

# The Ayahuasca Visions of Pablo Amaringo

By Howard Charing, Peter Cloudsley and Pablo Amaringo

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*Review by Bonnie Horrigan*

Pablo Amaringo (1938-2010) was born a man and died a master. An *ayahuasquero* in his early adult life, he used his spiritual knowledge to heal both himself and others. Later, self taught, he founded the Usko Ayar Amazonian School of Painting, which in turn launched the field of New Amazonian Art. Pablo dedicated the latter part of his life to communicating the teachings of the spiritual world through his paintings. And the rest of us benefit.

*The Ayahuasca Visions of Pablo Amaringo* is more than a collection of Pablo Amaringo's paintings, although that in itself would make it worth buying. It is also a book of knowledge and a glimpse into the many dimensions of reality to which Pablo had access.

The first section contains a series of essays written by close friends that celebrate Pablo's life. You have to read them slowly as they are filled with insight. In one essay we learn that after being diagnosed with an incurable heart condition in his thirties, Pablo sought out a local shaman and participated in an ayahuasca ceremony. Of this experience Dennis McKenna writes, Pablo "found himself in a curved space, an operating room, surrounded by high tech machines and doctors in white coats. The doctors opened his chest and removed his heart, still beating ... the doctors did things to his heart, fixing it before his eyes, and replaced it back in his chest." Pablo's heart was miraculously healed after that experience, a fact that baffled his doctors but which compelled him to become a student of ayahuasca so he could help others.

We learn from Steve Beyer's essay that Pablo would sing *icaros* (magical songs) while painting. Pablo once told him, "If ever a person wishes to receive teaching or healing, they should cover the painting with a cloth for two or three months. On the day they remove the cover, they should prepare them-

selves by bathing and meditating. When it is uncovered they will receive the power and knowledge of the *icaros* that were sung into it."

And in yet another essay, we are treated to a glimpse into Pablo's tender soul. "People will often claim to carry out justice, but usually it is little more than an agreed boundary, one side of which belongs to you, the other to your neighbor," Pablo says. "Goodness, on the other hand, is having just enough food for yourself, but still you share it with your neighbor. Goodness is greater than justice."

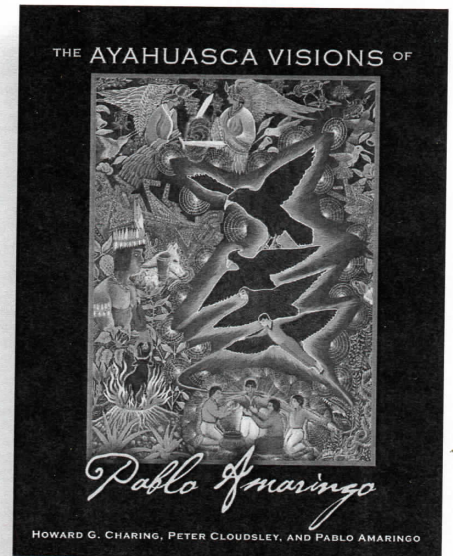
The second half of the book contains reproductions of Pablo's more recent paintings, each accompanied by a detailed explanation written by Pablo himself, that help the viewer understand the interwoven images.

A small sampling of what you will encounter in viewing the paintings: *El Principio de la Vida* explores the mystical beginning of life. "Each of us has a guardian angel," Pablo writes. "If our actions are iniquitous or in conflict with their perfection, the angels will withdraw. If our endeavors are benign, they come closer and help us evolve spiritually."

In *Transformación del Shaman en Aguila* we learn that, "When a shaman transforms himself into kinetic energy and merges with the universe, he can see the past, present and future as if it were all one eternal moment."

*El Encanto de las Peidras* delves into the properties and uses of mystical stones. "To benefit from a stone's power you fold it into a cloth or tea towel like a rosary and carry it around in your pocket or under your belt."

*Puñusca Muscuna* shows the "Profound revelation given by ayahuasca to heal *dano* (illness causes by sorcery)."



Imagine — this magical book offers 48 of these profound images with commentary. "The pictures themselves have messages and teachings that train the mind to see what could have happened in the past and what can happen in the future," Pablo writes. "They open up other ways of seeing, which you could call sacred or Divine."

For any serious student of shamanism, I have to place this book in the "must have" category.

For more information about Pablo, to view reproductions of his work or to purchase the book, please visit [www.ayahuascavisions.com](http://www.ayahuascavisions.com).