

*Cœur Brisé & Cancer*  
réflexions sur la  
**PSYCHOSOMATIQUE**

*Heartbreak & Cancer*  
reflections on  
**PSYCHOSOMATICS**

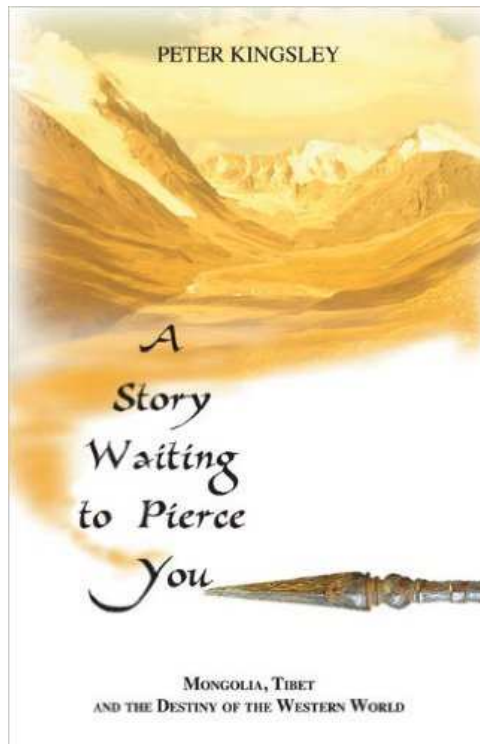


# ARROWS FLECHES

*Quote from las seminar / Citations du dernier séminaire*

Directing a performance laboratory is something like this: looking out for the arrows, their directions, deducing guidelines. It's a matter of seeing the arrows fly, working out their directions, pinpointing where they come from (actors, texts, gestures, coincidences, music, etc.) and whom or what they aim at..

Diriger un laboratoire performatif c'est aussi cela : découvrir les flèches et les parcours fléchés, intuitir les directions voire les directives. Il s'agit de voir les flèches voler, de détecter les directions, de localiser d'où elles partent (acteurs, textes, gestes, coïncidences, musiques, etc.) et vers qui ou vers quoi elles pointent.



# ARROWS FLECHES

## Algorithmes & chamanisme

If you find your place you will find your voice  
« Stories take place » - narrative

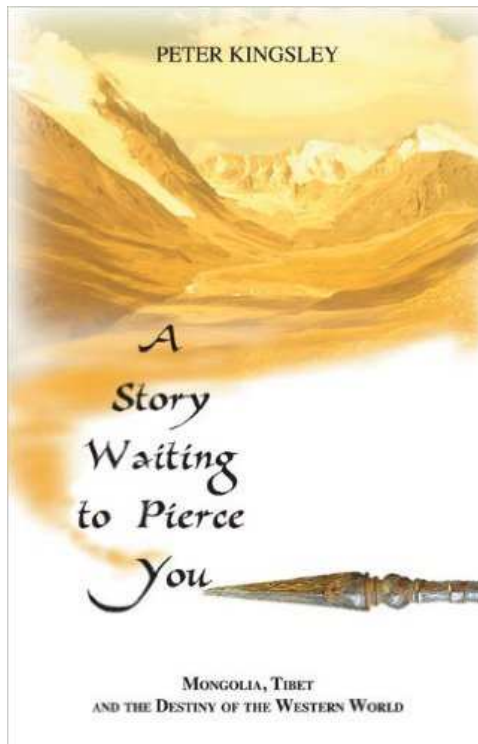
Transference / Countertransference  
Arrows as stories

A Story Waiting to Pierce You : Shamanism  
An arrow waiting to pierce you : Eros  
An arrow waiting to kill you : Cancer

Si tu trouves ta place tu trouveras ta voix  
“Les histoires prennent place” – narration

Transferert / Contretransfert:  
Des flèches qui sont des histoires

A histoire prête à vous transpercer: chamanisme  
Une flèche prête à vous transpercer: Eros  
Une flèche prête à vous tuer: Cancer



# *Algorithmes & Chamanisme*

## PSYCHOSOMATICS

JMG Le Clézio (Nobel 2014)

« Au moment où s'achève ce livre, je m'aperçois qu'il a suivi, comme cela, par hasard, à mon insu, le déroulement du cérémonial de guérison magique... Un jour, on saura peut-être qu'il n'y avait pas d'art, mais seulement de la « médecine ». »

"As this book came to an end, I realized that it followed, as by chance, without my knowledge, the progress of a magical healing ceremony ... One day, we will maybe realize that there was no art, only "medicine".

