

Anne Claire Venemans, picking the brain of a mystical goldsmith...

Almost five years ago, a broader audience got acquainted with the works and art of Miss Venemans, currently residing in the heart of Holland, Utrecht. Time to pay her a visit and see what new projects are lurking around the corner, how she's connecting to the new millennium and to find out how Merlin came into her life!

Anne Claire, it's been five years, the new millennium, social media, I noticed you have a wonderful website Cheiron Wellness, which I know is a centaur, but knowing you, there's probably more to it than 'just' a centaur, care to elaborate?

Anne Claire laughs and says I'm absolutely right. "Cheiron is a centaur indeed, but not just any centaur, he's the Healer and the Teacher. Legend has it Cheiron could heal anybody but himself, he worked from his own experience and the experiences from others, not unlike myself, so I feel connected to him."

"Other than being a Healer and a Teacher, he's also a centaur, half human, half horse. The horse was my first totem, my animal guide, I have a very special bond with this animal, so it all just fitted perfectly you see, the centaur energy merges with my own and if I say so myself, we go well together."

Last time we spoke your main focus was jewelry, my mouth still starts to water when I look at them, but you've expanded quite a bit! What made you decide to combine your other projects and unite them?

"Well... one day I looked at the several websites I was now the proud owner of and realized it had to change, it just didn't work for me anymore you know. A website for jewelry, a website for healing, I had to find something that combined them all, what was the essence of all my projects? Or maybe, what was the essence of me?" she says smiling.

"One could argue they all have me in common of course, but that was just too easy, so I started to dig deeper and then the word Empowerment popped into my head. All my work, my life, is in dedication of empowering people, as a whole and as an individual, it doesn't matter whether you find balance through one of my mandala's or a piece of jewelry or a Holistic coaching session, the goal is to empower you and when I realized this, it all suddenly came together."

It's no secret you're a spiritual person, you're very open minded, do you think there are a lot of people out there looking for someone like you?

"Yes, I think there are. I think we live in a time of change. Lots of people still expect a go-to A,B,C and so on answer and if they do this or that, their problems will be solved, I don't think it works like that anymore. I do think you can steer

someone in the right direction, guide them so to speak, but in the end, you have to put in the work yourself.”

What would you say to all the skeptics out there who think you're way too fluffy and stuck in the Harry Potter world?”

“Hahaha, well you know, if you come to me with a headache and you leave without one, does it really matter how it worked? In the end, that's the most important thing right, that you can grow, you can move on, you feel better. I'm going to go out on a limb here and dare to imply all doctors have prescribed a placebo to their patients once in their life and lo and behold, it worked! Maybe not in all cases, but more than you and I probably realize.”

So you're a Placebo?

Venemans laughs and stretches on the couch. “Well, I wouldn't go that far, but to all the skeptics out there I would like to ask them what they're looking for. If you have found the answer, you should ask yourself if it would matter to you that you're 'empowered' by coming to someone like me instead of a psycho therapist for example. If you decide 'no, it doesn't matter', my door is always open.”

She continues: “Besides, my jewelry for example is tuned to a certain energy, yes, but it's also very pretty. Why someone chooses a ring with amber or a diamond, who's to say? And again, does it matter? If it makes you happy or brings you any other positive emotion, I'm satisfied.”

Are there people you would refuse to help?

Anne Claire scratches behind the ear of one of her cats and looks at me. “No, I would not refuse someone I don't even know. Having said that, it is easier of course to work with someone who has an open mind and who is willing to put in some work themselves. If there's no connection between me and my client, this can happen of course, I will help you find someone who is suitable for you, because that's what it is all about, empowering people. If I can't help you, someone else can!”

Does everybody know everybody in this 'scene'?

“It increases and of course, you have your own circle of people you work with and you have the 'usual suspects' at conventions and such, but coaches, healers, teachers, there are quite a lot of us, so no, I don't know everybody and vice versa, I do like some free time you know. It helps though, to have a (spiritual) network, if someone comes to me with a question which is not my particular field, I often know someone who can help, it's of course up to the person in question whether or not they go and take my advice, but they really should, hahaha.”

So what about those books huh!

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“Hahaha, you want to know about my shaman book don’t you! Yes, I remember, we talked about it five years ago. Well, it’s not ready yet, but I am working on it.”

“Actually, I’m rewriting it. So many things have changed over the last five years and everything is just coming together recently, the book reinvented itself and I owe it some more time. It’s about shamanism through the ages and how you can use it today, in everyday life.”

Venemans published “The Journey” and “Thinking out Loud”, you can order them on her website!

Different times, different energy, does it have an effect on the jewelry you’re making?

“Hmmm... interesting you should ask. Not really different, but they are getting.. I don’t know.. stronger? My explanation for it is we live in different times, perhaps more turbulent times, people have a greater need for balance and so the stones are giving just that. There’s also a slight increase in people really wanting to have that particular piece of work, without even knowing why they want it so badly. My advice, go with it.”

What if someone wanted to make jewelry the way you make them, how would you go about doing that?

“The technical part is following an education. I myself was trained in Schoonhoven at the academy, but nowadays there are several options for learning how to be a gold or silversmith which doesn’t necessarily involve a four-year-study. That’s the technical part. Then there’s the energy part and I’m convinced this is something ‘everybody’ can learn! It’s a very shamanic approach actually. When they make an amulet, they tune in to whatever or whoever it’s for, this is something that may require practice and training and some might learn faster than others, but you can learn how to do it.”

And we can come to you if we want to learn?

“Hahahaha, sure!”

Now we all know you as a spiritual person, but what is the great Merlin doing in your life? Anne Claire laughs out loud and smiles mysteriously at me and for a moment I’m wondering if she’s going to explain at all, but after I get another cup of steaming herbal tea, she explains..

“Merlin is the name, yes of the great wizard, but also of a small Dutch radio network I very recently signed with. My program, ‘Onderweg’, will be starting January 12th from 8 till 9 pm. It’s spiritual internetradio, so you can tune in on your pc, laptop, Ipad, whatever and listen to me, I’m very excited about it! ‘Onderweg’ is about what you experience in life and every week I’ll be discussing a different

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topic, my first topic will be power animals/animal guides, not surprising perhaps, hahaha and I'll take it from there, it's all very new to me and I'm really looking forward to it!

Can people ask questions during the show?

“Not by phone (yet), but there is a chatroom people can login to and ask me questions, so feel free to do so!”

If we fast-forward five years from now, what is Anne Claire Venemans doing?

“Hmm... I hope I'll be helping more people, more in groups, connecting people, empowering people. I'll probably still be in Holland or, also in Holland anyway. I like working one-on-one and I won't quit doing that, but my focus is shifting towards groups. Workshops, sessions, the radio fits in nicely with this as well.”

Can we see you somewhere soon, do you have an event coming up?

“Nothing concrete at the moment, I'm thinking Spring, because it's a really great time for starting new things, but you can always check my website and don't forget, every two weeks on Wednesday night, I'm on the air between 8 and 9 pm!”

And we'll be listening!!

<http://www.cheiron-wellness.com>

www.radiomerlijn.nl