



**INTERNATIONAL  
IINSTITUTE  
OF GEOPOETICS**

**Newsletter - n°1  
December 2024**



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**Newsletter n°1  
December 2024**

My properties  
'For Henri Michaux'

I'm a landowner myself after all  
I've got twelve acres of white silence  
up at the back of my skull.

Propriétaire je suis moi aussi  
j'ai douze arpents de silence blanc  
tout au fond du cerveau.



**/Events/****July 2023**

The first **Rencontres Géopoétiques Kenneth White** took place as planned, on July 15 and 16 in Trébeurden, France. Kenneth White was unable to participate due to his health condition. He recorded a word of welcome and had his two lectures read. The conferences, films, readings, exhibitions were very much appreciated. Most of the speeches have been recorded and are available in audio and text in the Report published [on our website](#). Their success was one of his last opportunities to celebrate in Gwenved.

**August 2023**

On August 11, 2023, **Kenneth White passed away** in his eighty-seventh year, at his home in Gwenved, from a relapsing cancer. His funeral took place on August 16, in privacy. He left an immense body of work that his friends, his readers and the International Institute of Geopoetics will hold as high as possible.

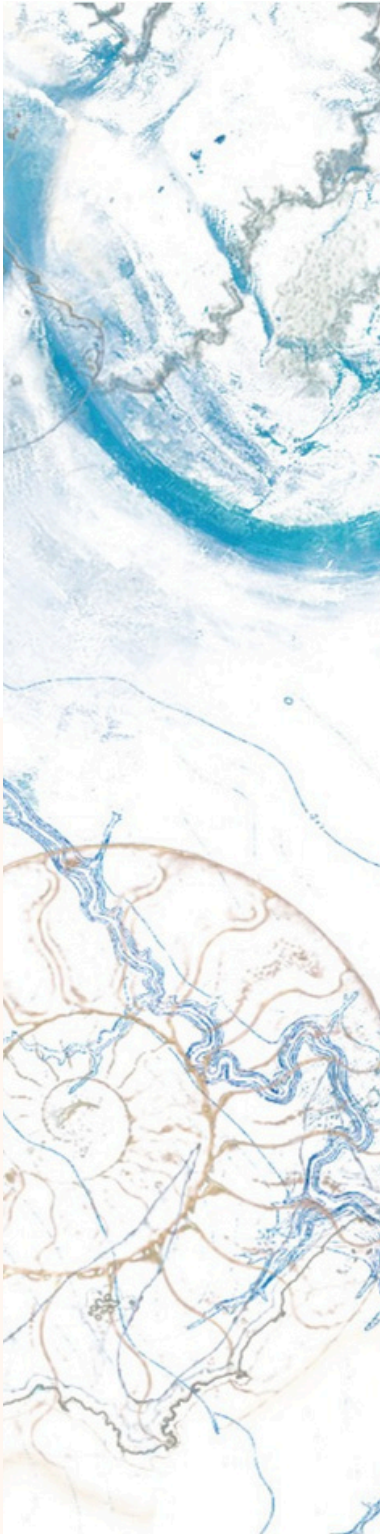
**April 2024**

Benoît Delplanque, from the Association Gourgounel, organized a **“Tribute to Kenneth White”**; from April 13 over two weeks, in Joyeuse (Ardèche). The “Open World” exhibition presented many documents, some of which were rare. This tribute concluded on Kenneth White’s birthday, April 28, with readings by Benoît Delplanque and Frédéric Faure, as well as a [conference by Régis Poulet](#).

**June 2024**

The Institute participated in the **conference “Kenneth White: Travels in Euramerasia”**; organized in Glasgow on June 14 and 15 by the [Scottish Centre for Geopoetics](#), Islands in the Global Age ArtsLab at the University of Glasgow, Heriot-Watt University and the Research Institute of Irish and Scottish Studies, University of Aberdeen.

Inauguration of the **exhibition “MAPE/ Cartography of the Insular Body”** by Yannick Barazer from 14 to 22 June at the Salle Muriāvai (Papeete) [[see in this issue of the L’Océanite / The Storm Petrel](#) a detailed presentation of the exhibition].

