

Testimonial

I have known Otto for nearly half a century. As kids we were fascinated by the mysterious and the unknown, but also devastated by the loss of freedom in 1968. In protest to the Soviet invasion we flushed red communist pioneer scarfs down the toilet. Not surprisingly, after the fall of the Berlin Wall, when we were suddenly free to explore the world, Otto went to live and paint in the Amazon jungle.

When I saw Otto's work after years in the jungle, it dawned on me that there was something rare and profound in his art and his life. Not only did I see the uniquely rich colors and wild shapes that appeared coherent after I patiently observed, but I sensed a deeper thought most likely discovered through his years in the wild and through his struggle to make sense out of life as such.

Otto's struggle, I am certain, is a genuine one - no lies, no pretentions, no false attempts to grab the limelight or to live comfortably. That is why his deeper thoughts deserve more appreciation. It is the respect for the wild, the unknown and the desire to get acquainted with it without harnessing it. It is his view of the jungle, so very different from the one of a rational scientist, or even more different from the view of an exploiting human who comes only to take.

To be more specific, it is his respect for nature's most vivid manifestation - the jungle. Respect for the very nature with which humans may be entering into a conflict deeper than ever before, possibly causing climate change, but certainly causing deforestation and consequent liquidation of diversity and ultimately extinction of humanity as we know it. It is Otto's refusal of the conflict leading to the destruction of the unknown, the mysterious and the free, without a sincere attempt to get acquainted with it.

Otto's stance is very much missing in today's world!

As a scientist, and later as an investor, I had the privilege to observe the climate change and the helplessness with which modern society is coping with its challenge for more than a decade. While it seems uncertain that it is caused solely by humans, it is certain that the climate has been changing very dramatically and, to a keen observer, it already appears catastrophic. It is also certain, that the jungle is the epicenter of this conflict of nature and the human race and that humanity needs to adapt to it or risk destruction. Humanity needs to start having more respect for the jungle and nature as such, because nature remains the most powerful, the most unknown and the most free of that which is around us. Just look at Otto's paintings and you will understand.

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<http://www.kosmas.cz/knihy/194936/otto-placht/>