

Fiction as Change Agent: Modifying Visions

Until I received a review of my recent novel “A Dream of Good and Evil” I was afraid that social media might interrupt the ability of novel-length discourses to play their time-honored place in literary history as the social critiques and agents of change that they have played since the first one of the genre—Don Quixote—advised us to look through different lenses to see possible misconceptions of our world.

A physician, reading the book on his Kindle, emailed me that “some say that stories have all been told but I think you have proven them wrong. And I do so appreciate that you were able to use the platform of fiction to inform me about how we as a society might rethink the goals of incarceration and how healing spaces might become the basis upon which a new paradigm is established. Entertaining is good but entertaining plus enlightening is far better!” Flattering yes...but look how the media promoted the messages? Written fiction, read on computer and reviewed in email. Now posted to my website and shouting out to others that this critique ought to be read.

Which brings us to the question: how do we keep our novels critical, useful and important voices in the cacophony of other written and oral traditions that are pervasive in the computer culture?

I propose we examine a number of topics today, to ensure that the novel as critique does not disappear behind the financially attractive genres of thrillers, romances and other canned works.

1. How to frame the story: the research, the thought, the engagement
2. Ground it in real-life elements that reflect it: Sing Sing; NFL; Dignity Village in Dream; fickleness of fashion(real-life personalities like Versace) and fraud of Big Money(imagined financiers) in “Project Runaway” ; international scandal and corruption in “The Curious Tusks”(describing both the Broken Heart of Africa...and its unending poverty framed in colonial failure
3. Color it with words....take it out of issues....use the skills and beauty of language to create a world so real and so imaginary that it reflects the corruption in our own.

WHAT PEOPLE WILL LEARN:

1. Better research techniques: read, revise and visit
2. How to pose a question: What truly troubles you about homelessness, incarceration, scandal “occupy”, colonization, international abuse
3. Read to learn. Read Proust, read Benjamin, read Joyce, read the masters, not only the newfound geniuses.

MY EXPERIENCE AS A SPEAKER

1. I spoke about women’s rights manifested in Nana and Proust at the 1988 MLA

2. I recently published a book, "A Dream of Good and Evil" with Ring of Fire Publishing and have read it to audiences in California, Oregon and Idaho. My new book, "Project Runaway" was released in June and addresses decline of the fashion industry in New York and its proliferation to small town seamstresses—a "revolution" against unions and their power.
3. As a grad student, I taught my thoughts regarding the revolutionary power of fiction in my various sections.
4. I have spoken out for women since well before 2008 when our first democratic presidential candidate was a woman.

See Below:

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FREELANCE WRITER & EDITOR

Following completion of her doctoral thesis on the artistic mediation of language in Marcel Proust and critic Walter Benjamin, Anne Hendren began freelance writing and editing for electronics, alternative medicine and arts and literature. Her writings in alternative medicine inspired an interest in various approaches to healing; her work in art and literature ranged from music, ballet and literature critic to advocate for literary arts. She has published a biography of four Idaho women, "Hidden Lives and Unhistoric Acts" revealing how unknown persons can affect the history of a community. "Project Runaway" is Hendren's second work of fiction. "A Dream of Good and Evil," available in October 2012 from Ring of Fire Books, concerns sustainable prison architecture and a woman's desire to learn the truth about a friend's murder. Hendren is currently working on the sequel to "Project Runaway" entitled "Karin O" and a mystery about Kenya game hunters at the turn of the century.

EMPLOYMENT:

1991-Present: Freelance Writer: Alternative Medicine, Electronics, Arts and Literature

1991-2007: Managing Editor, *Journal of Clinical Laser Medicine and Surgery*, peer-reviewed, Mary Ann Liebert publications (New Rochelle, NY)

2004-2006: Managing Editor, West Coast Office, *Journal of Alternative and Complementary Medicine*, Mary Ann Liebert publications (New Rochelle, NY)

2001-2002: Editor, *Medical Laser Report*, PennWell (Nashua, NH)

1995-1999: Managing Editor & Writer, *Alternative and Complementary Therapies*; Mary Ann Liebert publications (Rochelle, NY)

1994-1996: Analyst, Healthcare, Find/SVP, New York, New York

1984-1994: Senior Research Analyst, Frost & Sullivan , Mountain View, CA

EDUCATION:

1978-83: Ph.D., Cornell University

Major: Comparative Literature

Dissertation: "Mediation of Knowledge in Artistic

Discourse: An Analysis of Works by Walter

Benjamin and Marcel Proust"

