



MARINA OLYMPIOS

Front Cover

Man and Woman Together as One

Mineral colours on canvas, 123 x 183 cm

Back Cover

A satellite across the emptiness

Mineral colours on canvas, 163 x 103 cm

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MARINA OLYMPIOS
An Everlasting Love
2018 - 2023

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RIANA RAOUNA GALLERY

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An Everlasting Love – A Future Dream

“One cell said YES to another cell and then life began”. Thus wrote Clarice Lispector or, even better, as the ancient Asclepiades wrote “Love is the architect of the Universe”. Ever since I was a child, I have been finding mineral colours and crystals in Akamas, in the mine of the Burning Lake in Polis Chrysochous, blue agates, red and green jasper in Mansoura. For me this is absolute happiness and the Discovery of Beauty. All the magic, from the moment the road turns at the Petra tou Romiou, where the geological formation of Pachna ends and Mamonnia begin.

It is as if I am moving into the magic of the living Myth. I remember Agapenor who, upon his return from Troy, came down here and worshipped the Goddess of Desire and Love. Nicocles, who established here the Commonwealth of the Cypriots in the 4th century BC by taking copper from the earth. Theokritos, who was clear about the Cypriot Heavenly Venus, worshipping her on these grounds.

In my first exhibition in Paphos, I am showing the paintings that I have been working on for the last twenty-two years, with mineral natural colours that I collect from the earth from all over the world. I paint for lust for life. A dreamlike quest in sexuality.

A naked female body interacting with fluid, idyllic landscapes. The starting point for the creation of naked bodies is desire. The forms with the fluid identity and the spectral colour presence are bodies that desire and at the same time become objects of desire. In 2023 we live in interesting times when it comes to gender ideological issues, and everything is more fluid.

The emotion of the ochre, the matter in my hands and the painting carries the spirituality of a woman’s gesture. The randomness of the meeting of matter and body. A conversation between the spirit and the body as the philosophers Deleuze, Nietzsche, Bergson said.

I am like the prehistoric people in the caves of Lascaux who painted with worshipful gestures and dances, like the Hagiographers who painted and prayed. Devotional gesture and the eventual corporealization of the images.

I systematically weave a self-fiction. The atmosphere of the works exudes peace and beauty. Like in a sunset when you realize that time is passing.

In contrast to the climate of the times, the exhibition creates a sense of innocence, an optimism. Creating this oasis is my goal. My joy radiates. The works give a sense of peace. An endless adventure, a future dream.

Palaia Paphos was one of the Holy pilgrimage centres of the ancient world. The Sacred Conical “vaitylos” (conical stone) symbolised the power of the Goddess as the worship of Aphrodite was non-figurative. Pilgrims offered their contribution only with oil, incense and perfumes, and received the effigy of a phallus and a lump of salt.

On my works, the Hours, the Graces, the Winged Cupids appear like the waters of the Diarizos river that bathed the ancients and worshipped Queen Aphrodite. Aphrodite, that is Beauty, is responsible for the entire annual Renaissance of Nature. Just like that, my painting is a celebration of Nature. Stones are the most beautiful land. A Piece of the Sky.

The spiritual power that the earth gives me, the chemistry of Matter, and I know that the creation of the world did not happen in one day and forever, but it happens every day that I live and paint.

Painting is more real than reality. I paint the power of a woman taking root in the rainbow. I paint the hidden sources of water; the landscape is the person who sees it and the magic of art lies in the fact that each visitor discovers their own landscape.

My paintings are iridescent like stones. The world you live with your senses. The search for the indeterminate becomes an observation of the multiple, the multitude, the infinitesimal. It is those little details that matter.

Painting, like storytelling, is an act of intervention in duration, a magic that affects the flow of time by contracting or expanding it. It is the spontaneous, the natural world that lifts you up in the air.

Painting as redemption from human intolerance.

Desire is my strongest motive. Against logic. The earth is not just a place where some are being killed and the rest look on. On earth you can dream and create. Inside the space of each canvas, I relive the history of the colour red. From cave paintings up to my own hands, red from my ochres.

