

**IGNATIUS MITROFANOV**

**SUPERNOVA**



*Εξώφυλλο: "Conspiracy Theory", ink, spray, acrylic spray on foam board , 50X50cm*

IGNATIUS MITROFANOUS

SUPERNOVA

Curated by Efi Kyprianidou

"I tell you: one must still have chaos in oneself to give birth to a dancing star. I tell you: you still have chaos in yourselves."

Friedrich Nietzsche, Thus Spoke Zarathustra

*"The Theory of Chaos I", ink, lacquer, acrylic spray,  
ceramic paint on canvas, 70X50cm*



## SUPERNOVA

### *Comment on Ignatios Mitrofanous' work*

Modern science deals almost exclusively with things we cannot directly observe and with physical theories about their behaviour that cannot be pictorially represented. Discoveries in particle physics reveal new particles; however what is believed to be happening in terms of their deep structure is not subject to direct picturing. The American theoretical physicist Richard Feynman, who introduced his famous Feynman diagrams to visualise the quantum-mechanical description of electromagnetic forces is quote to have said "Strange! I don't understand how it is that we can write mathematical expressions and calculate what the thing is going to do without being able to picture it".

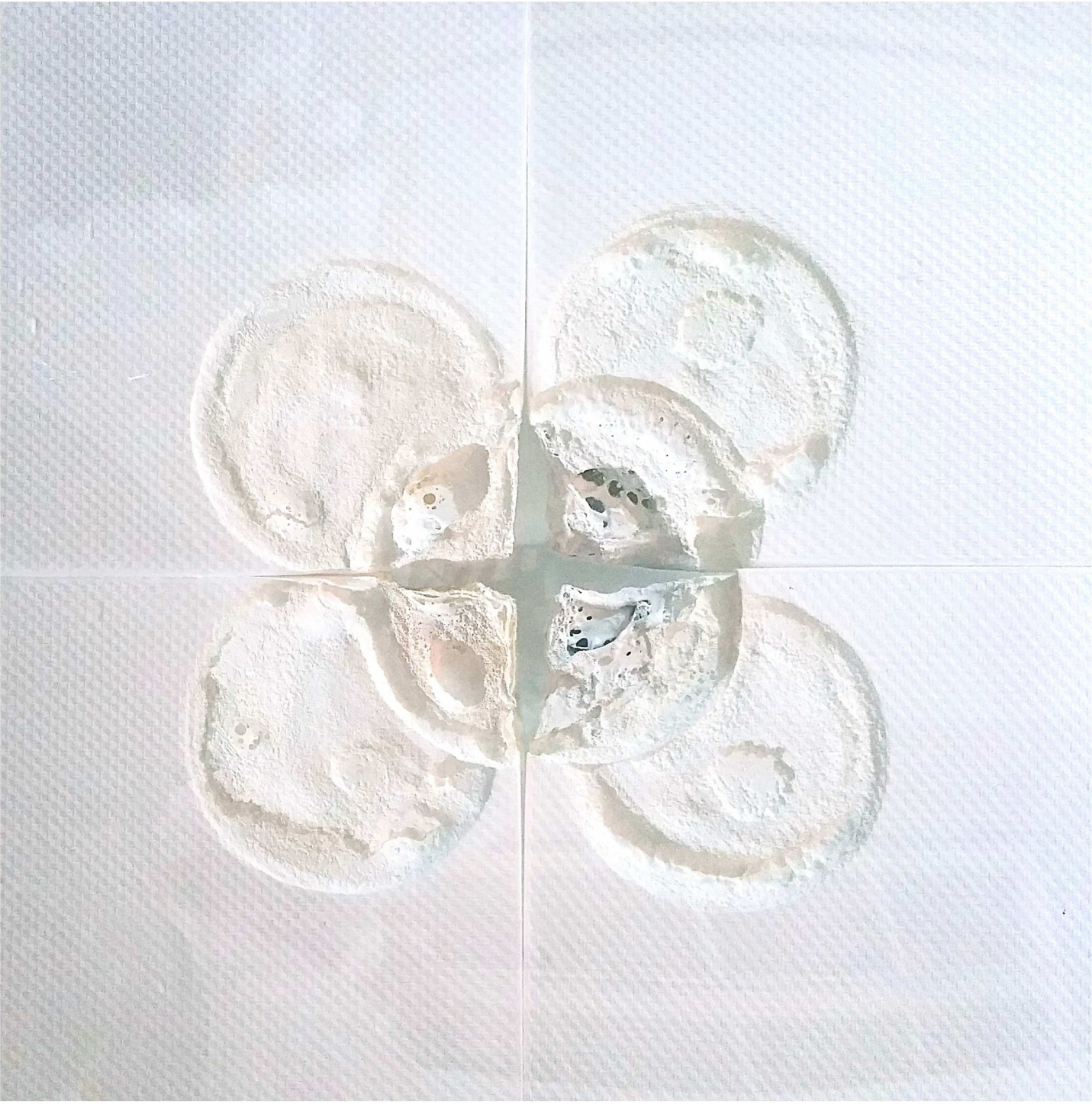
For physicists, the world around us is essentially invisible, in that it is made up of empty space permeated by force-fields of elementary particles. Yet, as Eddington pointed, we still perceive the table of every day experience solid in front of us, although the scientific table is just another indivisible part of the unseen world.