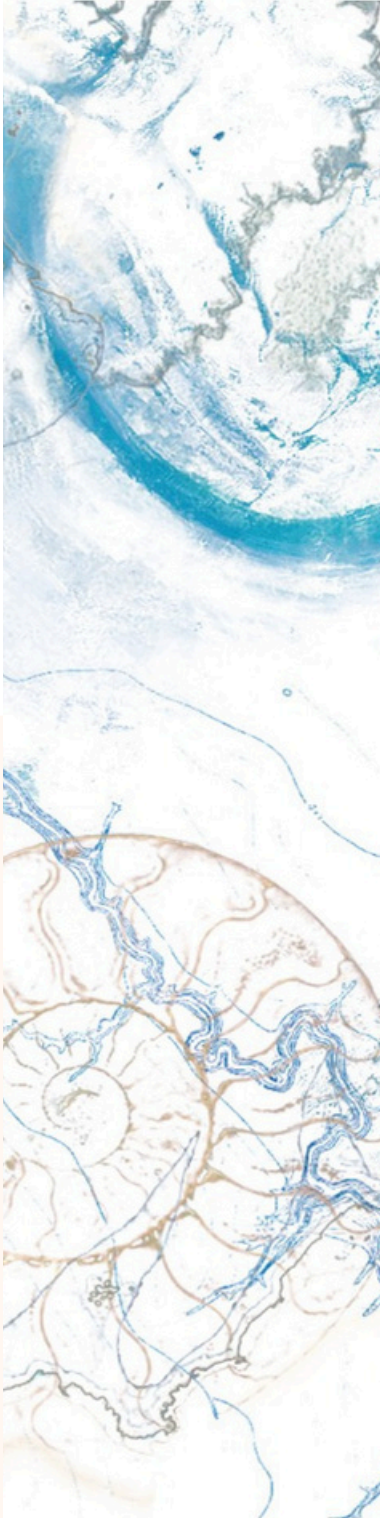
/Events/**July 2024**

The Institute participated, with lectures by Dominique Rousseau and Régis Poulet [available in this issue of *L'Océanite / The Storm Petrel*], in the first **Symposium de Rencontres transatlantiques de Labgéopoétiques** which was held online on [YouTube](#), from Bahia (Brazil). These conferences were organized by Lirandina Gomes and Georgios Dimitriadis, among others.

**August 2024**

A second geopoetic centre was created in Brazil, in Jaguariuna (São Paulo, Brazil): **the Instituto Brasileiro de Geopoética e Paisagens Culturais (IBGPC)**, directed by Rosana Tavares, Marise Campos de Souza & Georgios Dimitriadis, which has the project of translating Kenneth White's *Le Plateau de l'albatros* into Portuguese. Visit on our website by clicking on the image.



/Publications/

- **Régis POULET**, *Gondawana*, poem, Éditions Isolato, Nancy, 119 pages, 20€, ISBN 9782354480547.

“At a time when the collective destiny of living beings is threatened, this long poem evokes the epic adventure of the human species from its origins to the present day in its close relationship with marine and terrestrial places, with the living beings that have populated them and still populate them.

The contemporary physical and mental exploration of several regions of the ancient geological province of Gondwana – and with that *a* of the origin and new beginnings that appears at the heart of Gondwana – gives these verses the strength of an intensely lived experience in contact with the elements, the natural world and the peoples, in search of the richest anarcho-archaic order to open and ground a world”.



- The following two publications are not paper publications but they are no less important, on the one hand it is a **'webography'** (accessible by clicking on the image) which offers free access to a selection of audio (50 hours), video (18 hours) and text (more than 100 sources) resources with Kenneth White or around him in French and English.

### Ressources Web sur Kenneth White

#### Articles

Page 1 sur 4

Vous trouverez ci-dessous un ensemble de ressources audiovisuelles, radiophoniques et textuelles relatives à Kenneth White, telles qu'on peut les trouver sur internet.

