



## **ANIMA – Le Retour Du Paradis**

### **André Heller – the creator of ANIMA**

André Heller (born 22 March 1947 in Vienna) is an Austrian artist, author, poet, singer, songwriter and actor.

In November 1972, he travels to Morocco for the first time. It's love at first sight. Spontaneously he cancels all obligations, including a concert tour. Instead of planned three weeks he stays four and a half months. "It was a territory of bliss for me - from the Sahara to the Mediterranean and from the Atlantic to the Rif Mountains," says Heller, describing his feelings about Morocco.

In 1999, in Marrakech, he organizes the concert "Voices of God", an event with spiritual singers, musicians and dancers from twelve cultures that has been broadcast by television in no fewer than 80 countries. In 2005, André Heller directs an award-winning film portrait of the soprano Jessye Norman – once again in Marrakech.

At the age of sixty, Heller acquires eight hectares of fallow land in the south of the city at the foot of the High Atlas and in just six years, using all his experience, talents and savings, creates the magic garden ANIMA, in which blossoms and works of art light up in the lush green of exotic plants. ANIMA is open since 2016.

### **ANIMA – the garden**

ANIMA is a magical place of surprising beauty that you wouldn't expect in the loud and crowded area of greater Marrakech. It's not only a garden: it's an impressive botanical staging. 250+ types of plants, from bamboo over palms and cacti, interact with pieces of art by Pablo Picasso, Keith Haring, undiscovered local talents and many more.

Furthermore, two museum rooms present artists from around the world. Our own Café Paul Bowles offers meals made with spices and ingredients from the garden like saffron, mint or olives.

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