The first women to adopt the red tint on their face were from Mesopotamia. Crushing stones to decorate their lips, like us, the women of today.

Red ochre: This natural mineral is composed of hydrated iron oxide. And the Greek word "ochros" means pale yellow.

The colour of blood and life has always been attractive to people. Artists wanted to depict a wounded beast to ensure the happy outcome of the hunt by sympathetic magic.

Because the mineral itself, iron oxide, is found in an area where there was or is active volcanic activity, it is now carried onto my own canvas, where there is emotional and spiritual searching.

In the age we live in, where everyone is sure of their own truth and tries to impose it on others, the work of art represents the rejection of the absolute. It is the apotheosis of search and rebirth.

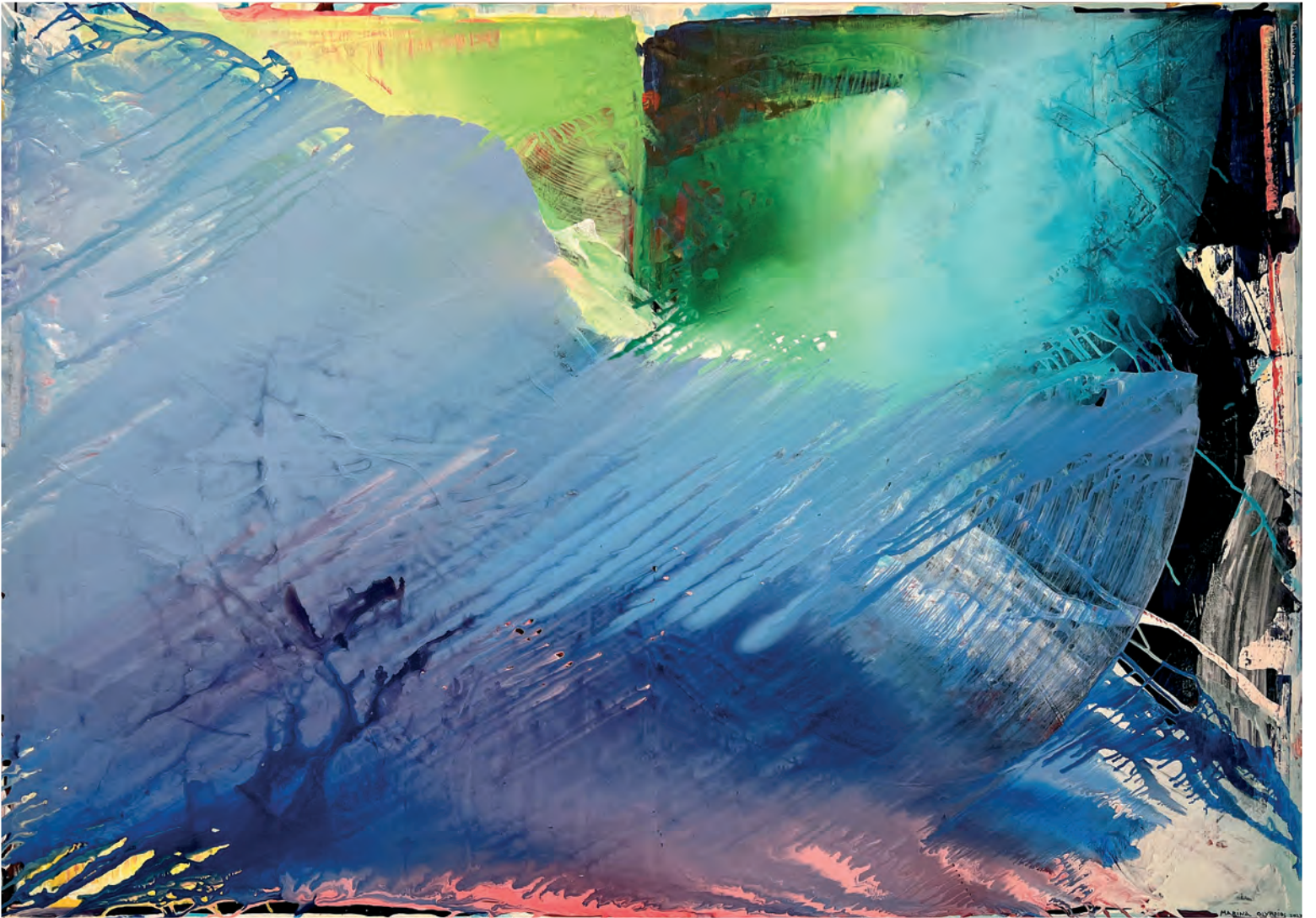
My work "An Everlasting Love" is dedicated to the search for Beauty and Love, Understanding, Empathy, and the Alternative view of ourselves.

