



Dieter Noss

the *art* of living

Almost 30 years ago the German artist Dieter Noss discovered the south of Lanzarote. First as a tourist, he came over to relax from his work, then as an owner of a property here, shuttling regularly between Munich and Las Breñas. From the very first moment Noss noticed that Lanzarote was a very special place. Ten years ago he took the decision to leave his job in the promotion industry for good, and devote his time exclusively to his art. The south of Lanzarote inspired him in more than one way.



*"As a child I dreamed about living somewhere where you can see the sun going down over the horizon. I call that the **luck of distance** or, even more simply **freedom**. Here in Las Breñas I found exactly the "distance" and "freedom" that I needed for my work. When I go for a walk the ideas come by themselves. Later I try to project all the positive influences of the island through my art. It is such a great place here, a different way of living, or, as I call it "**the art of living**".*

In Las Breñas, Noss has found a place that is away from tourism. Up there in the village he lives, breathes and soaks up the very basics of an island that has evolved over the centuries. *"Here almost nothing has changed. There are some more houses, but the atmosphere is still dominated by the sunsets and the space, nobody will ever take that away. The nice thing about Lanzarote is that away from the tourist centres there are a lot of protected natural parks where you can experience nature at its best. The island has so much power and open areas which are indestructible, nature is in charge and that will stay forever. At the same time you have the freedom to go wherever you like, either to the tourist centres full of life or to the village with nature and its quietude. The two worlds co-exist here in perfect harmony—I like that variety"*

In Las Breñas, Noss has over the years made some good friends, basically people who share his way of living and thinking. *"You notice that Lanzarote is special when you speak to other residents. Many come from a creative background, have seen a lot of places in the world, but finally they bought a house here in the south of the Island. Here you are still*

in Europe and thanks to a good and easy access to the airport you have a direct route to all big European cities. It is important for me to have the opportunity to go back to Germany, only four hours away by plane, because that is where I find more clients and have the opportunity to sell the art that I create here. The flight to Lanzarote is only a little longer than a drive from Munich to Frankfurt, you get on the plane, read a little and you are there. When I am back in Germany and miss the inspiration that nature gives me here, I simply take a flight and come back. The weather is almost always good here, that is something that you never have to think about."

Next to the variety of possibilities, which Noss values very highly, there are other factors that make his life more comfortable. In Las Breñas he doesn't have any communication problems and to live there is very safe. *"I always notice how international this island is, you automatically start speaking a mixture of European languages but everyone seems to understand you, which is as interesting as it is surprising. You are free to be yourself and nobody looks at you. I feel quite integrated, the island is my friend. Even outside around my house I find inspiration, I like to work in the open air, and up to today nobody seems to mind that. Sometimes I come back after months and I always find that everything is exactly as it was when I left. **Where can you find that kind of respect nowadays?** To be able to live fearlessly is a great bonus, another positive thing about living in a village and on this island. For me Las Breñas represents new values: having space, having time and enjoying silence whenever you want to - all this is, for me, a fundamental basis for a fortunate life."* ■



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