1973-75: A.M., Columbia University

Major: International Affairs

1969-73: A.B., Wellesley College

Major: French Studies

PUBLICATIONS:

Books:

A Dream of Good and Evil (2012): "A Dream of Good and Evil" (Ring of Fire Books, Oct 2012) introduces architect Loisann "Lou" Cooper to a world fallen apart. A professional failure prompts her to quit her job, she discovers a man she loves is arrested in the brutal killing of a journalist, her sister lands in jail. Lou's old boss and his socialite wife are not what they seem, and their

actions directly affect Lou's life. Deliverance appears in the unlikely form of an architecture project that restores Lou Cooper's sense of justice.

Project Runaway (2013): High fashion and high aspirations combust in "Project Runaway" (Ring of Fire Books, June 2013). The novel details fashion designer Karin Ohlsson's growing disillusionment with the cold realities of New York's garment district. Her work is appropriated by a less-talented designer who takes credit for Karin's creative output. She devises a plan to leave New York while remembering her Idaho-based Aunt Hannah's love of sewing and quilts. Karin's getaway gets messy, but she emerges with a renewed appreciation of family and an unexpected windfall.

Hidden Lives and Unhistoric Acts: *This short biography about the life and times of four relatively unknown ninety-year old women, from a small Idaho town, illustrates how people who do not appear in history books can, nonetheless, advance the growth of their community and state. (Boise: West Shore Press, 1999)*

SELECTED FREELANCE PUBLICATIONS:

Selected Literature and Art Publications:

"Profile of An Editor: Leona Grieve and The Willamette Writer," *The Willamette Writer*, September 2009, pp 6-7

"Wordcraft Press: Publishing for the Love of Literature," *Oregon Writers Colony Colonygram*, May-June 2007

"Personal Attention is a Plus at Media Weavers," *Oregon Writers Colony Colonygram*, Sept-Oct 2006

"A Walk through the Galleries," *Asian Art Council Newsletter*, February 2002

"Creativity is a Natural Process---Let it Flow; Advice from Mary Jane Ryan," *Northwest Ink*, January/February 2001

"Focus on: Reverend Edo Noble; "Embodied Enlightenment: Japanese and Tibetan Tantric Buddhism", *Asian Art Council Newsletter*, April 2001

"Is Radio Dumping Classical Music," *Sforzando*, February 1998

"Artist Spotlight: "Ron Blessinger, Oregon Symphony Violinist," *Sforzando*, March 1997 .

"Even the Most Graceful Can Fall," *Sforzando*, June 1997 .

"Finding a Leader -- the Search for a Conductor," *Sforzando*, December 1997

Selected Alternative Medicine Publications

“Rx:RN: Pictures That Heal: Messages from the Tarot Current Research as a Guide To Clinical Practice,” *Alternative and Complementary Therapies (ACT)* , December (2004)

“Functional Medicine for Long-Term Healing: An Interview with Jeffrey S. Bland, Ph.D.”, (*ACT*), February 2004.

“Let There Be Light and Healing,” (*ACT*), December 2003

“Praying for Health,” (*ACT*), April 2003

“Anger is Natural: So is Control,” (*ACT*), December 2002

“Healing Behind Bars: Meditation for Rehabilitation,” (*ACT*), February 2002.

“The Future is Now: NIH in Portland, OR,” (*ACT*), February 2000

“Conventional Medicine in Unconventional Setting: An Interview with Linnea J. Smith, M.D.,” (*ACT*,) August 1999

“The New Cedars-Sinai Alternative Medicine Clinic: Expansion of Health Care for the Community,” (*ACT*), April 1999

“Healing Gardens: When Nature is the Therapy,” (*ACT*), April 1999

“Using Energy for Inner Healing: The work of Caroline Myss and Lauren Artress,” (*ACT*), December 1997

“Preserving Medical Traditions of India: Plants are the Key,” (*ACT*), February 1997

“Alternative Veterinary Medicine Provides Relief for Pets,” (*ACT*), August 1996

“*Alternative & Complementary Therapies* Presents an Objective Response to a Recent *New York Times* Series That Disparages Alternative Medicine,” (*ACT*), August 1996

“The Role of Prayer in Healing: Can It Really Help,” (*ACT*), December, 1995

“Anti-Aging Medicine: Have We Found the Fountain of Youth?”, (*ACT*), October 1995

“Vitamin and Antioxidant Protocols in HIV Disease,” (*ACT*), June, 1995