My own sacred is never didactic. It is not an answer but a question. Those that were once thought to be unspeakable and non-existent now come to light, they exist.

All primordial intelligence on a perpetual journey into the modern subconscious. And do not forget: Art is being your absolute self.

Marina Olympios

27 March, 2023



The Dreaming Tree
Mineral colours on canvas, 143 x 203 cm

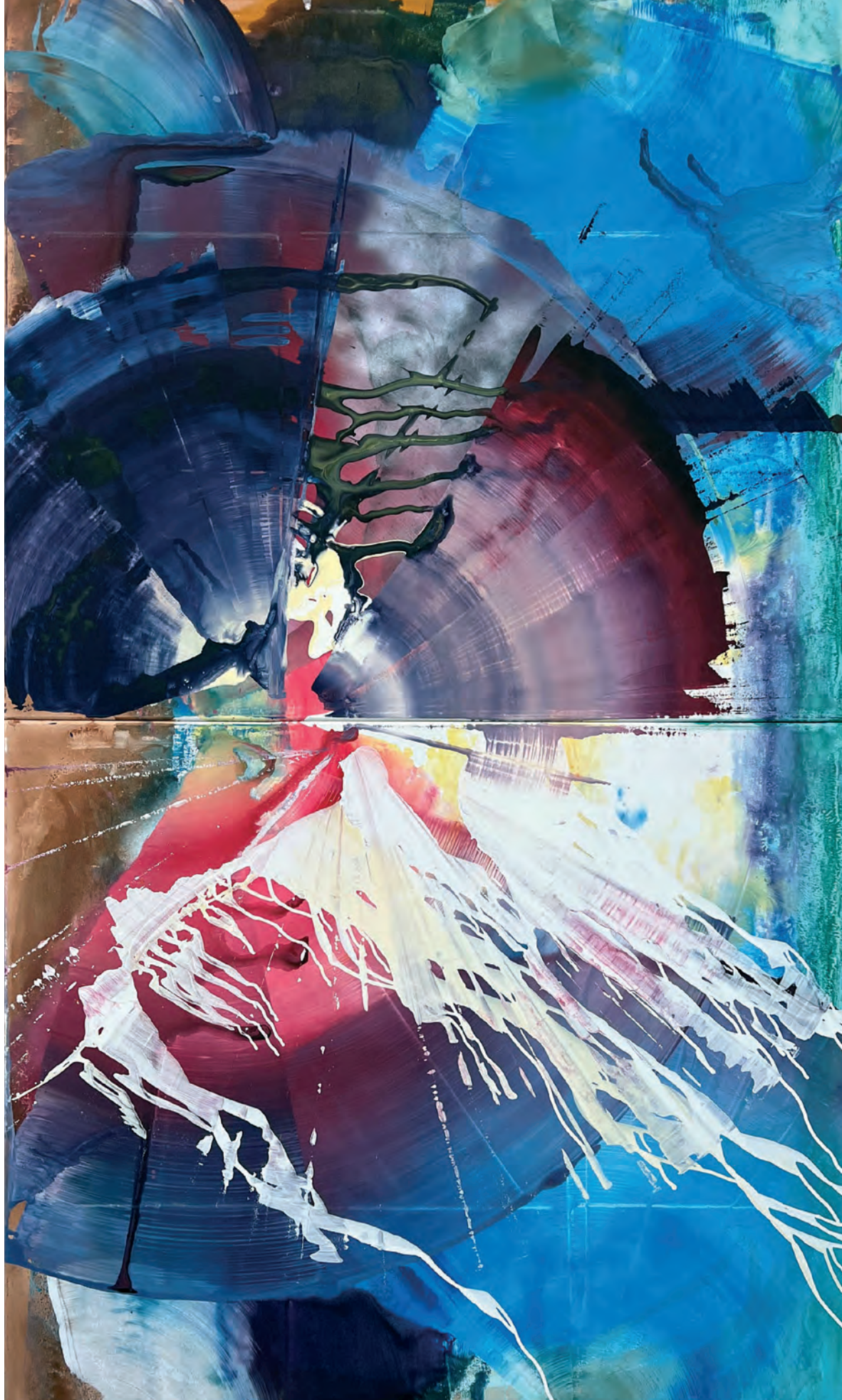


It takes time to understand
Mineral colours on canvas, 103 x 203 cm



