

Eternal  
**Bhoomi**

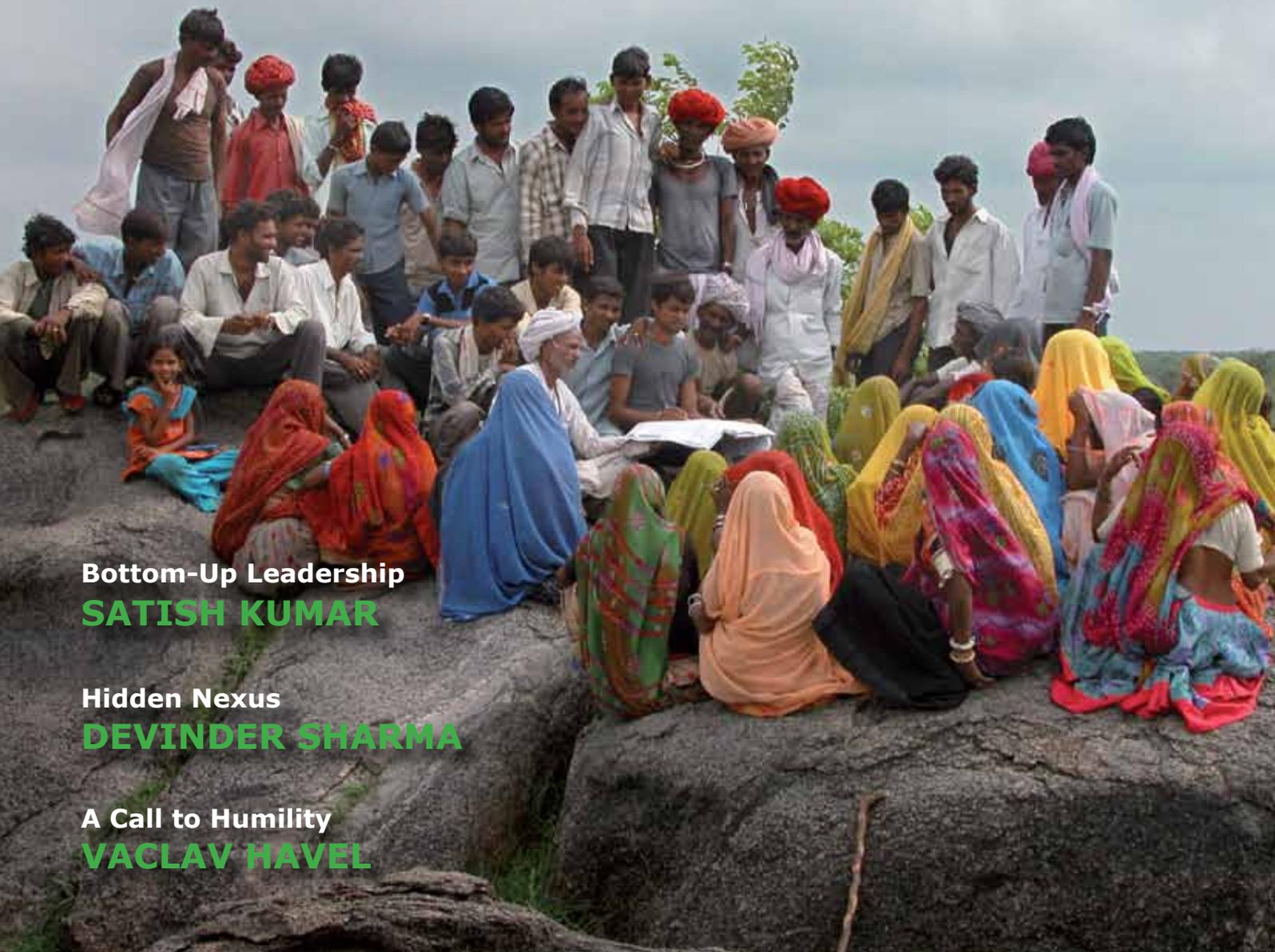
For Earth Consciousness and Sustainable Living

BANGALORE

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## Eco ART

By Barbara Roux

**The photographs are based on my journey through fragile habitats that are on the verge of civilized areas and struggle for survival. I carry a piece of cut mirror I found in the garbage years ago that I have shaped into a simple house. I hold the mirror to reflect the habitats and gain their energy. Ecology has its origin in the word *oikos* meaning 'household' in Greek.**

*I* am an artist who deals with issues of ecology. My work grows out of fascination for native habitats and often stems from my actions to preserve these wild places. Similar to the American Hudson River School artists, I see the transcendental in nature. As a contemporary artist I am concerned with the reality of what I see in the natural world and how habitats on the edges of civilization struggle and react to change. A little event

caused by some interference on the life of an isolated plant in the wilderness intrigues me. The land has secrets and needs that I seek to uncover and respond to in my work. I create my own path through wild terrain looking for the out-of-season and the out-of-place. My connection to specific habitat niches can be seen in the layering of experiences in my installations of photographs, sculpture drawings and narratives. My process of creating a

work is a ritual in itself. I document and interpret an event from a specific site, and by presenting altered elements from the place, I am able to show my physical and emotional connection to the land.

I wish to express the idea that the natural world is a reflection and metaphor for our own society. Both worlds (the natural and the societal) are alive and are being altered and damaged by progress. Like all structured communities, the wilderness seeks survival. Through my work I give wild places a voice and connect them to our lives in a universal and inclusive way. There are mysteries inherent in the natural world and their meanings are a key to our own success. I hope my work will encourage people to protect and celebrate natural habitats and strengthen their bonds with these wild places.

## Hollow

In a cold low place filled with shadows  
time and air sit silently.  
Old trees block the sun.  
Cobbles protrude from earthly matter  
veined with minerals that sparkle no more.  
Dark winged birds flutter in bramble mounds.

Buried here in this green cellar  
are secrets that wait  
like seeds, undisturbed  
for decades, waiting to be uncovered  
and embroidered with patterns of light.

- Barbara Roux, March 2010



*Barbara Roux continues to work and live in Huntington, New York. Her desire to preserve the natural landscape and her interest in conservation have become the inspiration for her artistic oeuvre.*

*Roux's drawings, photographs, sculpture and installations have been shown in numerous museums, galleries and universities over the past 30 years. She also writes poems to accompany her eco-art, two of which are featured here.*

*House in the Bottom,  
digital photograph,  
Barbara Roux, 2010.*



## Cold Woods

Wind rushes over imbs and trunks striped in white  
down their north side grounded in snow.  
Crowns of fanning branches  
swollen with buds sway and bend  
dancing with the sky.  
Branches creak as they brush against each other.  
Meandering deer tracks embed the snow  
skirting bare root collars of giant oaks.

At 4 p.m. a dropping sun paints trees marigold  
Upside the hillside wall.  
Geese call loudly as they stream above  
doves that dot the black birch branches.  
Everything turns grey as the cardinal appears.  
Then there is darkness, stars and wind.

*- Barbara Roux, January 2011*



*Fallen Branch takes Root*