Moreover, the unseen scientific world seems to be chaotic and unpredictable: in 1859 the physicist James Clerk Maxwell showed that there are huge disparities in outcome that can stem from tiny factors affecting the collisions of molecules; an idea that is considered as the beginning of the chaos theory. In its popularised version, as the chaos theorist Edward Lorenz explained it, the flap of a butterfly's wings in Brazil might set off a tornado in Texas; therefore, the world is both unpredictable and disenchanted of every human purposiveness.

At the same time, what we perceive as our solar system is nothing more than the archaeological site of supernovae events that occurred a few billion years ago during the evolution of the proto-solar system; in other words, what we see is reminiscent of a star in its death throes. When Tycho Brahe observed in 1572 a new bright star where none had been seen before, he was in fact observing the explosion of a star that had reached the end of its life, otherwise known as a supernova. Even though he did not interpret the evidence correctly, he nevertheless showed that the nature of the heavens is not immutable as Aristotle thought.



*"One Star Should Ascend", ink, lacquer, acrylic spray,  
ceramic paint on canvas, 70X100cm*





How do we cope with the unpredictable of the universe? Are we really free and autonomous or are we living under the illusion that our decisions matter? How 'real' are our descriptions of the physical world and what can we make out of them when we cannot (yet) visually represent them?

Ignatios Mitrofanous deals with the terrible reality of the universal and existential chaos. Like physicists, he as a painter is also an experimentalist, who seeks to represent the unseen world and ascribe meaning and order to it.

Ignatios is not afraid to deal with difficult questions, such as our understanding of phenomena which are by their nature not subject to picturing. Using a combination of gestural movements, paints and lacquers pouring and dripping through successive procedures, Mitrofanous seems to look for the concealed structure of a physical world in a shapeless mass without any internal structure, in a chaos. His artworks seem almost the result of a chromatic paroxysm or an intense expression of a particular emotion or activity. In seeing his work we engage in an almost secret procedure; in an ongoing exploration of what is perceived by the senses and what can be known. We are set on the centre of a world that does not reveal the secret of its creation and remains intrinsically unpredictable and chaotic; a world shining like a star, yet possessed by the agony of death like a supernova

In Ignatios Mitrofanous' paintings, installations and sculpture, the artist presents his personal understanding of bringing together scientific illustrations of the natural phenomena and works of art; of perceiving the world as a sequence of molecules collisions as contrasted with a meaningful and purposeful living.