Beautiful Helen and the Moon
Mineral colours on canvas, 202 x 123 cm

Woman holding the World
Mineral colours on canvas
245 x 140 cm





The Secret Source of Water
Mineral colours on canvas, 163 x 102,5 cm



Vitality and infinity are carried out through passion
Mineral colours on canvas, 124 x 206 cm



Woman as Inclusion in an Ammonite
Mineral colours on canvas, 123 x 203 cm



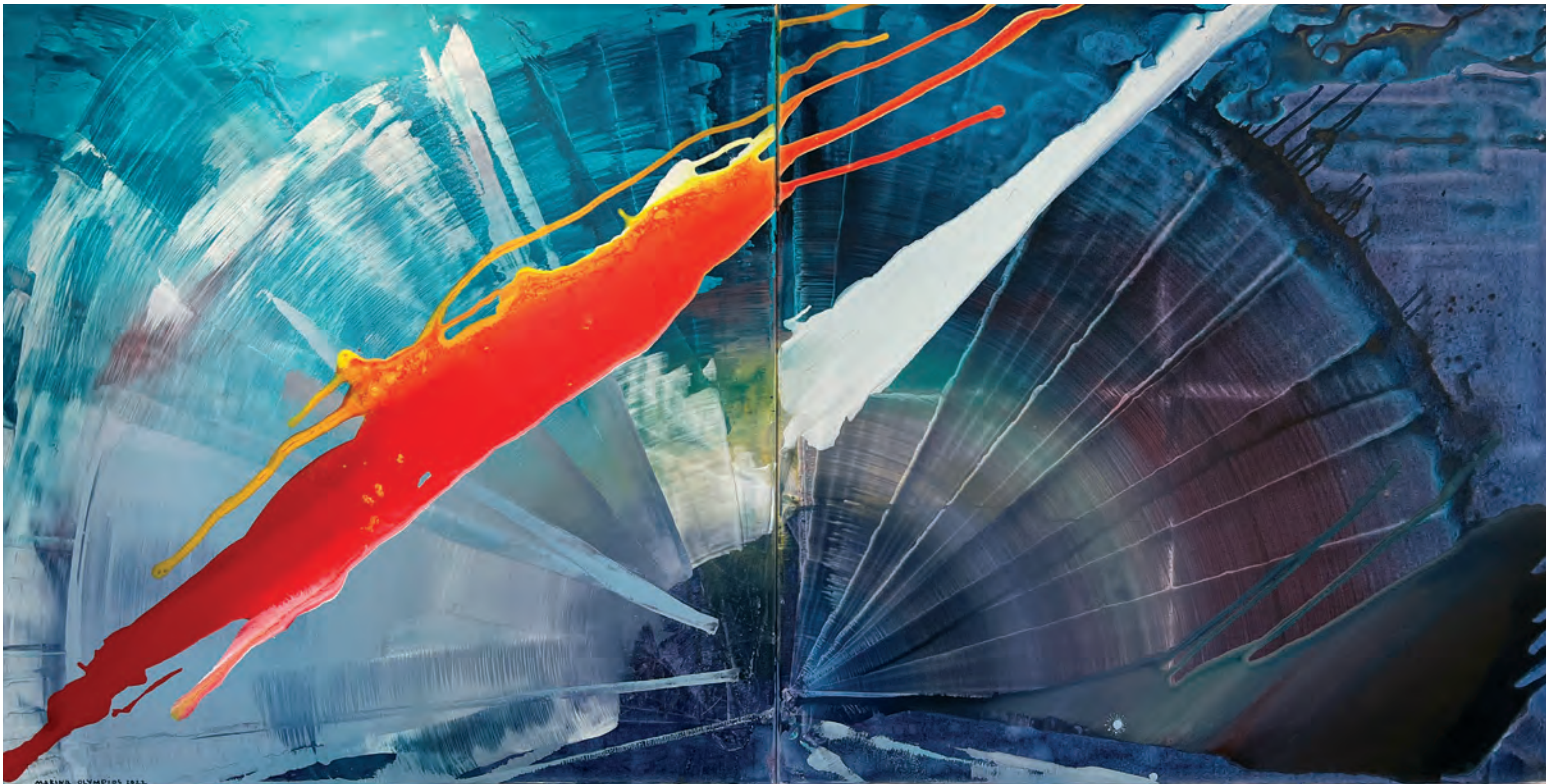
Light does not tread upon the steps of light
Mineral colours on canvas, 120 x 180 cm