(Medicine / Healing / Ayahuasca / Art)

Alfred Wolfsohn 1896 – 1962

three sources

- Freud 1856 – 1939 & psychosomatics (hysteria / hypnosis)
- Rilke 1875 – 1926 and German romanticism
- Talmudic Judaism & teaching models

# Anna Halprin - 1920 (age 96)

1971 : diagnosed with a malignant tumor in her colon.

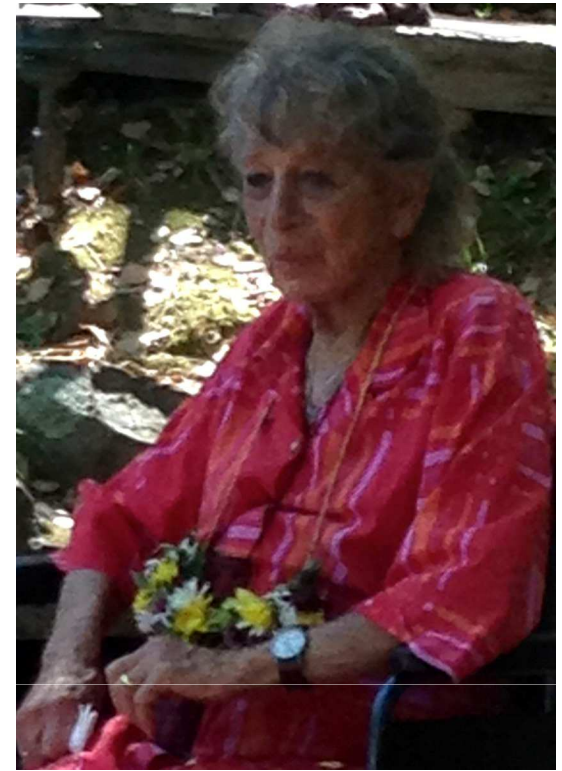
1975 : *Dancing my Cancer*

2012, Paris Quai Branly Museum

*Les Maîtres du Désordre*

*The Masters of Disorder*

On shamanism : the 2 items that most impressed me: Halprin and Picasso





# Anna Halprin

1975 : *Dancing my cancer [Out of boundaries]*

[http://www.numeridanse.tv/en/video/1126\\_dancing-my-cancer-out-of-boundaries](http://www.numeridanse.tv/en/video/1126_dancing-my-cancer-out-of-boundaries)

... *psychokinetic visualization*, qui, à travers la représentation qu'un individu construit de son propre corps, permet de générer des processus créatifs afin « de se réinventer soi-même, physiquement, moralement, émotionnellement, et ainsi la vie devient un processus créatif constant.”

