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THE SUSTAINABLE SELF
SUSTAINABILITY IN THE LIGHT OF PERSONAL AND SOCIAL IDENTITY

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INTRODUCTION

The exploration of the self as a sustainable system of meaning falls within the wider context of a comprehensive, multidisciplinary discourse regarding the mechanisms that the self, as a system of meaning, relies upon in order to reduce the indefinite complexity of the world, make sense of its environment, and ensure survival and growth. In this consilient endeavour, we have attempted to consolidate the mechanisms of the intellectual and those of the emotional and physical meaning-making processes, and delve into how this integrated paradigm can underlie and shape diverse areas of human life and activity.

RESULTS

The current state of play in this ongoing venture can be summarised as follows:

- Founded an Art, Philosophy, and Education physical space with active digital presence
- Produced 15 solo visual art exhibitions and participated in group art events worldwide
- Collaborated with corporate SMEs (HR Management, organisational behaviour, economics, ESG, etc.) on the idea of the organisation as a system of meaning
- Established an open dialogue and a shared scope of reflection with an engaged, varied audience
- Participated in international conferences (economy, health, sustainability, etc.)

ABSTRACT: Sustainability is a term fundamentally associated with the concept of resource and, therefore, indissolubly permeated with the idea of repetition, describing an expedient, source, substance, or function that can occur again to the benefit of a subject in need of support, aid, energy, relief, etc., often with reference to the pursuit of a certain goal (from Latin resurgere = to rise again). As such, examined in the context of the self as a system of meaning and as the individual's primary and undeniable resource, sustainability refers to the self's ability to be maintained, upheld, supported, and confirmed over a long period of time – in conceptual strictness, for eternity. In the context of this presentation, we will explore how the "repetition" seed at the heart of the notion of resource reveals the pivotal role of uniqueness and the heart function in meaning-making, how the balance between analytical thinking and intuition safeguards the overall energy balance of the self as a meaningful system, and how sustainable relation(ship)s, communities, and societies unequivocally postulate and rely upon sustainable individuals. Finally, we will briefly peruse and outline the role of art as a balancing factor in the overly rational cultural context of the western world.

Key words
repetition, uniqueness, meaning, system, self, identity, balance

DISCUSSION

Key issues to explore:

- Repetition and Exchange as complementary orders in meaning-making
- How a meaningful system can only be a sustainable system
- Can a social construct be sustainable when the interaction happens among humans who are not?
- Uniqueness as key to being relevant rather than habitual
- How the lack of safety undermines the resource balancing
- Why the creative processes are indispensable to any system that engages in problem solving
- Solve or conceal? How the answer determines the viability of both humans and social structures

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