

CONVERSATIONS WITH A STAR



NORWEGIAN SHORE IN SOLSTICE LIGHT

CARLL GOODPASTURE

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CHELLIS GLENDINNING

Acknowledgements

This book is a gentle advocacy for environmental awareness.

Like others with awareness of the insanity to compromise Earth's life support system, my pilgrimage would seem hopeless without the open-hearted and generous support from a community of like-minded people. Of many who have contributed in this regard, I extend deep gratitude to my life partner Gro Heining, to a soul mate, Jessica Cassirer, to a professional colleague, Eric Grissell, and to a most generous collaborator via the internet, Chellis Glendinning.

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Chellis Glendinning is a psychotherapist, culture critic, environmental activist and author. The theme of her writings is the weaving of the personal with the political. She has written six books including *My Name Is Chellis and I'm in Recovery from Western Civilization*. <http://www.chellisglendinning.org/>

Carll Goodpasture is an artist and a biologist. He studied photography and cinematography before obtaining his doctorate in entomology. His career activities include research entomology, clinical cytogenetics, and the teaching of art and science. His photography is exhibited internationally, and was featured in the award-winning book by Eric Grissell, *Insects and Gardens*.

Liv Gudmundson currently studies visual culture and collaborates on interviews with photographers for the French web magazine <http://www.lesphotographes.com>

Gray Sutherland is a translator, author, and poet, educated in Europe and Canada. His first published novel is entitled *A Twittering of Sparrows*; his books of poetry include *Comanche Moon* and *A Homecoming*.

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Photographs by Carll Goodpasture * Essay by Chellis Glendinning
with an interview by Liv Gudmundson and a poem by Gray Sutherland

In *Conversations With a Star*, photographer Carll Goodpasture makes a pilgrimage with his hand-made pinhole camera to catch the magic of Norwegian shore and sky. The result is a stunning visual embrace of pre-modern mind/soul with the natural world. In her essay about Goodpasture's work, social critic Chellis Glendinning places his stargazing images beyond modernism and postmodernism, both: instead, it is a revisitation to the wonder so required to guide humanity toward planetary survival.

Art can either stifle or promote the cultivation of awe. With Carll Goodpasture's photographs, we start with awe, rather than measurable human constructs. Powerful images of timelessness and the *mysterium tremendum* quickly dwarf the corporate, familial, consumerist systems on which we fixate. They cleanse the doors of perception - and serve as an antidote to human hubris.

In a world now threatened by environmental collapse and the potential implosion of civilization, Goodpasture's "magic theater" of a Solstice sunrise and other cosmic tropes makes us quiver even as it attempts to revive our lost sense of awe. It is hard to believe that these extraordinary photos have been created using a humble, home-made pin hole camera, its "lens" fashioned from a beer can, in which a tiny pinhole has been pierced with a needle.

But I have to wonder: the human species may be fit to wonder, but to survive? Will our proclivity toward greed and our mindless destruction of nature do us in? Is there still a possibility left for heading off a terminal disconnect? In our compromised world, can art really help - be a catalyst for change? In the case of Carll Goodpasture, we have an artist who, rather than abdicating the task, is, in every sense of the word, giving it his best shot.

— *Suzi Gablik, Author of *The Reenchantment of Art**

THE ARCTIC COAST

After the ice withdrew

it left behind

a land pale and delicate

as winter flowers

pebbles shimmering in

the still water

and all suffused in light



SUMMER SOLSTICE, *View to the Pole, Midsummer Night, 2007*