

Belgium, March 22. 2012.

The Self Reflections and Summary.

For the past two weeks I've had some experiences I think will last for a lifetime. It has been intense, educational and the most important part of the whole experience has been to be a part of an intercultural forum, sleeping, eating, singing, learning and playing together, make you come together as a group coming from different cultural backgrounds, but with one common goal: to learn from each other and our wonderful teachers. This gives a certain synergy, where different cultures melt together and the different groups become one strong community and with a unique mix of the different cultures we have been able to create our own dynamic, characteristics and even a common language in the little international community that we have become.

For me personally it has been intense. We have been through so many different creational and artistic processes in the different groups, that I almost can't contain it all. Being in the forest with a group of people that in the beginning were just a bunch of strangers passing by, people I didn't have any relation to, but that soon changed. As the days flew by, and the work intensified, we spoke, got to know each other, and we became more than the strangers that we used to be. As the last sun over our little community sets, I will not hesitate to call the people I have gotten to know here my friends. Friends, with who I've shared some experiences that I would never have had without them. In the groups, where we have been discovering the nature, arts and music from a different perspective than usual, we have been learning so much from each other. Some of this came as sudden visions, bright and clear, and some was a slow process that demanded careful debates, patience and understanding each other as not only individuals but as creatures with a different cultural context than me.

Everyone has been so appreciative, spontaneous and interested in one another, and this is a foundation where strong friendships have been build. I remember the dynamic debates in the groups, the lessons we have been given, the more spontaneous sessions where we were playing music, singing different songs, either in English or in our different languages and the times we just played, had fun, talked about our personal problems, joys. The evenings in the dormitory, walks in the morning sun,

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sitting down listening to birds singing, creating the land art in a crack in a rocky hillside. The spontaneous jamming, with whistles, drums and different percussions on the first warm spring day in the green grass. The nights of fun, laughing dancing and singing. The work with the kids in the park of the castle, the first introduction to them in the classroom, the passionate and intense preparation that we did before our final test: working with the kids. I have, as a social educator been given so many gifts in the form of new ideas, new energy, found new ability to improvise in so many different new contexts and areas. New fields of knowledge has been discovered, explored and conquered. Returning to my home and my life in Denmark seems so surreal and far away, after the isolated culture we have been growing here. I think that the biggest challenge for my work as a student in the future will be to make these two worlds unite, and to be able to put the things that I've learned here into a Danish context where everything comes together in a bigger picture. It is time to go out and use things that we learned and had together in the real world back home. It is the time to go back to our everyday life, do our jobs, grow as humans and be adult and responsible. Even though I have discovered that a side of me is still like a small child, that just wants to play in the sun and feel the weight of the world, it is the time to go back, live your adult life with chores, children and jobs. So, now it is the time to pretend.

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