

THE SCENT OF THE QUICKENING HEART

Donna Torres

Oil-on-canvas: 18 X 12 IN. [45.7 X 30.5 CM—*DETAIL* on COVER]

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Filling the window to the left is a fecund **THEOBROMA CACAO-TREE** with two yellow **FRUITS** ripe for the harvest. / The green wallpaper depicts **T. CACAO-FLOWERS** in a brace of forms: budding, and fully opened. / Among the hangings in the upper-left-corner, we see a *detail* from the **TUDELA CODEX**—a Mexica [◁Aztec◁] CODEX out of the XVI Century, which gives pride-of-place to a **CACAO-TREE**. Just beneath this hangs a *detail* from a watercolor-**PAINTING** by Maria Sybilla Merian, who worked documenting in Surinam late in the XVIII Century, particularly. endemic plants and butterflies. Hanging, above-right, is a *detail* from the **TEPANTITLA-MURALS** of Teotihuacan, México—a **CACAO-TREE** dominates this scene. / Standing upon the shelf directly beneath, are two **CERAMIC FIGURINES**. To the left, from the southern coast of Guatemala, is a vessel displaying two **T. CACAO-FRUITS**, depicting a female figure, generally taken to be the **CACAO-◁deity◁**, **IXCACAO**. To her right, is a Classic Mayan **ICON** from Cotzumahuapa (Esquintia, Guatemala)—depicting an elderly man with **CACAO-FRUITS** growing from his body!... surely, a pioneering case of Ott's **CHOCOLATE-◁ADDICTS◁**! / The corner-side-table displays diverse **CHOCOLATE-COMFITS**: a *half*-ingorged **BOX OF CHOCOLATES**; two ◁heart◁-shaped ◁St.◁ Valentine's Day-**CHOCOLATES**; and several, gold-foil enwrapped, **CHOCOLATE-COINS**. These **COINS** repose beside an **ÁMATL-PAPER-WRAPPER** for **CACAO-BEANS**—as **CACÁHUATL**, **CACAO-BEANS** were an international currency! Also upon the table stand two **MUGS** (adorned with *Anadenanthera*-leaves) of **DRINKING-CHOCOLATE** [1.0 H.U. of *Ott Chocolate*,™ perchance... waiting to be dosed?]. / A **CACAO-TREE** with green **FRUITS** splays-o'er the rear kitchen-window. / On the counter, from left to right, we find a type of **BATIDOR**, a sort of **CHURN** for frothing **CACÁHUATL**—using a **MOLINILLO**, or ◁little mill◁, the **BEATER** situated beside it. To its right, we find a **PRE-Columbian owl-effigy-CACAO-VESSEL** dating to the Ecuadorean Jama Coaque-period—which, when excavated, still had detectable **CACAO**-residues (one *Piptadenia*-species in the **JUREMA**-complex had a **CACAO**-alkaloid, **THEOBROMINE**!). / Floor-tiles have abstract, **CACAO**-themed *motifs*. / The bottom-left of the painting features a **BASKET** with gaily multicolored **CACAO-FRUITS**. / The **BED-LINEN** is adorned by **OLOLIUHQUI/COAXIHUITL** foliar and floral designs. That is another **STAPLE** of Oaxacan shamanism. This **TITLE** echoes Ott's **CHAPTER-TITLE**, **PHILTRUM MEXICANORUM: CHOCOLATE AS LOVE-DRUG**.