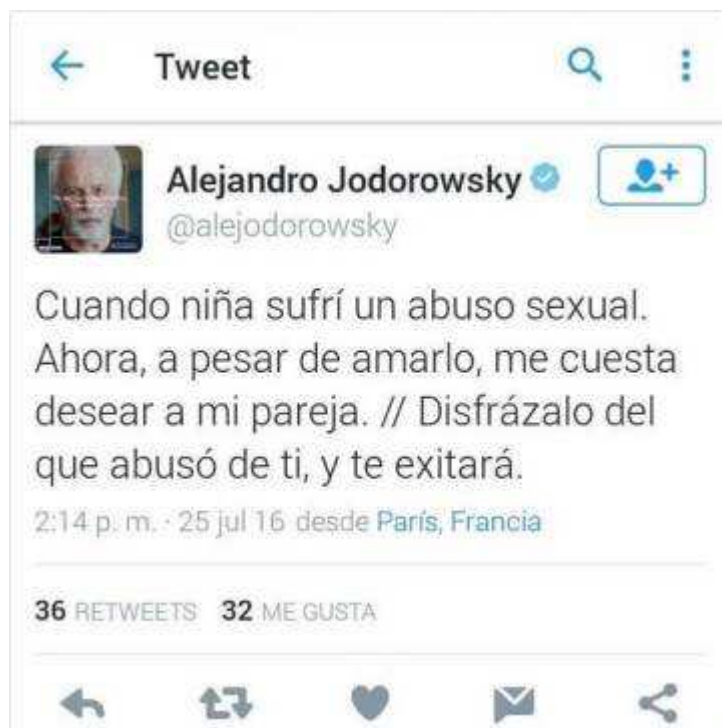
Elle s'inspire des recherches et des outils thérapeutiques élaborés par le psychiatre et psychothérapeute Fritz Perls, fondateur de la Gestalt-thérapie. Elle entre peu après en rémission, représentant un des rares cas de rémission spontanée.

... psychokinetic visualization, which, through the representation that an individual builds his own body, ammpw the generation of creative processes in order “to reinvent oneself, physically, morally, emotionally, and so life becomes a constant creative process .”

It is based on research and therapeutic tools developed by the psychiatrist and psychotherapist Fritz Perls, founder of Gestalt therapy. She enters shortly into remission, representing a rare case of spontaneous remission.

# Alejandro Jodorovski

PSICOMAGIA



When a little girl I was abused sexually. Now, in spite of loving him, I have difficulty in desiring my partner. // Disguise him as the man who abused you, and he/it will excite you.

*These barbarities are the result of a psychological discipline, a pseudotherapy **created by an artist** and called *Psicomagia*. If the name does not prove sufficiently eloquent, rooted in **shamanism**, tarot, **psychoanalysis** and **the effect of theater**. The journalist and member of **Skeptic Circle** MJ Schwarz, warned for years of the folly of the theories of Jodorowski, which considers himself the "chosen one" of *Psychomagic*. The **Panic Movement**, which he generated together with the playwright Fernando Arrabal, based its symbolism in psychoanalysis, an issue that may be **fine for an artist who tries to find symbols to trigger certain emotions**, but when sold to 'cure' people with serious emotional problems, concerns or psychiatric situations it is a supreme **irresponsibility**".*

*El Pais / Beatriz de Vera*

[http://elpais.com/elpais/2016/07/26/buenavida/1469549390\\_494972.html](http://elpais.com/elpais/2016/07/26/buenavida/1469549390_494972.html)

Vodou / Magic & Skepticism / Harold Pinter

Susan Sontag 1933 - 2004

*Illness as Metaphore* 1978

La Maladie comme Métaphore

In particular, she says that the metaphors and terms used to describe both syndromes (TB and Cancer) lead to an association between **repressed passion** and the physical disease itself. She notes the peculiar reversal that

"With the modern diseases (once TB, now cancer), the romantic idea that the disease expresses the character is invariably extended to assert that **the character causes the disease –because it has not expressed itself**. Passion moves inward, striking and blighting the deepest cellular recesses." Sontag says that the clearest and most truthful way of thinking about diseases is without recourse to metaphor. (Re. against psychosomatics?)

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2008/may/18/society> "Susan Sontag was terrified of death. She beat cancer in the 1970s, and again in the 1990s, but third time around she wasn't so lucky. In a tender account of her final illness, her son David Rieff (son of her marriage with **Philip Rieff**) recalls how he colluded with his mother's fantasy that she wasn't dying - and what this ultimately cost him after she had gone." Partner: photographer Annie Liebobitz.





# Victoria Santa Cruz 1922 – 2014

Afro-Peruvian artist, poet, singer, folklorist,  
political and cultural activist.