Avant de vous laisser les explorer, il est nécessaire d'apporter quelques précisions.

L'initiative de cette "Webographie" revient à Guillaume Maylander, qui l'a envoyée à Kenneth White et à moi-même en 2020. Lui et moi avons examiné les références indexées et avons procédé à quelques modifications (ajouts, retraites). Comme l'on peut s'y attendre pour internet, la qualité de ce qui est proposé varie parfois grandement, selon la qualité du matériel et selon les compétences dans la prise de son ou d'image.

Les ressources se partagent en audio, vidéo et texte avec une distinction, pour chacune de ces catégories, entre les interventions de Kenneth White lui-même et celles qui parlent de son œuvre et de la géopoétique (mais peut-on distinguer l'une de l'autre ?). Si la plupart des ressources textuelles de Kenneth White existent sous forme publiée, les documents audio et vidéo ont quant à eux le mérite de rendre perceptible la dimension orale de la communication de White. Les autres ressources peuvent quant à elles apporter un éclairage utile ou précieux sur la géopoétique qui s'y déploie. (Régis Poulet)

ACCÈS DIRECT :

- RESSOURCES AUDIO
- RESSOURCES VIDEO
- RESSOURCES ÉCRITES

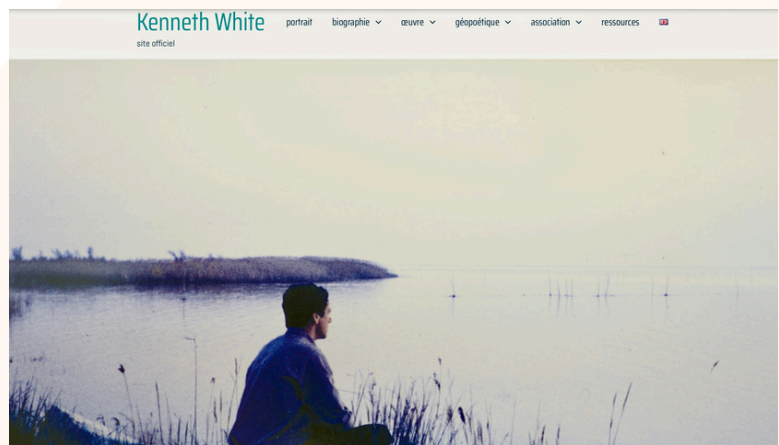
#### Index de l'article

RESSOURCES WEB SUR  
KENNETH WHITE

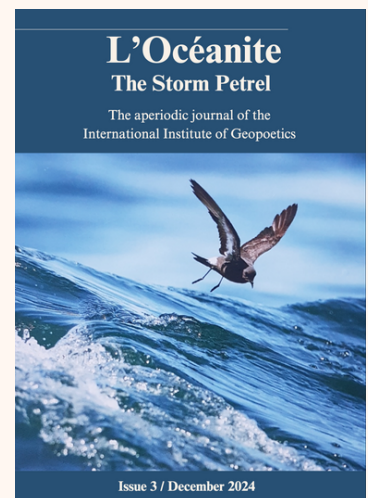


/Publications/

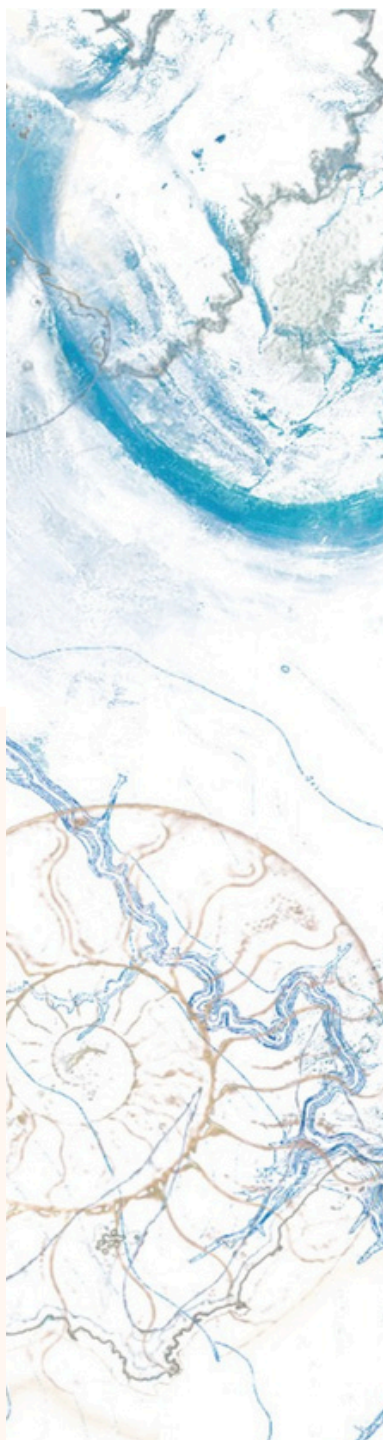
- The other publication is **the new Kenneth White website** ([kennethwhite.fr](http://kennethwhite.fr)), launched during his lifetime and completed since. It should be consulted in conjunction with the website of the International Institute of Geopoetics. Compared to the former site, it is considerably enriched. Still bilingual in French and English, it includes a portrait and biography of Kenneth White, a presentation of his work in Narratives, Poetry, Essays, Interviews — presented through index cards, as well as Artist's Books and Films & Videos.



- **Publication of L'Océanite / The Storm Petrel, n. 3, December 2024**, Journal of the International Institute of Geopoetics, available in French and English.



## /Announcement of the 2ndes Rencontres Géopoétiques Kenneth White/



### **Theme for the 2nd Rencontres Géopoétiques Kenneth White at the Saline Royale d'Arc-et-Senans, France, on September 27 and 28, 2025.**

Of the Place – the Local, to the whole Earth – the Global, Thought is sometimes going astray.

The relationships between near and far, nature and culture, matter and spirit form a complex continuum that stretches from landscape to the poem and that runs through disciplines as different as philosophy, painting, gardening, natural sciences, architecture, ecology.

