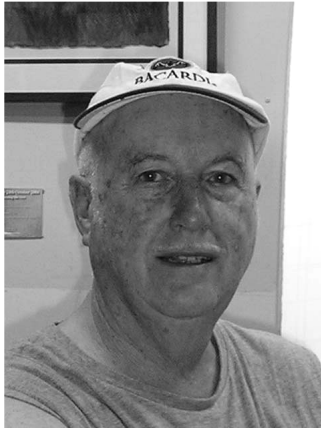


Words are not enough

The association of images and memory



John Baldock

The challenge is to bring memory to the conscious level

John Baldock (INTJ) is an artist and director of Alpha Studios in Perth. He works with inner images on a daily basis and encourages clients to take this healing offered as a birthright.

jbaldock@alphastudios.com.au
www.alphastudios.com.au

The physiologist Edmund Jacobson (1942) has demonstrated that memory resides in images and also in the muscles themselves. This link between image and soma is not just a construct of the imagination, but is amenable to conscious control. Our overly technological society has lost this ability, and the loss is evident in the schisms that exist between science, art and religion.

The image-soma is linked to homeopathy. A substance is diluted in water until it no longer exists, but its memory is held in each water molecule. Likewise, the fluids in the body retain, at a cellular level, the capacity for memory long after the original imprint has vanished.

Transferring this knowledge to the psyche, as expounded by Jung: the hugeness of the psyche contains vestiges of memory going back to the beginning of time, and encompassing the present and future. We can never know the psyche itself, but we can be aware of things emanating from it in the form of images. These images can be found in dreams. At Alpha Studios in Perth we refer to these as 'inner images', and find them in waking dreams or visions.

The language of inner image is symbolic, and operates at a personal level. In order to avoid an irrational, ad hoc approach based on opinion and prejudice, we use the MBTI as a systems-based approach to finding individual hardwiring. It's essential to find this hardwiring or 'true type', and we believe that can be done via the MBTI. It is in the fluids of true type, contained in each cell of the body, that memory resides.

Western society retains in its mythology certain memories still encoded in bodily fluids. The fact that these memories now lie largely in the unconscious is a challenge to all those engaged as type practitioners

to research the means to bring memory to the level of consciousness. Included in memory are the following:

1. A memory of **perfection**. The mythology records a time in the Garden of Eden when individuals walked with God and were assured of perfect health, wealth and relationships.
2. A memory of being **energised**. In the beginning there was no such thing as depression, defined as loss of energy. To be perfectly energised is to be perfectly and continually creative. Thus, fluidity and growth were spectacular realities, without the downside of destruction and decay.
3. A memory of collecting **data** or **facts** about a situation. Because each individual used facts perfectly, there was no possibility of miscommunication or misunderstanding.
4. A memory of making perfect **decisions**. The result was perfect harmony.
5. A memory of a perfect **product**. The ancient Greeks knew something about this, and sculpted the human body in its perfection.

These memories are now grouped under the heading of 'idealism', and are so distant from modernity as to be almost beyond consciousness. But not quite: thanks to Jung and the MBTI, a start can be made to bring these memories out of the closet and use them to reinvigorate the human race.

Jung, Katharine Myers and Isabel Briggs, all products of time and place, could only go so far. Jung had an innate appreciation of images. In his spare time he manipulated material substance such as stone and paint to express images: his mandalas, for example, where the circle signifies completion.

Jung was deeply aware of the differences between words and images—especially *dream* images, inner images that relate only to the dreamer according to their individual hardwiring. Inner images are unique, in contrast to outer images, which can be bought by any Tom, Dick or Harry.

By manipulating material substance—paint, clay, heat, light, sound, metaphor or poetry—the dream becomes a waking dream, a daydream, and is encoded in the power of psychic energy, the sustainer of life itself. It is the power of this energy that should be the basis for efficient communication, and it is found primarily in image.

Inner image, then, is primary reality. Jung suggested ‘leaning on the image’—which is ironic, because he expended words like a madman, pouring out volumes. Words are secondary realities which, when divorced from image, lose their power of communication. By desiring to be accepted by the scientific community, Jung himself came to embrace orthodoxy, to the detriment of his powers of communication. Knowing that Jung was on to something, countless authors try to tell us what he was saying about Jung, and still we remain unsure.

Fortunately, all human activity remains potentially creative. In the power of unblocked psychic energy, new revelations and transformations remain possible. The fluids in our cells contain memory. When a painting or song or dance or poem acts as a catalyst, the power of that memory breaks through into consciousness.

This quality of memory is linked to perfection, and humans optimistically look for a better future. But this future is in the distant past, and it can only be resurrected by inner image. The potential for memory is very strong, and it provides the impetus for scientific discovery, political manipulation, and human sexuality.

An article on Ningaloo Reef, in the *West Australian* newspaper last year, reveals the environmental passions of well-meaning people who have never left the bitumen and wouldn't know a reef shark if it said ‘hello!’ Deep in the fluids of every cell lies the memory, far distant in the unconscious, of a perfect place built by the hand of God.

It is not the reef that is being protected: it is the sacredness of memory.

In the same edition, Peter Carey is interviewed about his book *Wrong About Japan*. The meaning of the book is unclear: is it about Japan or about Carey's relationship with his son? The outer images don't stack up, but the inner images are compelling. The relationship between father and son goes back to the beginning of time, to a Garden of Eden where the creator walked in unison with the created, and there was no generation gap. In the fluids of every cell of every father lies a memory of a perfect relationship which cannot be explained in words: only the power of the inner image holds the key. Unless a new God in a new revelation in a new synthesis binds all the disparate elements together, this notion of perfection will be lost forever.

Finally, the same paper offers ‘The Art of an Erotic Tale’, where sex is always in the background, bubbling away, ready to boil over. Of all the archetypes, those energy systems personified in inner images, sex is one of the most powerful. It ranks with the Anima and the Animus, the Trickster and the Mother, to personify that which we may associate with perfection, but which has the power to destroy. Again, in every cell in every body lies the hidden memory of a perfect union, so powerful that it can engender a midlife crisis, causing the most rational of men to make the most irrational decisions.

Outer images, including words, are not rational: they carry ambiguities. Divorced from the purity of inner images, they are pale reflections, without energy, without much meaning. This is the situation that confronts the human race. The proliferation of higher education, the running to and fro, the squandering of resources and the burden of endemic depression—all these have a form of cleverness, but lack real power to solve problems.

At Alpha Studios we use Jungian thinking, the MBTI, the functions in attitude, and inner images to relocate memory from the depths of the unconscious, and place the power of a compassionate, bountiful universe to assist all who feel ready to embark on the journey. ❖

References

- Achterberg, Jeanne 1985, *Imagery in healing: Shamanism and modern medicine*, Boston, MA: New Science Library/Shambhala.
- Alpha Studios web site, <www.alphastudios.com.au>.
- Jacobson, Edmund 1942, *You must relax: A practical method*, Garden City, NY: Blue Ribbon.
- Jung, C G 1960, *The structure and dynamics of the psyche*, Collected works, volume 8, Princeton.
- Jung, C G 1961, *Memories, dreams, reflections*, New York: Pantheon.
- Yabroff, William 1990, *Inner image: A resource for type development*, Palo Alto, CA: CPP.

At Alpha Studios we use inner images to relocate memory from the depths of the unconscious

.....
*The only reality is the mind—
we live and breathe in the mind.
But I do believe there can be a
meeting point between minds.
That's what I'm trying to reach.
I believe everybody is an artist.*

Yoko Ono
.....