“The Empress of Rythm”

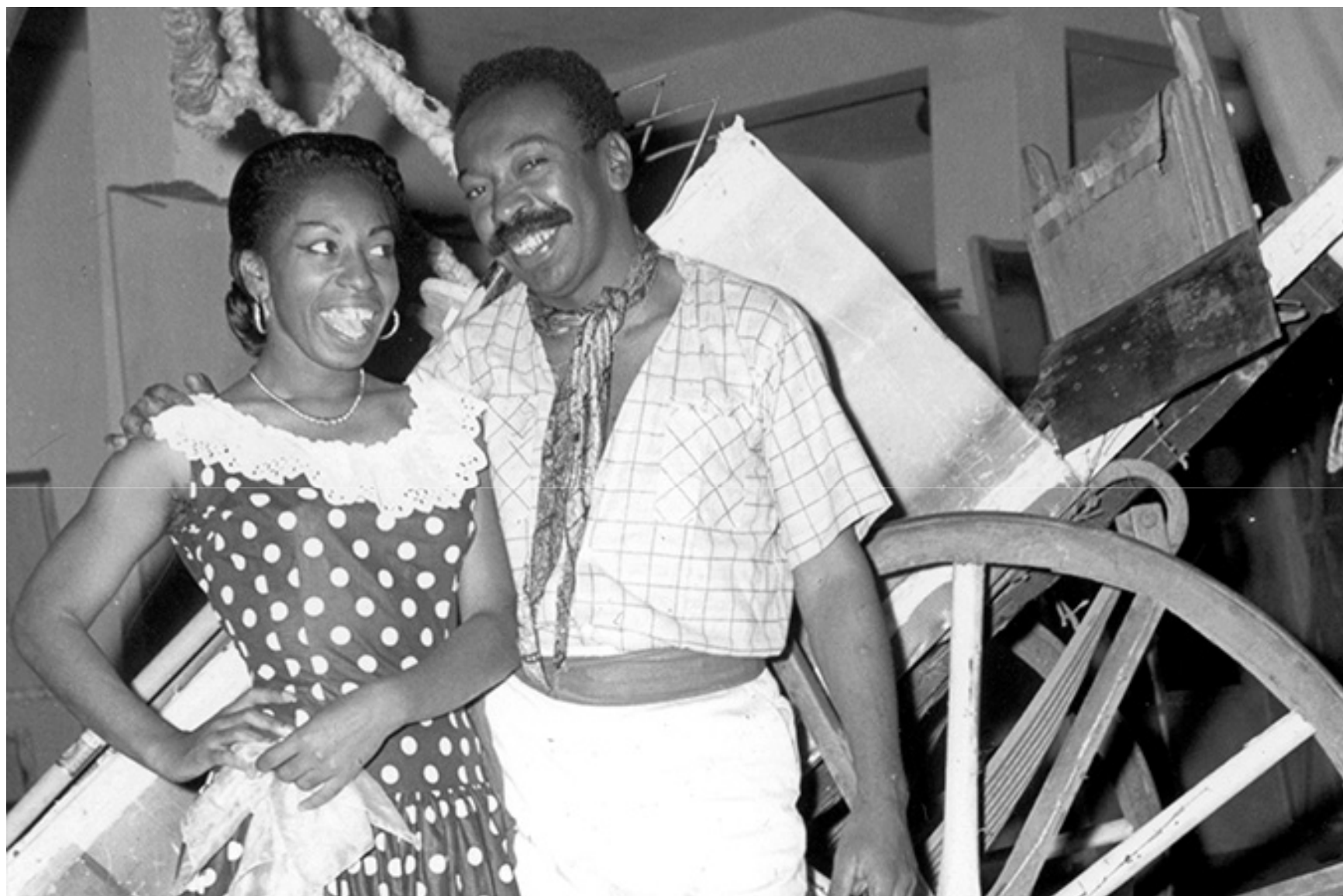
Terror in Malerargues / Esotericism (Gourdgieff) –  
Maria Escribano / teacher at Carnegie Mellon  
University, Pittsburg, 1982-1999.

