints of David & Mary Linvingstone's signatures, each 150 x 61 cm









Speech of the Ambassador of the European Union , Jana Hybaskova



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Speech of the Ambassador of Germany Christian Schlaga



Speech of the Ambassador of France Claire Bodonyi

Speech of Leon Boye, who helped us with every aspect of the project.



Birgitta Volz: Curriculum Vitae

Origins from Nuremberg, Germany

- 1982 Begins artistic works with woodcuts
- 1985. Youngest member of the Association of Professional Artists, Nuremberg
- 1984-88 Studies at the Würzburg College, Germany (Commercial Art), BA
- 1987. Guest student at the "Academia de Bellas Artes", Madrid, Spain
- 1988-91 MA-Programme for Graphic Arts at the University of Modern Arts in Kassel



- 1996 Invitation to lecture at the College of Art, New Delhi, India, as an invited guest of the German Cultural Institute
- 1997 Invitation to lecture at the University for Modern Arts in Porto, Portugal, as an invited guest of the Goethe Institute
- 1993-98 Fellowship in the House of Fine Arts, Wiesbaden, Germany
- 1998 Rewarded the HAP-Grieshaber-Prize for woodcut
- 1999. One year fellowship of the Bavarian Government at the "International House of Artists Villa Concordia" in Bamberg, Germany
- 2000 Awarded by the "New Saxonian Gallery" Invitation to lecture at the College of Art in Kumasi, Ghana, as an invited guest of the German Cultural Institute and of the French Cultural Institute
- 2001 Fellowship of the German-Italian Institute "Villa Vigoni", Como, Italy
- 2003. Brenner's "Artists in Residence" Fellowship, Baden-Baden, Germany Fellowship at the "Centre Est-Nord-Est", St-Jean-Port-Joli, Canada
- 2004 Artist in residence at "Engramme", Quebec, Canada
- 2005 Birgitta is joining the international community of Auroville in the south of India and she is founding her own jewellery design label "Matrigold" (www.matrigold.in)
- 2014. International Narrative Art Residency, Goa Chitra Museum, India
- 2018. International Chittorgarh Art Festival, Medan, India "Research of the Invisible" Project:

Expedition with Konny von Schmettau into the bush of the Caprivi area in Namibia to print a 3000 year old Baobab tree

www.birgittavolz.de

Solo Exhibitions (selected)

- 2018.FNCC (French-Namibian Cultural Centre), Windhoek, Namibia
- 2017 Leon-Art Gallery Nuremberg, Germany
- 2015 Citadines Centre d'Art, Auroville, India
- 2014 RCSC, Russian Cultural Centre, Chennai, India
- 2013 "International House of Artists Villa Concordia", Bamberg, Germany
- 2012 Citadyn Centre d'Art, Auroville, India Pitanga Cultural Center, Auroville, India
- 2011 Botanical Art Gallery, Thuengersheim, Germany
- 2010 Aurodhan Art Gallery, Pondicherry, India Weaver's Studio Gallery, Kolkata, India
- 2009 Kunst Schaefer Gallery, Wiesbaden, Germany Mata Hari Exhibition Space, Munich, Germany
- 2008 Pitanga Cultural Center, Auroville, India Exhibition Hall, Villa Leon, Nuernberg, Germany
- 2007 Pitanga Cultural Center, Auroville, India Giechburg Art Castle, Schesslitz, Germany
- 2006 Pitanga Cultural Center, Auroville, India MF-Design Exhibition Hall, Nuremberg, Germany
- 2005 Skalny Exhibition Hall, Karpacz, Poland Zunfthaus Baden-Baden, Germany
- 2004 Bharat Nivas Art Gallery, Auroville, India Meduse Art Center, Québec, Canada
- 2003 Brenner's Parkhotel, Baden-Baden, Germany Art Center Est-Nord-Est, Quebec, Canada Kolping Exhibition Hall, Frankfurt, Germany Mediacenter, University Dresden, Germany
- 2001 Museum of Nature, Chemnitz, Germany
- 2000 French Cultural Center, Kumasi, Ghana Dome of Berlin, Berlin, Germany Museum "Augustusburg Castle", Saxonia
- 1999 Gänsemarkt-Passage Hamburg, Germany
- 1998 Museum Gellert, Hainichen, Germany Schuster & Scheuermann Gallery, Berlin Taschenberg Palace, Dresden, Germany
- 1997 German Cultural Center, Porto, Portugal Museum of Female Arts, Wiesbaden, Germany

3 small bark prints from a Marula tree, 2018 size 30 x21 cm







- 1997 Schuster Gallery, Frankfurt am Main Daimler-Benz-Aerospace, Paris, France
- 1996 Max Mueller Bhavan, New Delhi, India
- 1995 Schuster Gallery, Offenbach, Germany
- 1994 Wiesweg Gallery, Eltville, Germany
- 1993 House of Fine Arts, Wiesbaden, Germany
- 1992 Werkstatt Gallery, Rüsselsheim, Germany
- 1991.Exhibition Hall of the Academy of Fine Arts, Kassel
- 1990 Exhibition Hall of the Academy of Fine Arts, Kassel
- 1987 Jason Gallery, Nuremberg, Germany
- 1986.Gallery of the Artists Association, Nuremberg Chambinsky Theatre, Würzburg, Germany
- 1985 Town Hall, Erlangen, German

Group Exhibitions (selected)

