

Articles

Is Sensualism the way to harmony?

Local artist Zen Player, perhaps best known for his body art workshops and public performances, says he is 'fed up with the chaotic, idiotic and violent state of the world, created and perpetrated largely by the ego-mad male of our species'.

In response Zen intends to stage a 'sensual revolution'. His idea to develop and produce an artistic documentary and mini-series called *Sensual Planet* has piqued the interest of local producer-filmmaker Michael Balson and an investor, who have committed to support his venture. With ambitions to film in Australia, New Zealand, Bali, Hawaii, America and Europe during 2007 and 2008, Zen says *Sensual Planet* will weave a sensual and quasi-erotic narrative that seeks to "unleash the Goddess Principle from the stranglehold of self-righteous, repressive religious, political and anticultural fanatics, releasing Her juicy influence back into our lives".

Zen firmly believes that the Goddess Principle – including the Earth as Gaia, Aphrodite (goddess of erotic love), Venus, Artemis, Psyche, Mary Magdalene, and a pantheon of other feminine spirits, as well as every woman that moves and breathes – carries the secret power to heal, balance, restore and regenerate our world to its native beauty.

Inspired by *The Soul of Sex* by theologian/author Tho-



Zen Player copes with being hugged by body art models Sanz and Portia. Photo Jeff Dawson

mas Moore, Zen plans to include historical, mythical, socio-cultural and artistic aspects of sensuality and sexuality in his production. The worldwide 'Sensualist' movement lists over 123,000 references on Google, so Zen feels there will be no lack of content to be discovered and expressed!

Professional artist, writer and strategic marketing consultant for over 30 years, Zen has made Byron Bay his home since 2001, while contributing to the region's eclectic art scene in numerous colourful ways. In 2004 Zen launched BBAM (Byron BodyArt Movement), to explore, expand and interpret the ancient art of body-decoration.

Zen and his entourage of

talented artists, models and performers have appeared in local art events including art-Scape and FEHVA, prancing around in full body-paint and very little else! BBAM also conducts 'neotribal workshops', which Zen says take people on an "altered-state body-art journey into their primal selves, to catalyse personal growth, emotional healing and creative inspiration".

Zen's family migrated from Los Angeles to New Zealand in the early sixties. His free-spirited childhood was spent wandering barefoot through the native bush of Aotearoa, studying art, playing and performing music, and absorbing his 'peacenik' father's rantings about the injustices in the world, and the "even-

tual collapse of America".

Escaping 'a repressive education' at age 15, Zen became a professional artist, avid adventurer and incurable sensualist, combining his love of color, nature and the female form to produce hundreds of paintings, sculptures, illustrations and creative constructions. His works are collected internationally and have been shown in private and public exhibitions, museums and galleries.

Zen's abstracts, figurative paintings, illuminated body-castings and exotic body-art can be viewed at www.art-of-zen.com. For private art viewings, commissions, events and workshops, call Zen on 6619 0272 or 0437 805150.