



Photo by Lea Goode Harris

The Genesa Labyrinth by Ansula Press

The Genesa Labyrinth was born of my desire to install a labyrinth at Burning Man in 2003 (www.burningman.com). At the time I didn't know why it had to be a labyrinth, although I had been drawing mandalas for 8 years by then, so I think the idea grew from that: a labyrinth would be like a giant 3-D mandala!

Early on in my labyrinth research, I happened upon the Genesa Crystal and I knew I wanted that structure in the middle of the labyrinth. Here's why: "A Genesa crystal is an archetypal structure of light and consciousness that expresses an ongoing expansion or flow of life without a point of separation, creating the experience of unlimitedness. Genesa life size crystals are powerful antennas for setting and broadcasting the power of Intention and prayer, raising life force energy."

The Genesa is called a crystal because its geometric shape, a cuboctehedron, mirrors that of natural crystals. The Genesa creates a vortex of energy that resonates a specific pattern over an indefinite period of time, just as natural crystals do.

The Genesa was discovered and named in the 1940s by Dr. Derald Langham, an American plant geneticist, when he was working with and observing how cells divide and grow. He said, "Genesa is the coded matrix of your own life force and is directly related to the living energy moving in spirals in all forms of growth, development, and change."

For Burning Man, the Genesa labyrinth had to be illuminated. The result is what I was honored to present at the Labyrinth Gathering at Edgefield.



Photo by Jeff Seward

Technical info:

The Genesa is made of 4 hoops of linear low density (LLDPE) polyethylene tubing. Each hoop has a length of electroluminescent (EL) wire inside. The EL wire is connected at ground level to a wire leading to a 12-volt car battery via an inverter.

The labyrinth is my own design. I made the paths wide to accommodate a large number of people walking at the same time. The paths were cut out of giant pieces of heavy weight canvas laid out side-by-side on a school playground. (I've used the "waste" canvas for lots of different things.) The linear sections of "walls" are connected to each other by velcro to create a continuous spiral.

The Genesa crystal is about 7' in diameter. The labyrinth is 39' in diameter. It is lit with 71 solar lights

About the Author

By Ansula Press

I have a Master's degree in art. I was a hippie in San Francisco's Haight-Ashbury during the 1960s. I built a geodesic dome without the use of power tools on top of a mountain in Colorado. I've traveled to Mexico, Japan, Africa, Thailand, Indonesia, New Zealand, and my beloved India. I read books on metaphysics, spirituality, permaculture and gardening. I love nature and watching its changes. I'm an ecstatic dancer. I create altars and sacred spaces.

As an art museum curator I visited many places. Whenever I came upon a labyrinth I always walked it, drawn to the circular path to the center. After I retired in 1994, my husband and I lived in India for several years. There I was introduced to contemporary mandalas. I was instantly attracted – so much expression, so much life within a circular boundary – so I began drawing them. I experienced the meditation that is inherent in the creation of them and I felt the connection between mandala and labyrinth. Both are journeys to the center.