Kenneth White defined geopoetics as the theory of a tectonics of the Earth. Its transdisciplinary character even makes it architectonics, in the sense that the goals of science, art, and philosophy are the means of geopoetics, which aims to ground a world where the relationship between man and nature would enjoy a new harmony.

During these second Rencontres Géopoétiques Kenneth White, we would like to question the relationships of proximity, affinity and poetic continuity between landscape, garden, architecture, by practicing intellectual nomadism, from the West to the East.

This will involve questioning what it means to inhabit a place, a house, language; on the relevance or even the existence of limits between nature and culture when following the lines of the world with geopoetics; on the individual and collective relationship to all this.

From landscape painting to the garden of the literati, from the figure of the hut to White's Moustier des fous (the birds), we will explore the ways of a thought that is and is not new, and that seeks to respond, beyond all the emergencies we are facing, to the challenge of poetically inhabiting the Earth.

### **Régis Poulet**





/An artist book by Kenneth White/



*Les Cygnes sauvages*, Leal Torres editions, 2021, translation and photographs by Marie-Claude White.

**The work :** neither a novel nor a simple travel narrative, *Les Cygnes sauvages* (The Wild Swans) is part of Kenneth White's series of books that he calls waybooks. The way in question is not pre-established. If the term makes one think, and legitimately, of the Chinese Tao and the eightfold path of Buddhism, here the way is made by walking. The place of the experience is Japan, and the itinerary goes from the teeming city of Tokyo to the wide open spaces of the northern island of Hokkaido (meaning "the North Sea road" in Japanese). This is the road that the poet Matsuo Basho, master of haiku, wanted to follow in the seventeenth century, but which, falling ill on the way, he had to give up and did not complete. By extending this journey, White suggests, without insisting, that what matters first in the culture of the world is the encounter between extreme affinities across space and time. It is also possible to understand within "cygnes sauvages" (wild swans) the notion of "signes sauvages" (wild signs), that is to say the indications of a space outside all the codes and codifications that limit and suffocate the mind. This space is conveyed in the book by the arrival on a lake, in the north of Hokkaido, of migratory birds that have come from Siberia to winter in Japan.

