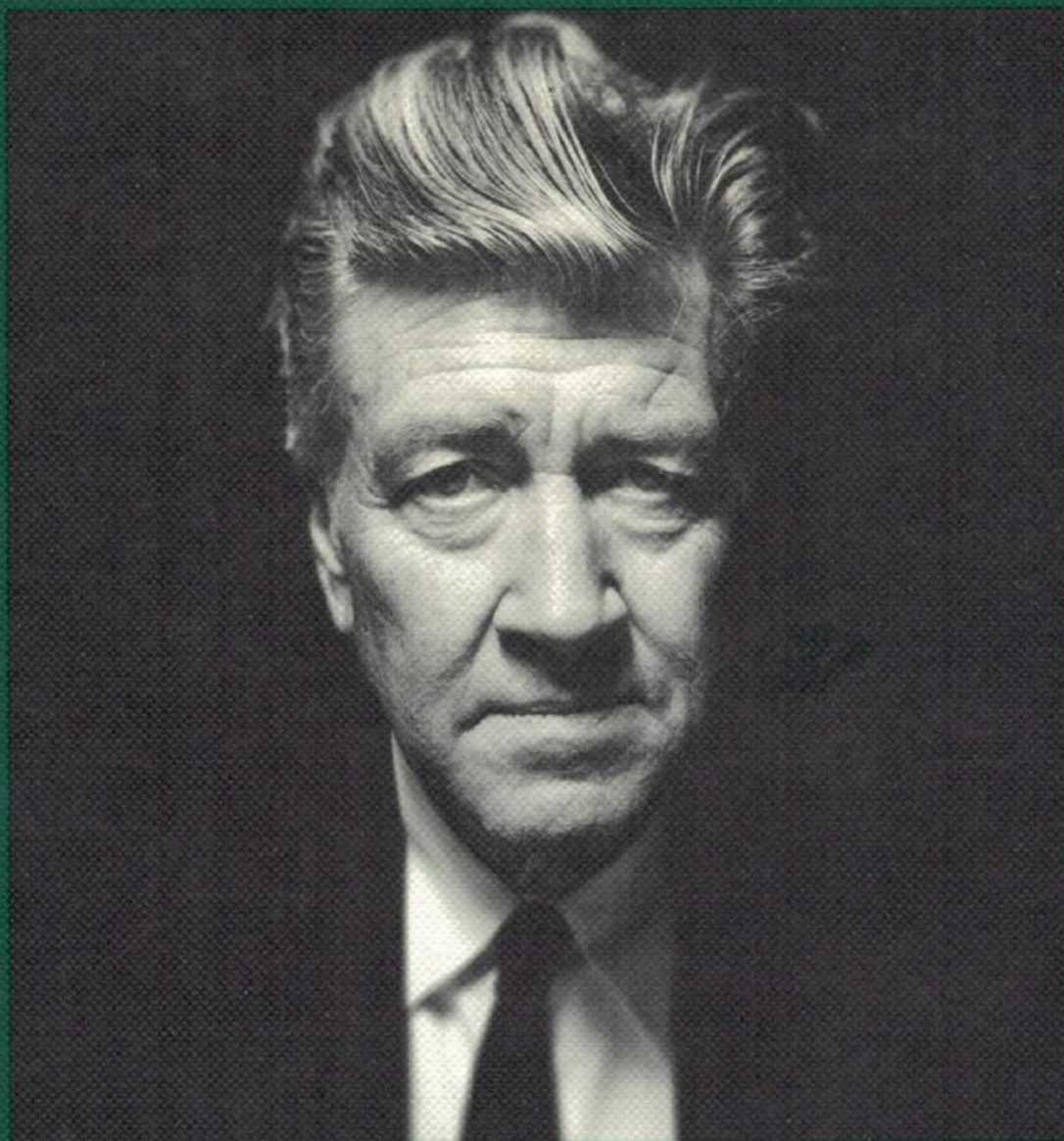

THE TRAVEL ALMANAC



DAVID LYNCH

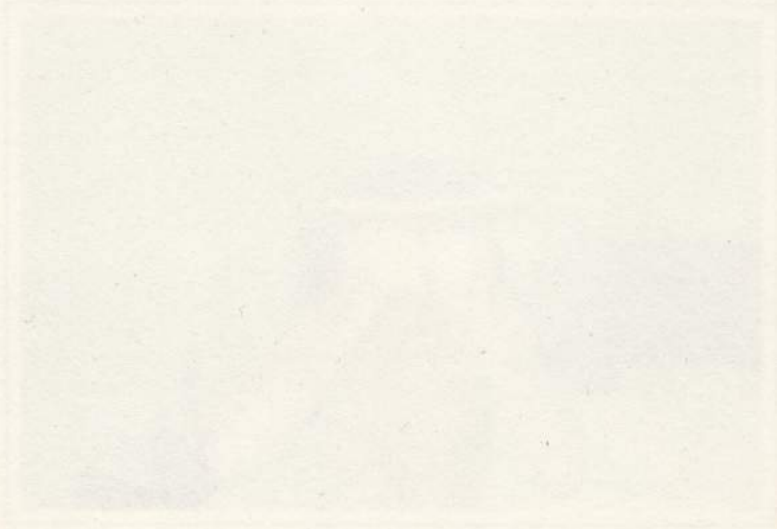
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DAVID LYNCH

Interview by *Brooke Chroman*
Photography by *Adam Bordow*
Painting by *David Lynch*

