

Understanding the painting “Path to the future”

As in most of my paintings, details are planned in advance with particular objectives.

This painting represents the flow of time from the deep past to the future and the connections between the past, present, and future.

- The deep past is depicted by the prehistoric, two-dimensional rock paintings (bottom).
- The past (1500-year-old) is depicted by *Ixtzel*, the Mayan “goddess of creation” (lower left, two-dimensional). Additionally, the entire painting is “V-shaped,” the universal symbol of the sacred feminine goddesses.
- The closer past is depicted in a blue cloud as the god *Tepoztecatl*, the “god of land fertility” of a central Mexican civilization of about 1000 years ago.
- The “old” present is depicted by the giant cardon cactus.
- The present is depicted by *Luz*, standing close to the cacti.
- The immediate future is depicted by the two young cacti growing from the toes of the gods.
- The future is depicted by the flowers and the fruit of the old cardon cactus.
- The connection of the past to the present and to the future is depicted by the ancient gods that initiate land fertility (flowers and fruits) and new growth of cacti from their toes.

What you actually see:

- The gods were redrawn from ancient Mexican codices with my interpretation of color.
- The rock paintings of undetermined age were copied from originals in the Sierra San Francisco of the Baja California Peninsula. The colors are close to the original.
- This specific cardon (greater than 15 m) grows at Bahía de Los Angeles of the Baja California Peninsula. It is the largest one I have seen.
- The landscape is at Catavina, a hamlet in the natural desert preserve of the “Valley of the Cirios,” in the central Baja California Peninsula.
- This lava flow is located at Loreto, Baja California Sur.
- The sky contains the typical cirrus cloud of the area.

Yoav Bashan, June 2006.