**The book :**Text by Kenneth White, illustrated with 9 unpublished photographs by Marie-Claude White. French translation by Marie-Claude White. The text was composed in Gauthier monotype size 12, an exclusive character of the Imprimerie Nationale. This 136-page book in 22 x 28.5 cm format was printed on Pescia Editions 160 g of Magnani Papers on the typographic presses of the Atelier du Livre d'art et de l'Estampe of the Imprimerie nationale in Flers-en-Escrebieux, France, in July 2021. The photographs were printed in intaglio in June 2021 on the presses of the Atelier Moret from solar plates prepared by Malax company. The Coptic binding was made by the Atelier Célia Casal with glass covers from the Atelier Verglass. The linen envelopes were dyed and made by Yuko Kitta. From this book, put in a wooden box designed by Eduardo di Muzio and produced by V&P Agencement, 35 copies were printed, including 5 non-commercial copies numbered from I to V.

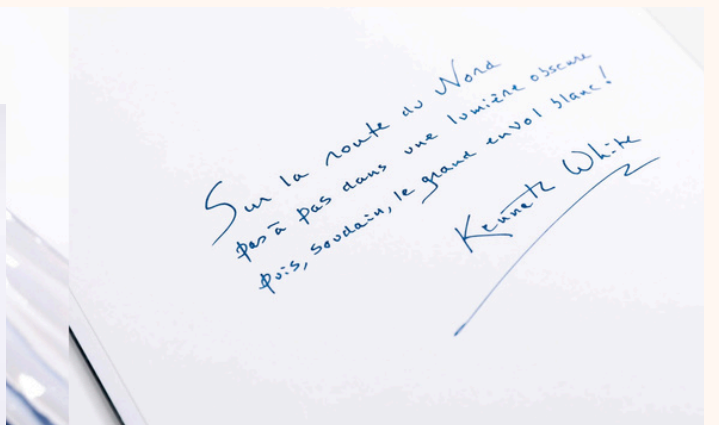
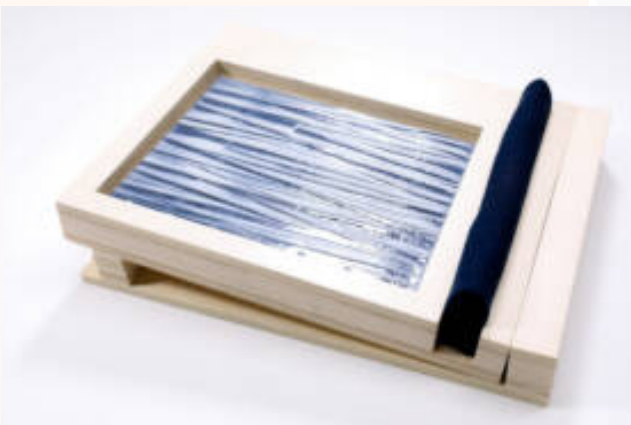
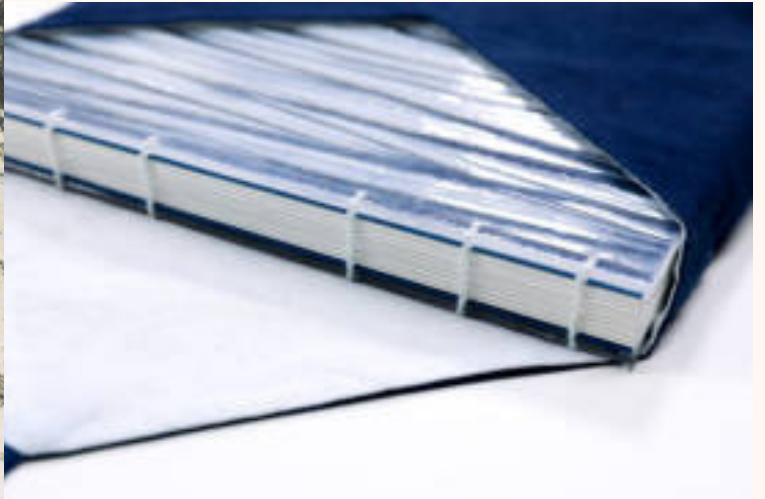
Sol nippon :