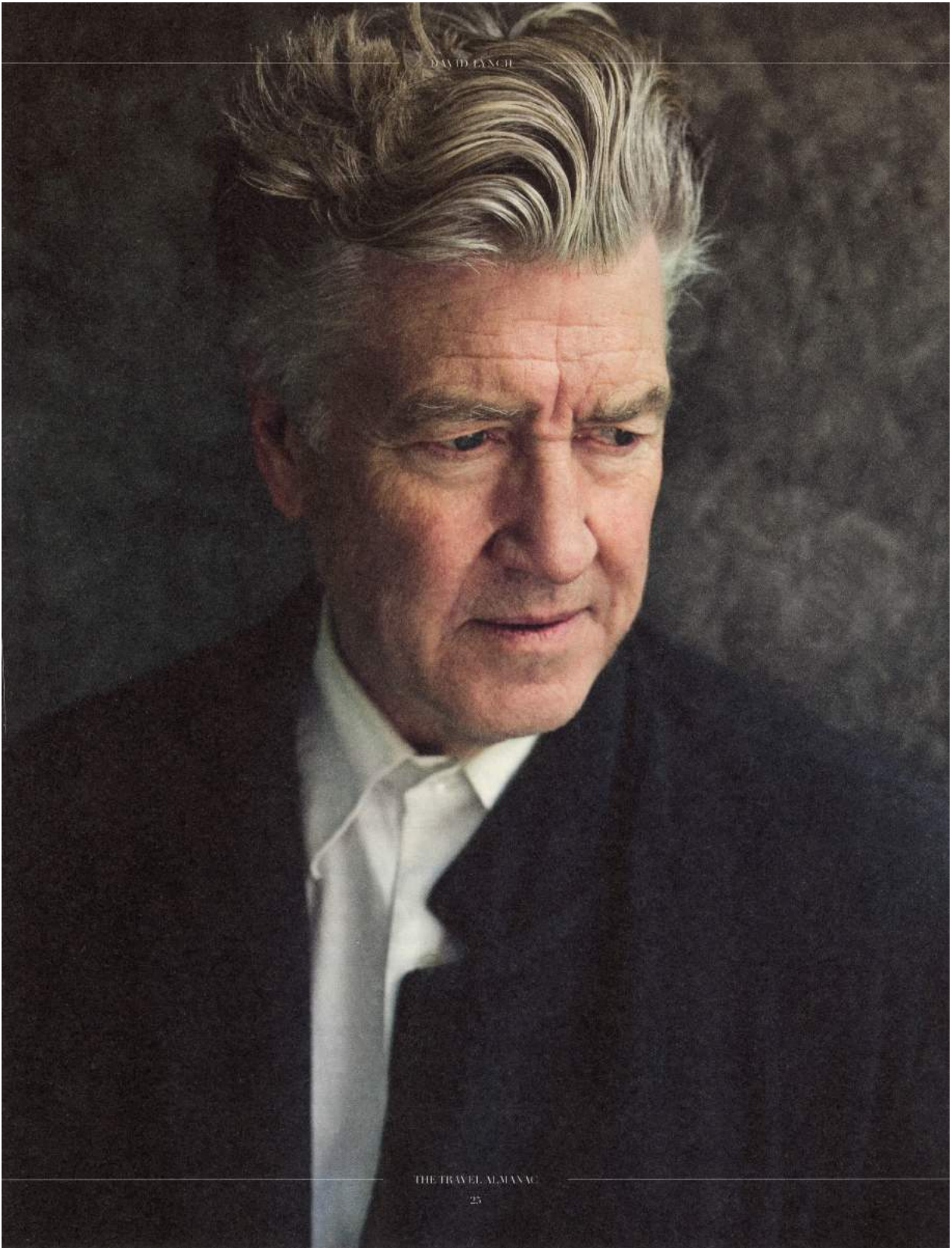




Whether it be through the psychological space of his films or his experiences of “pure consciousness” while practicing Transcendental Meditation, there is no doubt that David Lynch, American filmmaker-extraordinaire, travels even—and maybe especially—when his eyes are closed.

Lynch’s films have not only transported worldwide audiences, but have also defined a world—a territory, which we can collectively refer to. The sentiment which most of us have uttered on bizarre occasion: “It felt like a David Lynch film...” attests to the influence of Lynch’s aesthetic world, as it maps the often invisible, sometimes disturbed, and largely uncharted territories of experience. Lynch creates an artistic world so strong that it becomes not just a cultural reference point, but also an aesthetic adjective for our times.

*In the midst of preparing for his upcoming exhibition of new paintings at the William Griffin Gallery in Los Angeles, David took some time out to contribute to *The Travel Almanac*. Between his wry wit and his belief in the possibility of world peace, one locates David Lynch, seeing that he is not only someone who goes to far off destinations, but someone who creates destinations in himself.*



DAVID LYNCH

THE TRAVEL ALMANAC

25

What is your first memory of traveling?

Riding on the Union Pacific Railway from Spokane, Washington, to New York City. I was maybe three years old, and I was traveling with my mother to Brooklyn, New York, to visit my grandparents, on my mother's side. I remember the knife weighed about five pounds. I remember the train was immaculate. It was so beautiful riding on the train, and it is a huge heartache now that the United States rail service has fallen.

What places have you visited that have had a lasting impact on you, and what were the experiences like?