Photo Ivan Midderigh <http://www.royharttheatrephotographicarchives.com/victoria-santa-cruz-2/>



It is said (I have not yet found documentation) that Victoria was involved with cancer research at Carnegie Mellon. This would not surprise me given the scope she gave to rythm and to being in rythm – and given her high seriousness with her work (terrifying for some). Cancer cells could be said to be **out of rythm**. **Roy Hart** said similar things regarding cancer. In Victoria’s classes she brought out **panic** and her attitude was often one of **psychological character « diagnostics »** : explaining psychologically why one is out of rythm. (This parallels the psychology theories of being « out of tune »). Her attitude fitted with tendencies of her time (the 60s and 70s) on psychosomatics, in her case reaching what I would call esoteric/hermetic dimensions. I used to describe her a born-again « egyptian priestess ». EP

A recent book : *Black Rhythms of Peru:  
Reviving African Musical Heritage in the Black Pacific* By Heidi Carolyn Feldman



*Todo es Ritmo.* 2016

<http://www.casadelaliteratura.gob.pe/?p=18428>

# Cancer & Culture

*quotes from internet, especially Wikipedia*

...cancer is the subject of widespread fear and taboos. Euphemisms and censure reflect an apparent **stigma**...

Cancer is regarded as a disease that must be "fought" to end the "civil insurrection"; a **War on Cancer** was declared in the US (Nixon).

In the 1970s, a cancer treatment was a specialized form of **talk therapy**, based on the idea that cancer was caused by a **bad attitude**. People with a "cancer personality"—depressed, repressed, self-loathing and **afraid to express their emotions**—were believed to have manifested cancer through subconscious desire. Some psychotherapists said that treatment to change the patient's outlook on life would cure the cancer. Among other effects, this belief allowed society to blame the victim for having caused the cancer (by "wanting" it) or having prevented its cure (by not becoming a sufficiently happy, fearless and loving person).

Ehrenreich, Barbara (2009). *Bright-sided: How the Relentless Promotion of Positive Thinking Has Undermined America*. pp. 15–44.

It also increased patients' anxiety, as they incorrectly believed that natural emotions of sadness, anger or fear shorten their lives. The idea was ridiculed by **Susan Sontag**, who published *Illness as Metaphor* while recovering from treatment for breast cancer in 1978... The idea partly persists in a reduced form with... a belief that deliberately cultivating a habit of positive thinking will increase survival. This notion is particularly strong in breast cancer culture. (Re. Femininity / Feminism – and breast cancer)

One idea about why people with cancer are blamed or stigmatized, called **the just-world hypothesis**, ... is based upon the blamers' belief that the world is fundamentally just and so an illness like cancer must be a type of punishment for bad choices, (in a just world, bad things would not happen to good people).

**Melvin J. Lerner**, Professor of Social Psychology ... "a pioneer in the psychological study of justice. Including the derogation of victims. *The Belief in a Just World: A Fundamental Delusion* (1980), and "Justice Motive" in 1981.

[https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Just-world\\_hypothesis](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Just-world_hypothesis)

# Roy Hart

BIODRAME (Serge Béhar) 1970 (?).

I consider Roy Hart took and performed it as his *manifesto*.

“j’ai aggrégé mon corps pour me rapprocher de toi”

“I aggregated my body in order to get closer to you”

Roy Hart’s proposals had an idealistic crusade in it: the conquest of the body (as resistance\*, in the transformation human behaviour through the ideal (the Spirit) of singing. And, to a large degree, performing was, for him, a form of showing and impacting the world with his and his group’s achievements. The actor-singer as exemplary. To paraphrase him: “You are what you can sing.” It was the core of his idea of consciousness, as presented in his paper “How a voice gave me a consciousness”.

In the 1980, in a laboratory in Malérargues, James Hillman defined what he thought there and then was the definition of body: “Body is resistance”

Hitler

Roy Hart’s own death in a car crash, May 1975, while touring L’Economiste.

Liza Mayer died of cancer. James Hillman died of cancer.