



# LIEUWKE LOTH

In 2001, I finished my studies at the Royal Academy of Art in The Hague. Besides drawings and paintings I also create bronze sculptures and lasercut art works.

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## AN INTERVIEW WITH LIEUWKE LOTH

A Dutch Artist, Gallery Owner and event organizer who spends considerable time in C mpeta, Andalusia.

*You are originally from the Netherlands. What brought you to C mpeta? How long have you been here, and what made you stay?*

First I visited an Uzbekian artist in Arenas. I stayed for 3 weeks and just loved my first time in Andalusia! The rhythm of life, the warmth, the sun, the landscape, the endless sky, the sea, the easiness of life, the space, the tranquility and the friendliness of the Spanish people.

Rental prices, the food, restaurants, fuel, air tickets were affordable. The culture, nature and the climate inspired me a lot. The energy felt lighter in this area. The drawings and paintings were created in such easy flow! It felt this way of living could bring me so much more than living the rat race and in the dense energy in The Netherlands. After doubting for some years I was ready to take a jump and experience another way of life and creation. Although I kept on living and working in both countries and even also travelled for my art and creation to countries like Uzbekistan, Thailand, Turkey, Macedonia, Montenegro, Austria and Denmark.

*Could you tell us a bit of what being an artist involves?*

First I thought to become an architect, I went to the university. But I found out I need freedom to create what comes through me. I am not a match with measurements, rules, structures etc. So after some months I quit that study and gave myself the time to chose again. With the Academy of Arts I had no certainty regarding future income...if I would choose to become an artist, I would choose more uncertainty. I took the leap because my heart whispered this was the best path for me. To live with financial uncertainty is quite a challenge and to live knowing and feeling that I do what I came for is giving me faith and peace. It is good to be able to follow my inspiration and intuition. Though there is not the ultimate freedom of course because in this world you need to deal with money and payments. I feel grateful to be part of the magic of creation. Ideas and vision come through me, I'm just a kind of channel. My hands do the work. And it's best to not use my mind too much when I'm creating. After the art piece is born it is again beautiful to see and be witness to what it does to an observer or art lover. I feel I can bring a spark of light and positive energy with my work. In these turbulent times I love to add beauty and uplifting vibes to the audience.

*Could you tell us a bit about your influences and inspiration for your beautiful artworks?*

As a child I was always drawing and making objects. Just loved to play with colors and shapes. It was a natural thing for me to do, I was creating all the time. And I loved to be in nature and to play with animals and insects, my favorites were frogs and grasshoppers. I could feel I just belonged to nature, blended with all energies and beings in nature.

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*You are primarily a sculptor. What made you choose sculpture as a means of expression?*

With sculpting I can bring 'beings' into this world, beings that connect with nature, ancient cultures and myths. While creating works of art I listen to my inner guide and intuition. I play with lines and volumes. In my artwork I combine shapes and characters of animals with human features and characteristics. This represents the connection between nature and human beings and it links to shamanism as well. Often both feminine and masculine energy can be seen and felt in the works.

I am always looking for the soul in the art object. And if it starts to communicate with me I know my drawing or sculpture is doing what it should do. In my experience my artworks can be a gateway to another world – a world rooted in the subconscious and in the heart.

I love the eternity kind of feel of bronzes and the profession is so ancient. The sculptures can stay with us for a long while and with generations to come. With the lasercut technique I can create much more than just a drawing on paper. My designs can be integrated in buildings as applied art. I hope my work incites each and everyone to find a spark of harmony, peace, love and/ or consciousness about our connection with nature.

*As well as being an artist, you have been running your own art gallery for many years. You just have had your jubileum of 10 years! Could you tell us a bit about that?*

When I landed in Andalusia I found out there were not that many galleries or art events and no sculpture gardens. To bring my art to the audience it was best if I would have a space where my art would be shown. I started organizing the Art Walk in C mpeta, 6 times till 2020.

Galeria Luz de la Vida, based in C mpeta, had its first show springtime 2014. I love the looks, vibe and energy of the gallery. It feels authentic and it brings positive energy to the visitors and me. The place gives opportunities to meet others and to exchange, and visitors get inspired as well.

*You have organized many events, such as previous C mpeta Art Walk's and international symposiums, which have been very successful and exciting experiences for artists and art lovers in the area. Are you enjoying these experiences? Do you have much time and energy left for your own projects?*

Sometimes it feels I am and work like a channel, I create because I do 'download' ideas. It can be an idea or concept for an art piece, or for a great art event. Sometimes I have just too many ideas to deal with! I found out every idea and concept needs a lot of time, dedication, skills and many hours of labor to get it manifested on this planet, plus of course good collaboration with others. Not always an easy job and it can be a challenge. At the same time, I like to organize, to arrange, to co-create and to find the best way possible to come to a good end result for an event.

I just love to connect with others, to be in contact with people from different cultures and nationalities, to inspire others and to get inspired, to create opportunities to show a lot of art of different disciplines to others. Artists often use another kind of language, they match with their creative energy and in the field of intuition. To bring artists together from all over the world is just great!

Regarding organizing events, in fact it is no less a creative process: putting all ingredients together to create a successful and memorable event for everyone. These art events have a way of connecting people, and they bring inspiration, light, joy, and heaps of new contacts. To be an artist, gallery owner and an organizer all in the same time is a bit of a challenge. I often wish I had 15 Lieuwkes to bring all into the world what I 'see'.

*What are your aspirations for the future?*

Good question! Most important to me is to stay in balance, to stay healthy and heart centered, to keep being inspired and to be surrounded by beautiful, warmhearted, inspired and creative people.