

Maria's journey of light towards the fire of revelation

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The digital technique of Giclee (zhee-clay) print is a painterly medium which Marie embraced only recently, but since then she has already produced tens of pictures that capture her spiritual journey towards initiation, and her own gradual self-liberation. The pictures from the years 2002-2004 are a truthful testimony of an honest search for the way of Light, a beautiful testimony of a pilgrim in endless space, whose true home is only her inner world, albeit always under siege of material trappings. Bright homely stars illuminate her way, but return to their realm will only be possible once she passes the last test of her Enlightenment. She is now waiting for a signal that might open the Gate, faithful in the knowledge that she will be granted the entry back. She is hoping for a final dissolution in the Universe, for the transition into the grace of Calmness, Purity, Freedom and Peace, the blue colour of her intuition leading the way.

The picture Vibration, which gave name to this exhibition, can be understood as a universal key, or as an instruction that might allow us to grasp the outer signs of Maria's work. Here the journey inwards is shown symbolically by the colour spectrum of blue (the eternal, freedom, space, peace) – green (nature, calmness) – yellow (the golden light of Spirit). Such shifts in the spectral colours are an abstract sign of the transformation of her viewpoint from the unconscious (blue) through universal nature (green) to final in-sight, or seeing-through (yellow).

Whereas the beings in Maria's pictures start off their journey swimming like so many astrological fishes in the endless blue ocean of the unconscious (e.g. I am there, Three sisters etc) and only intuit the light as a distant haze or as a gentle breath of aura around their bodies, The Monk, My friends etc already consciously capture such beings at a higher level of Awakening. The monk in his red cloak of the wise looks straight into the gold-white light, thus anticipating the goal of Maria's spiritual journey that is fed and born upwards by the inner fire of Spirit.

Maria's greatest desire is to free herself from the shackles of matter and so to become part of the cosmos. The red moon that floats in the space of her pictures Eternity, Full Moon, and River, comes as a symbol of her hope to dissolve within the Universe. Her colour red here denotes earthly desires, thus differing in meaning from the future red hues of the fire of Awakening. In River the flow of Mind as a blue river is already directional, framed as it is by the white Light, whereas glimpses of red in the river bends, gentle as butterfly wings, promise to carry the soul higher should the inner fires within truly begin to burn.

Her striving for Acceptance is great and genuine – in Prayer, a figure clothed in the Purity of a white garment prays before a Gate-like altar that issues reddish inner light – perhaps a promise of the Way through to higher spiritual dimensions, while the altar's structure bears the materialisation of the Imprints of an imploring Mind and hands. In Touch, Fire and others, some concrete signs and symbols that characterise her Peregrination are being realised: her figures' minds are ignited by inner fire. In Fire it is reflected by the laws of the Emerald Tablet on the surrounding materia, while beings like so many white candles begin to burn towards Acceptance and Awakening. In Touch there is already a flash of spiritual purple, connected to the energy of the figure's hands. The cosmic purple represents for Maria a mystical and a spiritual colour, an initiatory colour for meditation. Her grasp of the spiritual light as part of her further inner growth is proven e.g. in the scenes in Victory or The Full, where the Mind is already fully consumed by the Divine Fire, and burns in the victorious advance through the Dimensions.

Within the landscape of her Mind, Maria herself is that candle whose inner flame burns according to the degree of her initiation or insight – she shows us blue-ish candles with the hidden fire of the unconscious (Aments), dual white candles with black flame that directs its fire inwards (Two Sisters), awakened candles that bend downwards in an arch or melt under the heat of the spiritual fire and knowledge (Fire), dreamlike candles (Dream), and candles having undergone initiation that take upon themselves new symbolic and hidden meanings.