Littoral et montagnes. Golfes, baies, promontoires. Terre volcanique, convulsée, ravagée, lavée par le vent et la pluie, par les marées et les brouillards, par un jeu vapoureux d'eau, de brume et de soleil. Torrents fougueux, cascades et feuilles rouges...

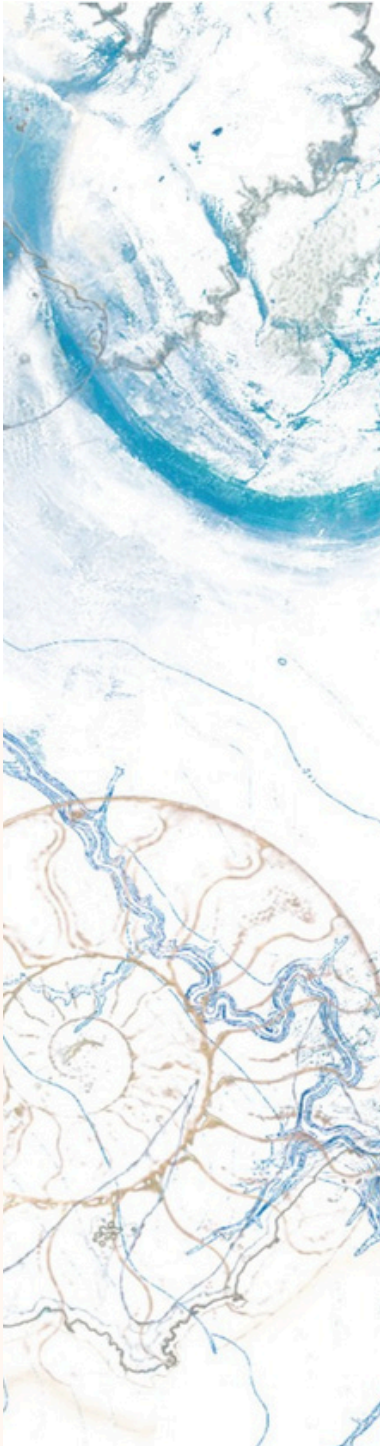
Je voulais m'immerger dans tout cela : dans l'énergie et le rythme et la lumière de tout cela. Et je voulais, si possible, voir les cygnes sauvages venus de Sibérie s'abattre avec leurs cris d'outre-terre sur les lacs du Nord où ils viennent hiverner.

Oui, voilà ce que je voulais.

«Vol pour Tokyo : Porte 17.»





/Some light on the horizon/

**The International Institute of Geopoetics** has existed for almost thirty-five years. This means that its foundation is based on solid ground, proven by time. Kenneth White, who was its founder and president until 2013, passed away in August 2023, not without having mapped out the future.

But let us return for the moment and in broad strokes to the history of the geopoetics movement. Founded on the birthday of Kenneth White on April 28, 1989, the International Institute of Geopoetics has seen a rapid influx of people who sense new existential and intellectual perspectives – an unprecedented freshness. This was the time of the publication of the *Cahiers de géopoétique*, where White brought together transdisciplinary contributions covering the field that his work was opening at the confluence of art, science and philosophy. This was the time when the essay *Le Plateau de l'Albatros* (1994) appeared, an introduction to geopoetics to which those who wanted to understand the basics of this theory-practice never failed to refer. It was also the time, at the organisational level, when White proposed an archipelagisation of the Institute (1993) to promote the creation of research groups here and there in France, Europe and the world. A successful initiative, with a dozen centres emerging rapidly.

