

Circle of Life

This drawing began with the Green Man, the foliate face in the center, whose leaves, in this case, become the rays of the sun. I am fascinated by the way the symbol appears at different times and places throughout the course of history. This is the archetype of our oneness with the earth, a symbol that also represents the cycles of birth, death and rebirth that are central to life. He signifies irrepressible life.

Surrounding the Green Man are signs of the zodiac, which represent the cosmos and are associated with the mystic powers that govern human fate. Grouped in threes, they also stand for elements of fire, water, air and earth.

The blue of water forms the next ring, filled with marine and arctic animals. They come first, since water is essential for life.

The symbols of the I Ching, trigrams which represent a single interrelated whole, a stream of interconnections from the first cause to the remote infinite future, connect the water to the temperate zone. They stand for the ideas that there is no such thing as chance. Each event springs from a chain of preceding events.

Green, the color of nature, is not only of growth, but also of decay, forms the band of the temperate zone. This band is a celebration of the beauty and diversity of the life forms that inhabit the most hospitable regions of the planet.

Gold, the color of the sun, provides the background for my beloved animals of equatorial Africa.

The last ring of the mandala, which can be used as a focus for meditation, contains a quotation from Albert Einstein, which expresses my wonder at the grandeur of the world and my awe at my role here.