

# Silent Witnesses



This book contains poems for a word installation project called 'Silent Witnesses'.

In this project, the artist paints words and phrases on trees to inspire moments of contemplation.

A special chalk paint is used to apply the text which highlights the works' temporary nature and environmental consideration.

Trees have had a deep symbolic presence throughout history. They have inspired, and informed our mythologies, cultures and religions. They are amongst the oldest living organisms on earth, outliving us, and living on for many more human generations.

Trees are often revered as keepers of the past and guardians of the future, carrying knowledge and wisdom, as witnesses of humanity's evolution. They hold a mirror as to where we stand as humans, living in the 21st century.

Like silent witnesses, embodying the role of sages, subtly suggesting, from one sentient being to another, to reconnect with ourselves in a more profound way.

Trees have a unique expression based on their natural shape, texture and emanation. They communicate through the senses. Words translate these messages into a language we understand.

As words appeal to our core emotions, they connect us with our inner knowing – the deeper understanding of ourselves, and the universe around us.

This project is dedicated to the trillions of trees on our planet as an expression of awe and gratitude. They have been our guardians and companions since the beginning of our existence, reminding us of our true symbiotic nature as life on this planet.

## Poems

## **An organic shape with a mystical presence**

A sentient being  
A sturdy trunk  
Branches reaching out to the light  
Rustling leaves  
Roots grounded in the earth  
Crown high in the sky

A tree  
Reconnects us with  
Something bigger than ourselves – our essence  
Our link to the web of existence

## **Silent witnesses**

Trees live at a slower pace than we do  
They follow their own rhythm  
Growing old in their own time  
Able to live for thousands of years  
Given the right circumstances

Having witnessed our evolution  
Since the beginning of time  
They are revered as keepers of the past  
And guardians of the future

Silent whisperers  
Capturing our imagination  
Embodying wisdom, knowledge  
Power and life itself

Knowing their place in the cycle of life  
They don't question or resist – like us  
They just are  
Standing tall and sturdy  
Flowing organically through the seasons  
In all acceptance of what is...

## The flow of life

Buds and flowers in spring  
Full crown in summer  
Shedding leaves in autumn  
Passive existence in winter

Full crown in summer  
Shedding leaves in autumn  
Passive existence in winter  
Buds and flowers in spring

Shedding leaves in autumn  
Passive existence in winter  
Buds and flowers in spring  
Full crown in summer

Passive existence in winter  
Buds and flowers in spring  
Full crown in summer  
Shedding leaves in autumn



## **Silent whisperers**

Emanating subtle energies  
Talking a sophisticated language  
Only the senses understand

**If trees could talk, what would they say?**

Stand still  
Take a moment  
Observe  
Listen  
Listen within  
Hear the sound of your being  
Drumming to the rhythm of the earth

Feel the  
connection  
With your inner self  
Walk on this beautiful planet  
Leave your unique footprint  
On its precious soil

Thoughts  
Beliefs  
Perceptions  
Shift with experience

Explore  
Discover  
Dare  
Laugh and follow joy

Unveil  
Reveal  
One more truth  
About yourself  
Till you own yourself completely

Awareness knows  
Essence  
Nature's song  
Life itself



Life is flowing  
Always in motion  
Forever changing  
In constant expansion

We have stood by your side  
For as long as memory exists  
Take a moment  
Stand still  
Look at us  
We are your mirrors  
We reflect your inner worlds

Dafna Rahminov is a conceptual artist. She was born in 1967, in Antwerp where she currently lives and works. Inspired by 'affichage' techniques she uses silk screenings, manual printing, collage, painting, and various mixed media in her works. The core of her expression is the essence and vibration of words. Words are the visuals in her work. Abstract concepts, translating the inner experiences seen on the lush screen of her inner mind.

'I am deeply fascinated by the urge to comprehend life, our connection to our selves, each other, and the web of existence. We dance through life on a symphony of emanating energies. All organisms, including humans, are made of the same energy that pervades life. We are all connected to the web of existence. Every work I create is based on my personal observations, experiences and writings. It is a standstill of a particular moment in time. A realization that is likely to change, as the understanding evolves.'

For further viewing of Dafna's work please consult following website: [\*\*www.dafnarahminov.com\*\*](http://www.dafnarahminov.com)

Dafna Rahminov