

LE COEUR POURRAIT SE RÉGÉNÉRER: IT'S POSSIBLE THE HEART CAN REGENERATE ITSELF

A ONE-MONTH SHOW OF ORIGINAL WORKS AT:
THE GALLERY OF GRAPHIC ARTS NEW YORK, NEW YORK MARCH 2006

To be alive is inherently beautiful and full of possibilities. Those of us with the means to access education, culture, and technology today are likely the most fortunate generation of all time. When we are available to it, our hearts remind us of these realities at every opportunity; though it is often hard to be available to our best instincts and intuitions in the world as we have come to know it.

At the outset of the 21st century many signs around us suggest a disturbing decline in global civilization and cohesion. War, famine, alienation, mechanization, environmental degradation all underscore the growing stresses on our world. The pain and suffering resulting from these phenomena explain why the life force that guides our collective hope and progress - the human heart - is increasingly heavy in our times.

In order for things to improve and for the human family to realize its greatest potential, we must slow down and regain our heart.

Recently, while in Paris, I read in the leading French daily *Le Monde* an article entitled:

"*Le Coeur Pourrait se Régénérer- in English: "It's Possible the Heart Can Regenerate Itself."

The title, which introduced a report on new research findings concerning the workings of the human cardio vascular system, struck me as deeply metaphorical. The underlying article, in fact, spoke to scientific evidence suggesting the remarkable resilience of the human heart. With proper care and support it seems the human heart appears to be able to repair itself, according to scientists - even following significant damage and shock.

The French article reminded me that, just as in the context of our individual bodies, it may be our collective heart is sufficiently strong to repair the world, if we are willing to help it.

This monthlong showing of my art at GOGA is intended to raise questions about humanity's will to regain its heart for the purpose of bringing much-needed healing, peace, justice, and sustainability to the planet.

My works, accordingly, treat issues of human isolation, loneliness, and loss, while underscoring and celebrating as well humanity's enduring possibilities, brilliance, and potential. By building on images of time and memory, faith, music, hope, indigenous culture, and nature, I seek to remind viewers of my paintings and collages that it is these time-tested "essentials" to which we must turn in order to regain the collective heart of humanity. And by combining provocative - even hard-hitting political - commentaries with predominantly bright-colored, happy, and adorning imagery, I hope to remind those who see my work that there is still much beauty and meaning left in life. As a result, my works are intended to suggest that there is always the possibility, and therefore the need, for all of us to do more to ensure the regeneration of the heart - and of the planet - in the future that awaits us.

Henry A. J. Ramos