

CORNELIA HESSE-HONEGGER

Short biography December 2001

Born 1944 and raised in Zürich Switzerland with parents, both of them artists and one sister called Bettina who is an art therapist PHD. Schools in Zürich, New York and Paris. One year at the school for applied Art in Zürich and an apprenticeship as a scientific illustrator at the scientific department of the Zoological Museum of the University of Zürich. 18 years old studies of scientific illustration with Ilona Richter at the marine biological Institute in Naples Italy for half a year. Afterwards I worked as a freelancer for 25 years for the scientific department of the Zoological Museum in Zürich. There I worked mainly for geneticists as well as taxonomists. First publication of south sea fish in the cultural magazine du, later also of marine life in the Mediterranean Sea as well as the south pacific as well as spiders and mutated lab flies. Marriage 1969 and birth of the two sons Simon 1972 and Camil 1975. Start to work with random even though I painted parts of leaf bugs (shields) of part of wild flies (thorax with shields) as well as eyes and heads of mutated flies. 1987 – 1990 Studies of leaf bugs and plants in the environs of areas with nuclear fall from Chernobyl, Sweden, Ticino, Switzerland and Chernobyl Ukraine. 1988 first studies of leaf bugs in the environs of nuclear power plants in Switzerland. 1992 – 1999 study of leaf bugs on 40 research points in the close environs of 4 nuclear power plants and one research plant in Switzerland. 1988 and 1989 publishing my first articles about deformed leaf bugs and Drosophila flies in a Swiss magazine, which were mainly fought by the scientific peers. 1989 printing of the first book 'Why am I in Oesterfärnebo?' (With the meaning why are not the biologists studying the consequences of the nuclear Chernobyl disaster in Europe?) Studies on the health on leaf bugs in the environs of the reprocessing plants Sellafield UK 1989 and La Hague France 1999. Studies on the health of leaf bugs in the environs of the nuclear power plants (with accidents or problems) Three Mile Island and Peach Bottom Plant Pennsylvania USA 1991, as well as Krümmel and Stade in Germany 1995. 1997 studies on leaf bugs in the environs of the nuclear test area in Nevada and Utah USA, as well as Hanford nuclear factories from world war II in Washington USA. For every study I made a report (protokoll and text) with the watercolours of the deformed leaf bugs as well as maps and fotos. These reports show the correlation between low level radiation of the above named nuclear installations and the morphological disturbances on leaf bugs, in numbers as well as locations on the maps. My Collection of the leaf bugs and other insect from areas with nuclear fallout, is probably the only collection worldwide with an environmental aspect. 1992 representation of Switzerland at the Triennale XVIII in Milan with 39 watercolors of disturbed leaf bugs and other insects from Sweden; Ticino, Switzerland; Sellafield and Chernobyl, Ukraine. The title of the exhibition is 'After Chernobyl', as well as the book which came with it. This exhibition toured Europe and Canada until 1999. Since 1994 cooperative work with Locus+ Newcastle upon Tyne UK. An exhibition and a book organized by Locus+, called 'The Future's Mirror' toured in England and Canada sometimes together with 'After Chernobyl' up to 1999. 1998 a book called 'Heteroptera' came out in the German publisher 'Zweitausendeins'. It contains 120 colored pictures and the text is written by me. Several Group Shows among them 'Sieben Hügel' in the Walter Gropius Building in Berlin 2000. 1986 begins the work with the silk manufacturer 'fabric Frontline' Zürich, for whom I created 80 designs which were very successful and with which I could pay all my research. With the help of the silk I tried to create a positive utopia in contrary to the devastating findings

among leaf bugs and around the nuclear power plants. My designs were use by Yves Saint Laurent, Balmain, Jil Sander as well as Vivienne Westwood. Teaching at different Institutes as 'The peoples University' Zürich 1970 – 1992. 1976 – 1991 Art teacher in a School for Gymnastics teachers, in Zürich. 1992 – 1995 teacher at the Gutenberg University of Mainz, Germany. I was named to create a postgraduate study in scientific illustration for biologists and artists. Teaching at the Art School in Vienna, Hamburg and Hanes Art School University Chapel Hill USA. 2000 – 2001 University in Bern Switzerland and since 2001 teacher at the virtual media art school F+F in Zürich. Private courses is Art and Collage.