

As a first level it is required to broach the complex issue of water and forest in its global dimension: the biggest river and the biggest rainforest on earth - still interacting positively. (...) From the environmental level it would be possible to proceed to archaeological and social level because what we are having here was not caused only by nature itself but by social and ecological circumstances as 'Amazonia' is populated since millenniums. It is necessary to emphasize that the forest is being produced. This layer enables us to perceive the rainforest as a medium in which men and animals develop - resulting in social diversity and the broadest biodiversity of the planet.

Laymert Garcia dos Santos

One should not think, that the forest has just been laid on the ground and that it is dead. It is alive. That is why it lets grow what we can eat. Its earth is alive and that is why we move and why we are alive. The forest is big and that is why its breath is long: It is really a preternatural being, it is the back skin of the sky *Hutukara* (which fell in the first time). One should not believe, that the trees do not scream with pain. When large trees are cut down and fall on the back of the hutukara-earth, the earth also moans with pain. When the forest is burned down, it suffers in pain just as we are feeling pain. It screams: „akaaai!“, but you don't hear its voice.

Davi Kopenawa Yanomami

In my understanding, the comedy and the tragedy being staged in Amazonia are not being acted out only by humans, but by human and non human forces clashing – the forest is not only the stage, a sort of battlefield or war zone, but also a kind of huge organism (as the planet itself, for James Lovelock), whose life or death is being decided in the conflict between the forces who make it live and assert life and the forces who attack, from inside and from outside, putting in motion the „killingry machine“\* and saying: „Viva la muerte“.

Laymert Garcia dos Santos

\* Richard Buckminster "Bucky" Fuller (1895 – 1983), an American architect, author, designer, futurist, inventor and visionary invented the word "livingry," as opposed to weaponry (or "killingry"), to mean that which is in support of all human, plant, and Earth life. "The architectural profession — civil, naval, aeronautical, and astronautical — has always been the place where the most competent thinking is conducted regarding livingry, as opposed to weaponry."

## From "Minutes of Meetings April 30th – May 3rd, 2008 in Munich" Project Meeting:

Embedding of the opera project in the political context (preservation of the forest) is the most important aspect for the Yanomami. Central question for them is: „What is the project's contribution to the defence of the rain forest?“

*My primary task is to defend my people and the forest we are living in. If you agree in defending the rain forest, we will be content. Each one of us lives in another place of the world, but we have to defend both parts (the world as a whole). We can only lead a good life here and there, if we succeed in the preservation of the forest. We should join our ideas and spread these ideas, especially to the children.*

*Our collaboration is still young, we need to talk about it a lot more. We don't have an exact idea of how you are working. Important for me is, that you agree in defending the forest, as it is the base for our survival as a people. If you join into my fight to preserve the forest, the governments will wake up, hearing our voices and act accordingly. — We are shamans, we defend the forest not by written words, but through our work, taking „Yakuana“ and calling the spirits.*

Davi Kopenawa Yanomami

*In my opinion: the world is not so good, that it wants to save the forest just for the Yanomami. We want to preserve the forest and the Yanomami, but the justification will be that the whole world needs the forest. Reasons and facts will be collected, in order to show this. Both sides will be showing their specific knowledge.*

Peter Weibel

*We want you to pressure your government. The exploitation of the forest has to be stopped. The forests in Europe and North America are already destroyed. All that rests now is the Amazonian rain forest. Amazonia only appears big; in reality it is not infinite. It can be destroyed easily in a short amount of time. Technical devices like helicopters, motor saws, trucks and other machines make this possible. Reforestation cannot be the answer. We need to preserve the primary forest.*

Davi Kopenawa Yanomami

*Christianity has divided nature and mankind, nature is seen as an object inferior to mankind. Maybe this is the reason why the main symbol of this religion is a destroyed body nailed to a cross. There is a seduction for every human being in finding solutions through violence. Crucifixion is symbolizing this fact. The reason why we are sitting here is that we understood that we have to change our culture.*

Michael Scheidl

*Mankind will stop destruction, when we understand that our future depends on an intact nature. Even though, the world acknowledges the problems, there are not many actions taking place accordingly. We want to create awareness by artistic means, not by political means. We are seeking the direct contact with the Yanomami. Our aim is: talking together, making art together about the forest.*

Christiane Riedel

*It is important that we create a strategy concerning the ecological impact of the project. It is a duty of us western people to create a consciousness for the environmental problems that are caused by the development of the opera project itself, by the use (and waste) of paper, fuel, energy, and all kind of natural resources*

Joachim Bernauer