Art is about the freedom of the intellect
Mineral colours on canvas, 102 x 203 cm

An Everlasting Love
Mineral colours on canvas, 203 x 102 cm





A tender heart is always flying
Mineral colours on canvas, 102 x 203 cm



A tender heart is always open
Mineral colours on canvas, 102 x 203 cm



Life is Liquid
Mineral colours on canvas, 102 x 203 cm



The Story of the Rainbow Girl
Mineral colours on canvas, 102 x 203 cm



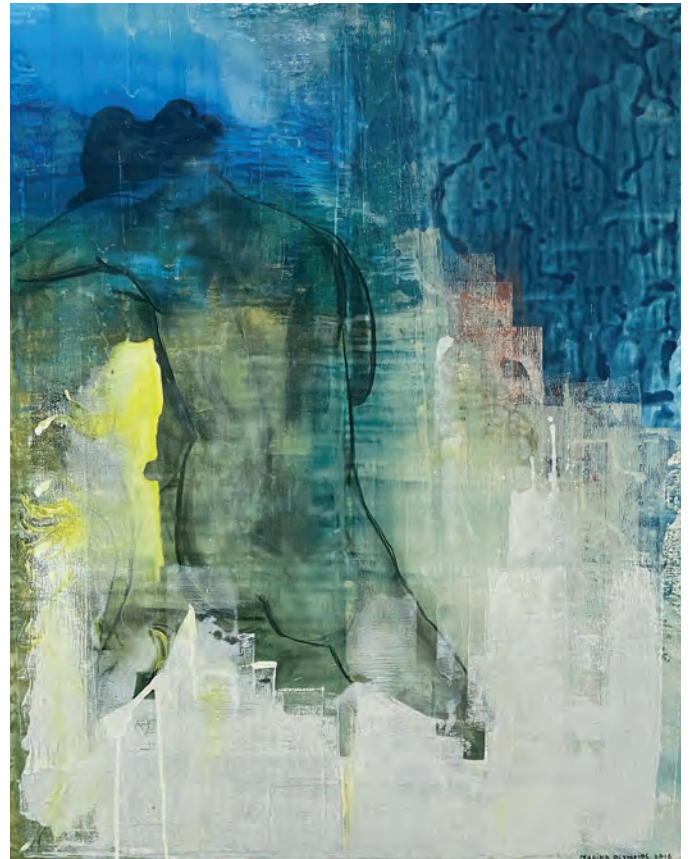
Time Crystals: A New Form of Matter
Mineral colours on canvas, 102 x 203 cm



Equanimity the Element of True Love
Mineral colours on canvas, 102 x 203 cm



A Stone Communion
Mineral colours on canvas, 122 x 103 cm



CuSO₄ 5H₂O - Chalcantite is her name
Mineral colours on canvas, 123 x 103 cm

Jaquinta
Mineral colours on canvas, 123 x 93 cm



I have work to do on the geography of volcanos

Mineral colours on canvas, 102,5 x 62 cm

The Hour of Light

Mineral colours on canvas, 102,5 x 62 cm



Encounter in Heaven
Mineral colours on canvas, 92 x 62 cm

Sometimes magic is the only reality
Mineral colours on canvas, 92 x 62 cm



Thinking about what is made of.
The process of learning about ourselves
Mineral colours on canvas, 64 x 52 cm