Lodz, Poland, in the winter is a place that made me instantly start dreaming. Ideas came out of the light and the low hanging dark gray clouds and the derelict factories and the unique architecture of the city.

What are your favorite hotels or places to stay at when you travel?

I really loved the Lancaster Hotel in Paris. I don't stay there anymore because they no longer give the "artist" rate. It was a small hotel, but it was cozy and it felt like being at home.

Do you have any habits or rituals that make you more comfortable when you're away from home?

Smoking—but I quit smoking, so I don't know what is going to happen when I go to Paris next time.

What projects are you currently working on?

I am trying to finish two new paintings for a show at the William Griffin Gallery in Los Angeles, California, on March 19.

The psychological space present in your work proposes quite a radical notion of distance. In other words, that one can go the furthest creatively by "delving into oneself." Could you tell us more about these ideas?

The big Self of us all has infinite ideas.

How does traveling affect your artwork and creative process? What places do you find most conducive to working and why?

The most conducive for working, for me, is home. But many times new places conjure ideas, so it's good to go out from time to time.

What is the David Lynch Foundation, and what personal experiences inspired you to create it?

The David Lynch Foundation for Consciousness-Based Education and World Peace provides scholarships for any student anywhere in the world to learn Transcendental Meditation. And now, the foundation is involved with many other projects, such as helping the homeless, American Indians, veterans who suffer from post-traumatic disorder, prisoners, and children who suffer from abuse. The thing that inspired me to say "yes" to starting a foundation in the first place was my own 30-plus year practice of Transcendental Meditation and my desire to help Maharishi Mahesh Yogi form peace-creating groups, so

