

# Landscape with Beethoven

Perhaps there was once a time like Caspar David Friedrich's 'Monk by the Sea', which was largely empty, vast and expansive, and in which the individual was still an event, and each of his utterances a welcome interruption of the other emptiness - perhaps there was. Or a time when the educated people spent most of their daytime playing cards - like Franz Liszt - because the time was obviously not to be filled with playing the piano. Now, if a Beethoven is born into such a time, then he has been lucky, because people actually want to hear him. But the people were also lucky, because what they got to hear from Beethoven was not just any expression of an individual, these expressions celebrated the conjuncture of desire and fulfillment, the meeting of the for the first time freely unfolded individual expression with a desiring, receptive humanity, or in a figurative sense, with a landscape that was still so little cleared that it could well tolerate a certain extravagant design.

Today, on the other hand, any design is pure overexploitation and a crime against future generations. The landscape of today can no longer tolerate any form or individual design and empowerment. There is no more room for it, the resources are used up, the landscape is battered. The only thing that the wounded landscape needs today is that intelligent and comprehensive thinking "architects" help it to stimulate its inherent power relations to self-healing. The individual expressions of such architects are of no interest to anyone. The only thing that matters is their unbiased intelligence, with which they can manage the remaining resources, slow down the raging erosion, reduce the non-renewable energy exploitation, and optimally promote the landscape's own forces instead of hindering them as they have done so far.

And, of course, I'm talking about art or music all the time. About the changed conditions of its production, about the fact that a Beethoven today would be nothing else but an imposition, something for which there is absolutely no place anymore. Something that belongs in a pot with air pollution, environmental destruction, rainforest clearing, urban sprawl and overexploitation. Beethoven today would be a crime. And yet there are a huge number of composers who all want to be Beethoven, who want to dominate their environment instead of wanting to understand their artistic environment and not consider the listeners as a manipulable mass.

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