

Art as a

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'EVERY CHILD IS AN

ARTIST, before the artist is condi-

tioned out of it. The child does not look,

it sees. Every child is a seer: sees horses,

angels, faces in a cloud, senses the spirits in

tree and cave. The child is a maker of stories, draws and paints without hesitation,

hums and dances its moods...until it is plugged in and the artist is driven underground.'



Those words appear in Frederick Franck's *Art as a Way*, a book that has figured strongly in helping to shape my journey through this life, as well as informing the vision of the **Wild Heart Journal**. Frederick himself is living proof of what the title suggests: he has demonstrated with his own life and work that Art—which for him includes drawing, painting, writing, sculpturing, piano playing—can serve as an awakening practice.

In our last issue, several of the Buddhist teachers we interviewed challenged this very possibility. I mentioned this to Frederick when we spoke, and he looked me right in the eye, and with a very great intensity,

declared, "Well they are VERY VERY VERY WRONG!" Thus in one sentence was my faith in the Way of the Artist and the mission of the Journal restored.

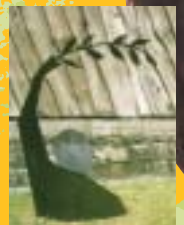
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Our **I'm a Real Artist** children's series (see page 42) is intended to celebrate and protect the natural and spontaneous creativity in children before, as Franck puts it, 'the artist is driven underground.' The four installments published thus far are available for sale in beautiful, color renditions. Send \$5 each for **I'm a Real Artist**, **I'm a Real Dancer**, **I'm a Real Singer** or **I'm a Real Writer**. Send \$12.50 for any 3 or \$17 for all four, plus \$1 shipping.

—ES

→ Peter Pan and Jane flying to Never Never Land...page 42

→ Cover: Rising from the earth, sinking back



Way

'For some of us, then, art is indeed the Way, for those who must dance their Way, or sing it, or paint, or draw it, or play it on a piano or oboe, or hew it in stone, or fashion it in the rhythms of poetry, or act it on a stage...Their art is neither pastime nor hobby, nor the chase after money or fame. The artist within must fight the battle for Meaning with pen on paper, or brush on canvas, or chisel in wood or stone. But his Way, as that of Everyman, leads from ignorance, delusion, folly, ego-inflation and phoniness to truth and authenticity.'

— Frederick Franck, *Art As A Way*

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