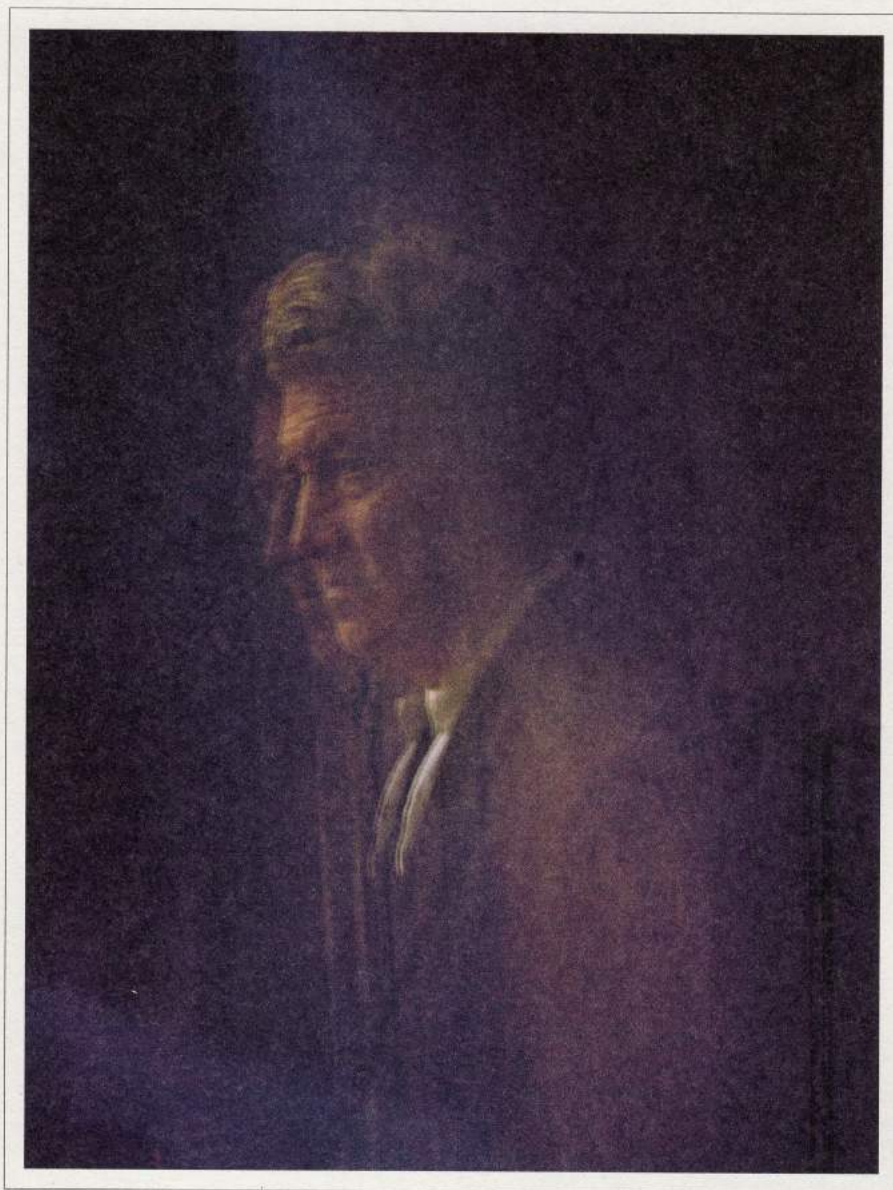
A CONVERSATION WITH

THE TRAVEL ALMANAC

DAVID LYNCH

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A CONVERSATION WITH



THE TRAVEL ALMANAC

»*The transcendent is all-positive—a big unbounded ocean of infinite happiness, creativity, intelligence, energy, love, peace.*«

that we can all enjoy peace on earth.

How does your experience with meditation affect the other aspects of your life?

Transcendental Meditation is like being given a key to the treasury within, and transcending is experiencing that treasury. They say the transcendent is a holistic experience, so all avenues of life start to improve when you start this practice. The transcendent is all-positive—a big unbounded ocean of infinite happiness, creativity, intelligence, energy, love, peace.

Would you share an experience you've had while meditating?

One of the greatest things in meditation is experiencing bliss on the physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual levels, all at once.

What important or interesting differences do you see between "physically" going somewhere, i.e. from Los Angeles to India, or "internal" experiences, such as sitting in the darkness of a theater watching a film?

Both can be great and both can be not-so-great.

Do you think that there are experiences that are universally effective? If so, what are they?

Yes, the experience of the transcendent is universally effective in the most positive way, because human beings are like light bulbs: we radiate out whatever is inside, either positive or negative or just neutral. When a person truly experiences the transcendent—the eternal, deepest level of life, which is all positive—that person affects everything in a positive way. If more people did this, especially did this together, the positive would be so powerful that it would literally bring peace. •