

LARGE, FASCINATING EYES

MAN DESTROYED THE ORDER of nature by his thought and labour. He craved a new discipline through a sequence of self-imposed prohibitions. He was ashamed of his face, a visible sign of difference. He often wore masks, animal masks, as if trying to appease his own treason. When he wanted to appear graceful and strong, he became a beast. He returned to his origins lovingly submerged in the warm womb of nature.

In the Aurignacian epoch the images of men have the forms of hybrids with the heads of birds, apes and deer: in the cave of Trois Frères a human figure is dressed in animal hide and antlers, presiding as “god of the cave” or “the wizard” with large, fascinating eyes. One of the most beautiful portrayals depicts a fabulous animal carnival. A crowd of horses, bucks, bison and a dancing man with a bison’s head who plays a musical instrument.

ZBIGNIEW HERBERT (1924–1998), Poland

Black-maned Lion, William Home Lizars, (1788–1859), England