Until the 2010s, this structure unfolded like any movement, with its ups and downs. In “Clarifications and Perspectives – Lettre ouverte de Kenneth White” (2015), he wrote: “When I proposed an ‘archipelagisation’ to the Institute in 1993, I knew what I was exposing both the Institute and the geopoetics idea to: dilution of the concept, personal ambitions, separatist tendencies... suffice to say that the possible tendencies that I had foreshadowed did not fail to manifest themselves, here and there, on various occasions.” A quick glance on the internet, in particular, was enough to note a multiplicity of very approximate uses of the geopoetics idea. Kenneth White then proposed, at the 28th General Assembly of the IIG (2016), the oceanisation of the Institute to “include and transcend” this state of affairs [1]. The legitimate hope was that a “well-understood and well-developed geopoetics, that is to say, without hasty amalgams, without confusion” would flourish, and that the Institute would remain, “for groups and for individuals, like a lighthouse”, continuing “to play the role that was his from the beginning, remaining the main reference point in terms of geopoetics, the place of the maximum concentration”.

[1] <https://www.institut-geopoetique.org/fr/textes-fondateurs/302-idees-de-kenneth-white-concernant-l-evolution-de-l-institut>



/Some light on the horizon/

How can the geopoetics idea not be misconceived, circumscribed and weakened? The most obvious, but one that deserves to be said and repeated, is to listen to Kenneth White. It is indeed to read and read him again. It is also important to point out, by insisting, that the theoretical work continued for thirty years after *Le Plateau de l'albatros*, in that an introduction to geopoetics: *Panorama géopoétique, Au large de l'Histoire*, not to mention *The Fundamental Field* have taken thinking further. The dilution of the concept, the personal ambitions have not failed to manifest themselves again since the death of White, where one sees some waking up from a sleep of twenty years and deciding that only poetry counts in his work. They make the basic mistake of confusing poetry (the literary genre) and poetics, which White developed and implemented in his essays, his waybooks and his poems [2]. Here we see others bringing down geopoetics to its lowest common denominator as with our time. A work like White's requires patience and above all humility. Those who think that geopoetics is obvious, is simple, are mistaken. Accessing a new space of thought is always complex and any simplification is falsification.

I have been one of Kenneth White's closest companions for ten years—ever since he proposed that I succeed him as head of the Institute—and have accompanied him on his last moments. He entrusted me, as literary executor, to watch over his material work (his house Gwened is destined to become a house of artists and writers) and immaterial (the Institute and his work). But he knew that his faithful friends would also be there so that his work would continue to unfold in all its present and future extent. The theoretical work of geopoetics will also see, with unpublished essays by Kenneth White, new developments confirming that this theory is an attractor of post-historical thought.

**Régis Poulet**

Gwened, February 2024

[2] "As for the other part of this dense and complex term, geopoetics, there is no word in our civilisation that is more misunderstood than 'poetic'. It would appal me to make a list of all its trivial uses, not to mention all its limited practices. In my own research I went back to the *poietikos* (poetic intelligence) of Aristotle, enriching it in various ways, in order to find the equivalent for us today that were, for Greek culture, the oceanic poetics of Homer, which irrigates the agora, and, for Chinese culture, *The Book of Odes*, which, contrary to the excessive centralisation of Chinese culture, conveys "the wind of the territories". (Kenneth White)

/General Assembly/Membership/

- **The Institute's Board of Directors** was renewed at the last General Assembly on October 26, 2024 in Lyon.
- **The Minutes of the General Assembly** of 26 October are accessible to IIG members by logging on to the site in the Members' Area.
- **To join the IIG and to update your membership fee**, you can contact the secretariat at the following address: [secretariat@institut-geopoetique.org](mailto:secretariat@institut-geopoetique.org) or write to the President for any request for information: [presidence@institut-geopoetique.org](mailto:presidence@institut-geopoetique.org)

/Contacts/

- Find the **Institute website**
- Visit our **Facebook Page**
- Discover the new **Kenneth White site** : <https://kennethwhite.fr/>



