



Who Am I?

Jean-Paul Bourdier

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- For readers of all ages (from 9 to 99), interested in the visual arts, storytelling, poetry, spirituality, psychology, ecology, politics, dreams, humour
- A visually beautiful and philosophical look at existence and dreaming through paintings and poetry

The lush surreal illustrations of this book and its short humouristic story telling make it a fun, quick read for all ages and for anyone obliquely interested in our thirst for development and the nature of who we are. Through a poetic parody of human's desires for more of everything, we become aware that such a quest does not bring us any closer to knowing ourselves or seeing, as contemporary scientific or spiritual leaders are telling us: all things and beings of our planet are intimately related, alive and ultimately "One."

While each colourful painting alludes to our close relationship with the world, short lines innocently and wryly comment on the predicaments of our lives pertaining to the industrial world, where dream and reality often appear intertwined. Through the shifting identities of forms, this album gives us a glance at our own formless nature and how our excessive wish for love, home, comfort, power, and productivity inexorably transforms our worldview and make us bypass our deep infinite nature, which cannot be contained through words. As some indigenous traditions have taught us: "life is like a dream. One wonders whether it is by living that we dream or by dreaming that we live."

Jean-Paul Bourdier has taught in many US Universities, in Senegal and Italy; author of nine books; he collaborated with Trinh Minh-ha on a number of installations and eight feature-length films. He is co-founder and co-editor of *Traditional Dwellings and Settlements Review*. He is Emeritus Professor of Architecture, Photography and Visual Studies at the University of California, Berkeley.

