

MARIA KREYN
CHRONOS

M.O.N. ART
FOUNDATION

CHRONOS

Exhibition at St. George's Anglican Church
Campo San Vio, 30123 Venezia, Italia

April 15th - June 19th 2024

In Orphic mythology, the unaging Chronos — the embodiment of Time itself — produces Aether, Chaos, and an Egg. This cosmic egg, emerging from the union of Hydros (the primordial sea) and Ouranos (sky), engenders the source of creation and life. As an object prone to fertilization, the egg encompasses the idea of potentiality. It is pre-creation chaos waiting to become cosmos.

Invoking the Orphic story of the cosmic egg, Kreyn's storms appear as luminous vortices pierced by lensed, prismatic geometries which find their nexus in an ovoid, egg-like structure. Flat planes of calculated shapes paradoxically intersect painterly, atmospheric space, invoking the point of contact between nature and the mind. These angular structures lens the canvas, as though folding time and space, embedded in a sky that fluidly fuses with sea.

Kreyn links the Orphic egg with embryogenesis — the delicate yet explosive unfolding of life and mind from a foundational state. The haptic energy of her paintings highlights the natural cycle of creation, dissolution, and regeneration. Reprising the Romantic tradition, which celebrates the sublime power of nature, these works are portals into philosophic dreamscapes that are at once playful and foreboding. Bound between abstraction and representation, chaos and calculation, they capture a sense of collective anxiety in the face of extreme weather and climate change — a dazzling vision of a terrifying threat.

Chronos welcomes viewers into an immersive meditation on the materiality of time, the turbulent flow of weather, and our essential, fragile human connection with the atmosphere.

FOR INQUIRIES

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Folding Time. 80 x 60 in. 203 x 152 cm, oil on linen (2024)



The Birth of Lightning. 80 x 60 in. 203 x 152 cm, oil on linen (2024)



A Lilac Storm Walks on Water. 80 x 60 in. 203 x 152 cm, oil on linen (2024)



Egg, Fire, Crown. 80 x 60 in. 203 x 152 cm, oil on linen (2024)



The Clearing, 90 x 70 in. 229 x 178 cm, oil on linen (2024)



Diptych I. 140 x 90 in. 356 x 228 cm, oil on canvas (2021)



Past in Prologue. 80 x 50 in. 203 x 127 cm, oil on linen (2023)



Sea and Mirror. 80 x 50 in. 203 x 127 cm, oil on linen (2023)



Sea Flare. 80 x 50 in. 203 x 127 cm, oil on linen (2023)

Origins of the storms: the Shakespeare cycle

at the Theatre Royal Drury Lane

In 2020, Andrew Lloyd Webber commissioned Maria Kreyn to create eight monumental paintings based on Shakespeare as a permanent public installation in the two-part lobby of London's historic Theater Royal Drury Lane. With a daring prompt, he tasked Maria: "I'd like you to make this work dangerous and apocalyptic, with your soul on the line."

The Tempest launched the next phase of Kreyn's creative and professional journey:

"We wanted to go for something that could certainly interest and challenge an audience. We might be doing something that would be sitting in a theater for the next 300 years. Forever. And Therefore, I thought that if I put my own footprint on it and Maria could be involved, it would be something very, very remarkable. I hope that when you come here, you will be blown away by it."

- Andrew Lloyd Webber



The Tempest. 62 x 80 in. 203 x 158 cm, oil on linen (2020)



Maria Kreyn

About the artist

Maria Kreyn (b. 1987) is an American artist known for evocative paintings that merge figuration, abstract geometries, and elemental atmospherics. Born in Nizhnii Novgorod Russian, she emigrated to the United States with her family in 1990. She studied mathematics and philosophy at the University of Chicago and is self taught in painting.

While drawing atypical and polymathic connections between disparate fields, Kreyn's works are steeped in the western tradition of painting. She distills these references into a personal vocabulary of forms and geometries that result in hybrid compositions situated at the intersection of formalism and Romantic painting. Deriving her technical foundations from old master works, Kreyn reframes these techniques and expands their pictorial vocabulary into a realm of stirring emotional narratives, unique personal histories, and surreal fictions.

Her expansive canvases are meditations on nature, the body, and the materiality of time. Kreyn's public works include a collection of 8 monumental paintings based on Shakespeare, commissioned by Andrew Lloyd Webber, now on permanent display in the lobby of London's historic Theater Royal Drury Lane, open to the public daily.

Maria Kreyn lives and works in Brooklyn, New York.

MON Art Foundation

Founded by Maria Vega, harnesses art's transformative power to catalyze change, foster understanding, and connect communities. Our mission is to provoke thought and evoke emotion through curated exhibitions, sparking meaningful dialogue and action on pressing global challenges like climate change.

We facilitate creative discourse and collaboration between artists, scientists, and innovators, aiming to ignite transformative experiences that inspire positive change worldwide. Established in 2023, our foundation empowers artists whose practice addresses urgent issues like climate change, fostering environmental stewardship through collaborative initiatives.

Join us in celebrating our journey towards a sustainable future through Art. We champion Art as a catalyst for societal and environmental change, bridging diverse fields to nurture a generation of artists committed to addressing the critical issues of our time.

Our belief in the transcendent power of Art drives us to create platforms for interdisciplinary dialogue, raise awareness, and drive positive change. Through exhibitions, public art installations, and digital initiatives, we aim to make art accessible and integral to everyday discourse, inspiring hope and resilience in the face of global challenges. Join MON Art Foundation and be part of a movement dedicated to shaping a sustainable world through artistic expression and action.

Maria Vega

Discover. Inspire. Transform.

FOR INQUIRIES & COMMISSIONS

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