This must be the heart this is only a dream
Mineral colours on canvas, 64 x 52 cm

Aqua Marina
Mineral colours on canvas, 64 x 52 cm



My body is a river
Mineral colours on canvas, 64 x 52 cm

Below sea level
Mineral colours on canvas, 64 x 52 cm

Flying spirit of a woman's life
Mineral colours on canvas, 64 x 52 cm



Below the ground level

Mineral colours on canvas, 64 x 52 cm

It rains diamonds on Saturn and Jupiter

Mineral colours on canvas, 64 x 52 cm

Sometimes miracles are just good people with kind hearts

Mineral colours on canvas, 64 x 52 cm



Text me about the upright sea cliffs
Mineral colours on canvas, 64 x 52 cm

Marina Olympios

Born in 1968, Marina Olympios studied in Paris where she graduated from the École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux - Arts of Paris with a diploma in Sculpture - multimedia (avec les félicitations du Jury). In 1994 she received a grant for research and worked at the Institut des Hautes Études en Arts Plastiques in Paris. In 1995 she received the prize for research in Visual Arts of the French Ministry of Culture FIACRE. In 1996 she worked in the International Studio-Curator Programme in New York financed by the A.F.A.A French Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

She presented 21 solo exhibitions (selection below):

- 1992 "L'Art est Justice" CENTRE GEORGES POMPIDOU, Revue Parlée, Paris, France
- 1994 "Eating Philosophy" Galerie OZ, Paris, France
- 1994 "Medals of Honour" Galerie OZ, Paris, France
- 1995 "Let Me Be Your Guide" Galerie Renos Xippas, Paris, France
- 1995 "The Travesty of Art" Ileana Tounta, Contemporary Art Center, Athens, Greece
- 1996 "Europa A Story of Art" PASSAGES Center for Contemporary Art, Troyes, France
- 1996 "Playing Darts" Galerie Pierre Nouvion, Monaco
- 1997 "I am Interested in Real Fiction" Galerie Pour La Vie, CAPC Museum of Contemporary Art, Bordeaux, France
- 1997 "Lecture sur les Blue Pigs" MUSEE GEO-CHARLES, Echirolles, France
- 1998 "BLUE PIGS" INTERNATIONAL Studio Curator Program New York, USA
- 1998 "DAY 3 BLUE PIGS" LEHMANN - MAUPIN Gallery, New York, U.S.A

- 2006 "Five Different Stones" Gallery Kypriaki Gonia, Larnaka, Cyprus
- 2010 "Painting Testimony" DIATOPOS Center for Contemporary Art, Nicosia, Cyprus
- 2013 "Le Manifeste d'une Femme au Monde", University of Cyprus
- 2015 "Painting is my Resistance" Alpha C.K. Art Gallery, Nicosia, Cyprus
- 2018 "The Liquid Body" Alpha C.K. Art Gallery, Nicosia, Cyprus
- 2023 "An Everlasting Love" Riana Raouna Gallery, Paphos, Cyprus

Works of Art of Marina Olympios belong to the following collections: Dakis Joannou Collection Athens, the Daskalopoulos Collection Los Angeles, Pierre Nouvion Monaco, Marzio Carver Monaco, Ministry of Education & Culture Cyprus, Central Bank Cyprus, Bank of Cyprus Cultural Centre, Hellenic Bank Cyprus, Municipality of Larnaka, Electricity Authority of Cyprus.

Marina Olympios is the author of a number of books, including:

"L' Art est Justice", Centre Georges Pompidou and editions DESTE Foundation for Contemporary Art
"Europa a Story of Art", editions DESTE Foundation for Contemporary Art and the J.F. Costopoulos Foundation
"Le Manifeste d'une Femme au Monde", University of Cyprus



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