The breakthrough that led Maria towards her inner way of painting was the experience of initiation at a Rosicrucian temple, which she felt extremely strongly and which she poured into her picture Initiation. This moment

was so crucial, that it in fact divides her work into two distinct periods: before and after the initiation. The being in this painting, robed in the red garb of the initiated and resurrected, is found in the dark space of the initiation chamber of a pyramid, its dark background bearing geometric sigils that place the initiation ritual to Ancient Egypt. Here we have a re-polarisation or in-souling of the previous system of consciousness – the blue that stood for the external unconscious now stands for Enlightenment and for the newly re-visioned soul, both bearers of the feminine principle and of the mystical cross, which is entering the masculine principle of the active fire of Salvation. The colour symbolism is also changing – blue, fed by the spirit, stands for the inner return to timelessness that is moving from the mind to the spiritual heart. Such return into the One is crowned and sealed by the cross signifying the meeting of the basic principles of Creation. Marie is now deemed to be an adept of Receiving. She can now move through to the next layer of Knowledge, in front of her is the Grace of Choice. Free choice makes us victors as well as victims, the road ahead means making the right choice. The starry sky as the cosmic ocean signifies Maria's newly gained freedom; in the Ocean, Two Sisters, and the Light.

The series of black and white pictures meanwhile intuitively examine some of the key philosophical principles of the sacred sciences, such as Alchemy. Wedding shows the Alchemical union of two principles – Coniunctio, which describes the birth of an androgenous substance overcoming the phenomenon of duality in matter, leading to a Union with the Creator. During this phase, both these principles generate their energetic or vibrational opposite, thus revealing the complexity of existence. In Separation the black Materia prima as the Universal Source changes to a white substance, symbolically described as the Alchemical Mercury, a mechanism for the dissolution of the feminine principle. Marie feels that only through the dissolution of one's ego can one progress towards the next Gate of the Great Work, which is the symbolic Sulphur as the masculine active principle, signified by the red colour of the dominant power of the spirit. For Maria, the Alchemical Sulphur represents the inner fire that ignites her Mind towards Revelation and consequent Union. To fully grasp the inner principle of the symbolic Sulphur, however, it is necessary to undergo a Mystical Death, which, by the mortification of the ego, prepares both Matter and Spirit for the next development of the great synthesis. In Surrender the feminine principle humbly and knowingly surrenders to its dark Source, the equal opposite of Divine Light, bowing to her Black Madonna as the protectress of the maternal womb of the Unconscious, and of an eternal rebirth in the depth of Tartarus.

Post-initiation pictures begin to emerge after some time, signalling a powerful experience of Maria's entry into a new spiritual realm. The means and the technique of artistic expression are changing, the colour spectrum now reveals new meditative experiences and links. With it, however, comes a certain depression as a strong reaction to the death of special souls close to her, and her growing feeling of abandonment in space returns. The Wall, Meditation, Compassion, The Entrance, Connection, Two sisters, Flowers for the Bell, The Past, Reincarnation, and others, all signify that she is now moving on the astral plane, where she communicates with beings and shades whom she feels to be her close friends, and to whom she turns for protection and inner dialogue. She is in contact with the dead who used to be important to her (Flowers for Bell, Two Sisters), looks into the past (The Past, Reincarnation), and in her meditations gets pulled and falls deeper and deeper into this layer. Her colour spectrum of olive greens, darkly spiritual blues, and dusky yellows, suggests her imprisonment in this astral realm, her fragmentary perception of inner landscapes with glimpses of geometrical shapes (Meditation, The Entrance) show a partial falling apart of Navigation, her structural planes reveal some intuitive striving for the return to Matter. The painterly quality of these works, where layers of structure meet and commingle with their transparent opposites, is high, but whereas her picture Bolidek (Polibek??tr) that was borne out of the pain caused by the death of her beloved dog Bell, still bears vivid colours bathed in light, the abovementioned pictures are overcast with depressive gray and black shadows.

At this stage Marie is beginning to feel the need to return to the path of Light, but the way through seem blocked (Entrance), she even finds herself before an impenetrable wall (Wall). But Hope is entering her work now. In In the Nature the light from the background begins to seep through the dim patches of colour and the woman-candle is being ignited by the Fire of new Knowledge. The Light of Fullness is beginning to stream towards her, and she has been granted the help of a spiritual guide, who will lead her out of the Labyrinth of continuing Unconsciousness (The Light).

Maria's last picture, which she finished three days ago in the USA, bears beautiful witness to her renewed awakening and freedom, carried by the cosmic purple and the luminous green, signifying a new angle of vision coming from an inner landscape formulated by a new colour spectrum. Much strength for her journey towards her home constellation of Knowledge!