- 2018 Citadines Centre d'Art, Auroville, India Khajuraho Art Festival, Khajuraho, India
- 2017 Unity Pavilion Auroville, India
- 2016 Apparao Art Galleries, New Delhi and Chennai, India
- 2015 Lalit Kala Akademi, Chennai, India
- 2014 Goa Chitra Museum, Goa, India
- 2012 Botanical Art Gallery, Thuengersheim, Germany
- 2011 Kala Kendra Art Gallery, Auroville, India
- 2010 Weaver's Studio Gallery, Kolkata, India
- 2009 Manufaktur Gallery, Berlin, Germany
- 2008 Women's Museum, Wiesbaden, Germany
- 2007 Gongju National Museum, Korea Giechburg Art Castle, Schesslitz, Germany
- 2005 Aurodhan Art Gallery, Pondicherry, India Kunstschaefer Gallery, Wiesbaden, Germany
- 2004 House for Fine Arts, Buttenheim, Germany Women's Museum, Wiesbaden, Germany
- 2003 Fine Arts Exhibition Hall, Kempten, Germany
- 2002 Jakobi-Cathedral Döbeln, Germany Gallery of the City of Bamberg, Germany
- 2001 Exhibition Hall, Saxonian Parliament, Dresden Fine Arts Club, Plauen, Germany
- 2000 New Saxonian Gallery, Chemnitz, Germany Gallery of the City of Bamberg, Germany
- 1999 "Villa Concordia", Bamberg, Germany

"Erd-Wesen", 2001 size 70 x 50 cm bark print from a Baobab tree 1998 Art Exhibition of the County of Hessen, Wiesbaden County Museum of Baden, Karlsruhe, Germany Center of Arts, Bouxwiller, France 1997 Marilies-Hess-Foundation, Frankfurt, Germany International Print Biennale, Olofström, Sweden Townhall, Wiesbaden, Germany 1996 International Triennale of Prints, Kairo, Egypt Museum of Industry, Chemnitz, Germany Central County Library, Berlin, Germany 1995 International Community House, Kyoto, Japan Boulder's Artist Gallery, Boulder, USA 1994 Big Art Exhibition of the County of Hessen, Wiesbaden, Germany County Representation of Hessen in Bonn, Germany Federal Museum Maidanek, Poland Gallery 28, Readina, Enaland House of Fine Arts, Wiesbaden 1993 Fine Arts Center, Irvine, USA Fresno Art Museum, Fresno, USA Dayton Fine Arts Center, Dayton, USA Museum of Female Arts, Bonn 1992 Cultural Center Butana, Sao Paulo, Brasil Palace Center, Tamworth, England Museum of the Hambach Castle Town Museum Kirn, Germany 1991 MSN Design Hall, Fuerth, Germany Pro Art Gallery, Kassel, Germany 1990 Schwarze Galerie, Kassel, Germany 1989 La Folie Gallery Nueremberg 1988 Town Hall, Sommerhausen, Germany 1987 International Miniprint Exhibition, Barcelona, Spain Gallery Jason, Nuerembera, Germany 1986 German Poster Museum, Essen Chambinsky Theatre Hall, Wuerzburg 1985 Exhibition Hall of the National Assembly, Istanbul, Turkev Town Hall, Erlangen, Germany 1984 Community Hall Nueremberg Langwasser

and many more

Work in Public Collections:

Collection of the European Union Collection of the German Federal Parliament Collection of the Bayarian State Government Collection of the State Government of Baden-Württemberg Ministry of Finances, Berlin, Germany Polish Federal Museum in Maidanek Museum of Contemporary Graphic Arts, Cairo, Egypt Collection of the German-Italian Society "Villa Vigoni", Italy Max Mueller Bhayan, New Delhi, India Museum for Female Arts, Wiesbaden, Germany King-Albert-Museum, Chemnitz, Germany Collection of the "New Saxonian Gallery", Germany Collection of the House of Arts "Engramme", Quebec, Canada Collection of the Dresden University, Germany Collection of the City of Wiesbaden, Germany Collection of the County of Mittweida, Germany Collection of the international Township of Auroville, India Collection of the Botanical Gardens, Tharandt, Germany University of Tharandt, Botanical Institute, Germany Collection of Dresdner Bank, Germany Collection of Nassauische Sparkasse, Germany Frieder Burda Collection.

and various other private collections.

"Wind Witches", 2001 size 120 x 90 cm bark print from my favourite magic German Willow tree

Artist Statement:

I try to open people through the beauty of nature, which is a continuous theme in my artwork. My aim is to create a consciousness which guides the

observer above mere decoration.

Ultimately, perhaps some viewers will be able to gain access to the spiritual aspects of nature

and then they might treat it with more respect.



This book was published on the occasion of the "Namibia Project" and the following exhibition in FNCC, Windhoek: "Research of the Invisible"

with bark prints by Birgitta Volz and photographs by Konny von Schmettau.

Photos, Text, Layout, Design: Birgitta Volz Photos, Text: Konny von Schmettau Translation: Birgitta Volz, Verena Damm

1st Edition: 2018 (100 pieces)

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I would like to thank all the wonderful people and institutions who helped Konny by sponsoring the expedition and who supported me with my art work. Thank you for making the exhibition possible, thank you for creating this wonderful event and thank you giving me such a nice stay in Namibia.

Thank you

Jana Hybascova (Ambassador of the European Union) Francois Lottering (i-Media) Leon Boye (Consulting Engineers) Christian Schlaga (Ambassador of Germany) Claire Bodonyi (Ambassador of France) Gerome Kohl (FNCC, Franco-Namibian Cultural Centre)

Waldi Fritsche (Scientific Society Windhoek) and all the people who became my friends: Dilli Thiessen, Anja Neuhaus, Susan Louis, Alex, Moiser and Austin & Life Makumba, their family and tribe's people

and above all thank you Konny von Schmettau (Namibia Activ) for everything !!!



Left: "Karneval der Strolche", 2014-16 size: 116 x 84 cm bark print from an Indian Maduca tree oil colour on Chinese paper slightly shaded with pencil

