

PAUL LAFFOLEY (b. 1940, Cambridge, Massachusetts)

***I, Robur, Master of the World*, 1968**

Oil, acrylic, vinyl lettering on canvas
73 ½ x 73 ½ in.

Exhibitions:

Paul Laffoley. Boston Tea Party, Boston, 1968

Paul Laffoley. Macivor-Reddie Gallery, Boston, 1969

Paul Laffoley. Cumbres Institute at Woodstock, Bethel, New York, 1969

Paul Laffoley. Bergman Gallery, University of Chicago, 1971

Architectonic Thought-Forms: A Survey of the Art of Paul Laffoley. Austin Museum of Art, Austin, Texas, 1999

Literature:

Paul Laffoley: The Phenomenology of Revelation. Ed. Jeanne Marie Wasilik. Exhibition catalogue. New York: Kent Fine Art. 1989, ill. pp. 6-7.

Paul Laffoley Architectonic Thought-Forms: 1967–1999. Austin, Texas: Austin Museum of Art, 1999.

Subject:

Redesigning Part of the Solar System

Symbol Evocation:

The Natural Link between the Earth and the Moon

Comments:

As we approach the Twenty-First Century, problems of managing the world seem to be emerging faster than we are able to solve them. Driven close to despair and distraction, architects and designers of the environment in general have become either *bricoleurs*, frantically trying to patch our reality as it comes apart at the seams, or prophets of doom traumatized by their own foreboding. As in all problem solving, the solution lies first in determining the next higher context of the elements involved, and second, in assessing the new possibilities that then appear.

In the case of the earth, the next design context is the solar system, specifically our nearest neighbor both physically and mythologically-- the moon. Therefore, I propose an earth-moon link-up through open space to form a simple, but gigantic motor. It would consist of double-layered geodesic spheres that rotate one within the other, about ten miles off the surface of both the earth and the moon. These friction machines would be constructed of a transparent living plastic, linked through space by a tube of the same material. The choice of a living material would mean that repairs would be self-generated at an accelerated rate. The orbit of the moon would drive the motor and provide all the electrical energy needed to support the goals of the earth. The sphere itself could support an atomic train, able to stop at any point above the earth and lower shipments to the surface; thus the time needed to distribute goods and services would be minimized. Filtering systems could be installed in the sphere to both clean the air and reclaim lost minerals, or even to add nutrients to the atmosphere.

Next, all vegetation around the world would be united into one giant plant, made to grow through the link tube, and finally around the moon so that a natural human-sustaining atmosphere would develop there. All buildings and instrumentality would be physically alive. Violent or explosive actions and effects, like atomic energy, would be time-delayed and slowed to the rate of human observation. Finally would come the construction of a flying saucer city- a new acropolis, the Urban Fossickated Octave. It would be a physically transformative environment circulating the earth and would take on board those who wished to transit from the exoteric realm of knowledge to the mesoteric and through to the esoteric realm—moving from the physical to the metaphysical.