

MÝO

By Sylvie Nante

MÝO, a Greek word meaning “*to close the mouth or the eyes*”, as one does when falling silent in search of light. From this term comes MYSTES, “*the initiated one*”, and ultimately, MYSTÉRION.

The path proposed by Mariana Sissia within the house of Fundación Vocación Humana is a tacit invitation for the viewer to unveil and discover hidden images –relying above all on the inner senses, like a kind of auratic ceremony in which the image becomes a metaphor for spiritual interiority.

In MÝO, three axes converge though in truth, they are one and the same. On one hand, the abstract monochromatic works on rice paper seem to have neither beginning nor end. Entering them feels like stepping into an ethereal universe with its own breath, generated in a meditative, almost automatic state –reminiscent of Guillaume Apollinaire’s calligrams– except here the words are replaced by gestures that give rise to the poetic. Arising from a daily practice and through the technique of *frottage*, the artist relies on what emerges spontaneously to develop different drawings. The lines, whose inner logic remains unknown to us, possess immediacy and vigor; the invisible is made visible.

The viewer takes another step. This time, they venture into the vast Library of Babel, where everything appears similar –yet within it lies a hidden treasure: books that cradle the magical Tarot cards. Far from fatally marking the future, they offer a critical meaning present in every step of life. Some are inspired by a medieval style, lacking perspective. They recall the apses of Romanesque churches or even the illuminated letters of ancient religious texts. One must seek them out and surrender to chance, avoiding interpretation as much as possible.

The third axis, rooted in and in harmony with the previous ones, presents a series of colorful mandalas created during the pandemic. According to the artist, they are “*unrepeatable*”: also the product of a need to navigate that moment by practicing her art through a varied color palette and choosing the path that leads from the periphery to the center –where the cryptic lies.

To coexist with the house, not to invade it: that was Mariana Sissia’s intention when envisioning the works for this exhibition. A space she has inhabited for years, driven by her inner search and by a burning flame that clearly shines through her polyphonic drawings.

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