

The Journey

The Sacred Art of Courtney Davis

By John Fielder

When they were introduced, for the first time, at the Swan at Abbotsbury, Dorset it was like two old friends meeting after a separation of many, many years; anxious to catch up, yet relaxed and trusting in the others company.

Courtney Davis and John Fielder have now been firm friends for over 20 years and before they met they were already exploring their spiritual paths.

Courtney had recently come to Abbotsbury from St Austell and was starting to build a worldwide reputation as the artist who has re-awakened the visions and exquisite artwork of the ancient Celtic Illuminati, and for bringing to life the mystic symbolism, myths and imagery of Celtic art in a contemporary style that is uniquely his own.

In 1984 he caught the imagination and spirit of the time when his work “Merlin the Immortal” was first published igniting once again an interest in Arthurian legend.

Born of Welsh, Scottish and Irish descent on 1946 in Blackwood, South Wales, he grew up in London. His career began when he obtained an apprenticeship to one of the UK's largest jewellery manufacturers as an engraver and designer where his designs became popular and in high demand.

In 1974 he had major spinal surgery and during his hospital stay he experienced a series of mystical visions, which totally changed his life. These experience's, along with a deep feeling of personal loss following the death of his father soon afterwards, led him to question what he really wanted from this life. So as part of his personal quest he joined the Buddhist Temple in London and began an ever developing spiritual journey.

He did not return to engraving and instead began to draw, adding Celtic inspired borders to his pictures. For extra income he painted designs on old furniture using Art Nouveau and Pre-Raphaelite inspired designs. Soon, as his art become popular he created a range of cards and prints that became ever more in demand.

Inspired, he began to create a series of black and white prints which would go on to become the book that he is most associated with, ‘Merlin Awakens’.

Commissioned to produce covers for new age music, he gained increasing recognition, and went on to illustrate over 45 published books, such as Celtic Borders and Decoration, The Art of Celtia, The Celtic Tarot, St Patrick – A Visual Celebration and The Celtic Source Book that have become Iconic Celtic Art Classics.

His work has been exhibited widely in Europe and as far a field as Tokyo and Australia, with my first American exhibition in Chicago in 1995. Since then he has exhibited regularly in the USA. Many of his original pieces can be located in private and institutional collections, in chapels and museums.

He is entirely self-taught, and his sacred art is created in gouache and ink. *“When I start a picture I don’t know what I’m going to draw – often the image will change as I’m working on it. It’s taken me a long time to learn to just go with the flow of the picture, rather than trying to plan how it’s going to develop.”* He finds that light energy guides his hand as he works.

Designs of his art have been applied to mediums such as cards, posters, fabrics, glass, jewellery, carpets and even in the form of body art.

He now lives and works in Bridport, Dorset.

His first exhibition in the UK was in 1989 when he exhibited in St Martin in the Fields, London and much like the monks, druids and bards who went through a minimum of twenty years rigorous training, he now feels 19 years later that he is entering a new level of maturity.

He says, *“I always hope that when viewed my art has beauty and can project feelings, bringing you closer to the hidden ‘veil’, and perhaps even help you on your own spiritual or special journey to that which is within us all, the path to personal self realisation or enlightenment”.*

A gifted natural healer, spiritual speaker and channel Courtney experienced awakening at Christmas 2007 when he underwent a profound metamorphosis which is further enriching his creativity, paintings and artwork.

As Courtney deepened into oneness he became aware of the all pervading illusion that is inherent in the daily world and this has had a profound influence on his perception, as he realises that reality is only a manifestation of consciousness in form.

A co-traveller on the path to awakening has been John Fielder has been developing his own understanding over 15 years of spiritual evolution and has discovered that it is simply the journey home to stillness. Alongside this journey has been the development, with Courtney, of an eclectic training programme “Awakening Now” that uses NLP, Visualisation, Self Enquiry, Timeline Techniques, Inner Exploration, mandala exploration, Courtney’s Artwork and psychological profiling to assist seekers on the path to awakening or enlightenment.

Courtney and John agree after years of enquiry that: *“There is no one that becomes enlightened and no-one awakens. There has never been anyone to become*

enlightened. Awakening is the absence of the illusion of individuality. Apparent seekers discover awakening in the stillness that is everything”

John has built up a flourishing business practice specialising in Coaching and Career Development, though his clear focus has always been on his spiritual evolution since his late 20s.

Born in Camberwell, London on 1945 he says that it feels as if he has been on a spiritual path for most of his life, though in the last 30 years he has been studying, working with and applying an eclectic range of methodologies gained from his trainings in NLP, psychometrics, hypnosis, meditation, Time Line Techniques and Vortex Healing.

He “Flat Lined” and was unconscious for 36 hours after a serious operation in 1980, and the resulting near death experience fundamentally changed his view of the universe.

Always an early adopter he started his NLP (Neuro-Linguistic Programming), Training in 1988 and had his first Samadhi experience in August 1995 on an intensive 12 day NLP Tranceformation and hypnosis course which resulted in a profound change in his spiritual awareness and he turned into a seeker exploring the truth of awakening.

John had no idea what had happened; only that on the last day of the programme at the end of a profoundly deep meditation he opened his eyes and that which he called “me” had gone. There was nothing in the head except stillness, thought was arising and in that stillness there was nothing, no John, no “me” and this state lasted for about 3 days before the “me” returned.

“To the mind that is still the whole universe surrenders - Lao Tzu”

Not knowing what to do next or where to go to for help he let his intuition lead him and commenced Reiki training in December 1995 and completed his Master/Teacher in July 2000. Whilst the Reiki was significant, John felt there was more “out there” and he moved onto the VortexHealing® trainings in 2002 which led him to the exploration of Advaita and an appreciation of the power of stillness at the feet of Avatars.

John’s library now is lined with many hundreds of spiritual books and countless hours have been spent on trainings, explorations and pilgrimages to recover that which is always here.

For 15 years John has been developing his own understanding of spiritual evolution and has discovered that it is simply the journey home to stillness. Alongside this journey has been the development, with Courtney, of an eclectic training programme “Awakening Now” that uses NLP, Visualisation, Self Enquiry, Timeline Techniques, Inner Exploration, mandala exploration, Courtney’s Artwork and psychological profiling to assist seekers on the path to awakening or enlightenment.

John says, *“There is no one that becomes enlightened and no-one awakens. There has never been anyone to become enlightened. Awakening is the absence of the illusion of individuality. Apparent seekers discover awakening in the stillness that is everything”*

John is an Accredited Master Coach (MIIC) with over 4000 hours proven experience, a Certified Trainer & Master Practitioner of NLP (Neuro-Linguistic Programming), an experienced Master NLP & Performance Coach plus a Master Timeline Therapist, Master Hypnotherapist, Reiki~Seichem Practitioner ~ Master ~ Teacher and VortexHealing Multi- Dimensional Jewel Level practitioner.

His “professional” portfolio includes management coaching, career counselling, management development, psychometric assessment, top team building, stress management and personal VortexHealing.

John is an international presenter, trainer and speaker on the uses of NLP for career and performance coaching, and has published articles on stress management, performance coaching and the use of the MBTI, and NLP for personal and organisational development.

John regards everyone as a unique contributor to this world who has the ability to achieve their potential and deserves to do this in a positive and empowered way with a balanced and productive lifestyle.