Efi Kyprianidou, PhD Philosophy  
Open University of Cyprus

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Σχόλιο στο έργο του Ιγνατίου Μητροφάνους (περίληψη του κειμένου στην ελληνική)

Για τους θεωρητικούς φυσικούς, ο κόσμος που μας περιβάλλει είναι εγγενώς αόρατος, εφόσον αποτελείται από κενό χώρο που διαπερνάται από τα δυναμικά πεδία των στοιχειωδών σωματιδίων. Ωστόσο, όπως επεσήμανε ο Eddington, εξακολουθούμε να αντιλαμβανόμαστε το τραπέζι της καθημερινής μας εμπειρίας ως ένα στερεό σώμα που βρίσκεται μπροστά μας, παρόλο που το επιστημονικό αντικείμενο “τραπέζι” δεν είναι τίποτε άλλο από ένα αδιαχώριστο τμήμα του αόρατου κόσμου. Επιπλέον, ο αόρατος επιστημονικός κόσμος φαίνεται να είναι χαοτικός και απρόβλεπτος: το 1859 ο φυσικός James Clerk Maxwell έδειξε ότι υπάρχουν τεράστιες αποκλίσεις στο πώς κάτι θα μπορούσε να εξελιχθεί, εφόσον μικροσκοπικοί παράγοντες επηρεάζουν τις συγκρούσεις των μορίων - μια ιδέα που θεωρείται ως η αρχή της θεωρίας του χάους.

Πώς προσαρμοζόμαστε στην απρόβλεπτη φύση του σύμπαντος; Είμαστε πραγματικά ελεύθεροι και αυτόνομοι ή ζούμε με την ψευδαίσθηση ότι οι αποφάσεις μας έχουν κάποια βαρύτητα; Πόσο πραγματικές είναι οι περιγραφές μας για τον φυσικό κόσμο και τι μπορούμε να καταλάβουμε από αυτές όταν ακόμη δεν μπορούμε να τις εικονικά να τις αναπαραστήσουμε;

Ο Ιγνάτιος Μητροφάνους δρα, όπως και ένας φυσικός, πειραματικά επιδιώκοντας να αναπαραστήσει το αόρατο του φυσικού κόσμου και να αποδώσει νόημα και κανόνες στις αναπαραστάσεις του. Μέσα από μια εικαστική πολυμορφία, που ξεδιπλώνεται σε ζωγραφική, εγκαταστάσεις και γλυπτική, ο καλλιτέχνης παρουσιάζει την προσωπική του κατανόηση της σύζευξης επιστημονικών απεικονίσεων φυσικών φαινομένων και έργων τέχνης. Δεξιότηχνης του αφηρημένου εξπρεσιονισμού, με ένα συνδυασμό χειρονομιακών κινήσεων, χρωμάτων, βερνικιών και ρητίνων χυμένων σε αλληπάλληλες διαδικασίες, ο Μητροφάνους μοιάζει να αναζητεί την κρυμμένη δομή του φυσικού κόσμου από μια μάζα άμορφη, χωρίς εσωτερική διάρθρωση, από ένα χάος. Από τις επί του καμβά προσκρούσεις και χρωματικές ενδεχομενικότητες, από το χάος των χημικών συμπυκνώσεων, προβάλλει μια ποιητικότητα που ακροβατεί γοητευτικά μεταξύ ερωτισμού και ερέβους.

Τα έργα του είναι γεμάτα ζωτική ενέργεια, ως εαν να είναι αποτέλεσμα ενός χρωματικού παροξυσμού ή μιας συναισθηματικής έξαρσης, τοποθετώντας το θεατή στο κέντρο ενός κόσμου που κρατά καλά κρυμμένο το μυστικό της δημιουργίας του, παραμένοντας εγγενώς απρόβλεπτος και χαοτικός. Ένας κόσμος λαμπερός όπως ένα αστέρι, παρά ταύτα με τη θανατερή αγωνία ενός σουπερνόβα.

Μέσα από το διάλογο με τις επιστημονικές αναπαραστάσεις ο θεατής βιώνει την αντίθεση ανάμεσα στην αντίληψη του κόσμου ως μια σειρά διαδοχικών μοριακών συγκρούσεων (“απομάγευση του κόσμου”) και στην αντίληψη του κόσμου ως φορέα νοήματος και χώρου έλλογης δράσης.



*"Contigency", ink, lacquer, acrylic spray, ceramic paint on paper, 40X40cm*



"The nitrogen in our DNA, the calcium in our teeth, the iron in our blood, the carbon in our apple pies were made in the interiors of collapsing stars. We are made of starstuff."

Carl Sagan, Cosmos

*"Starstuff", ink, lacquer, acrylic spray, ceramic paint on wood, 14X44cm*

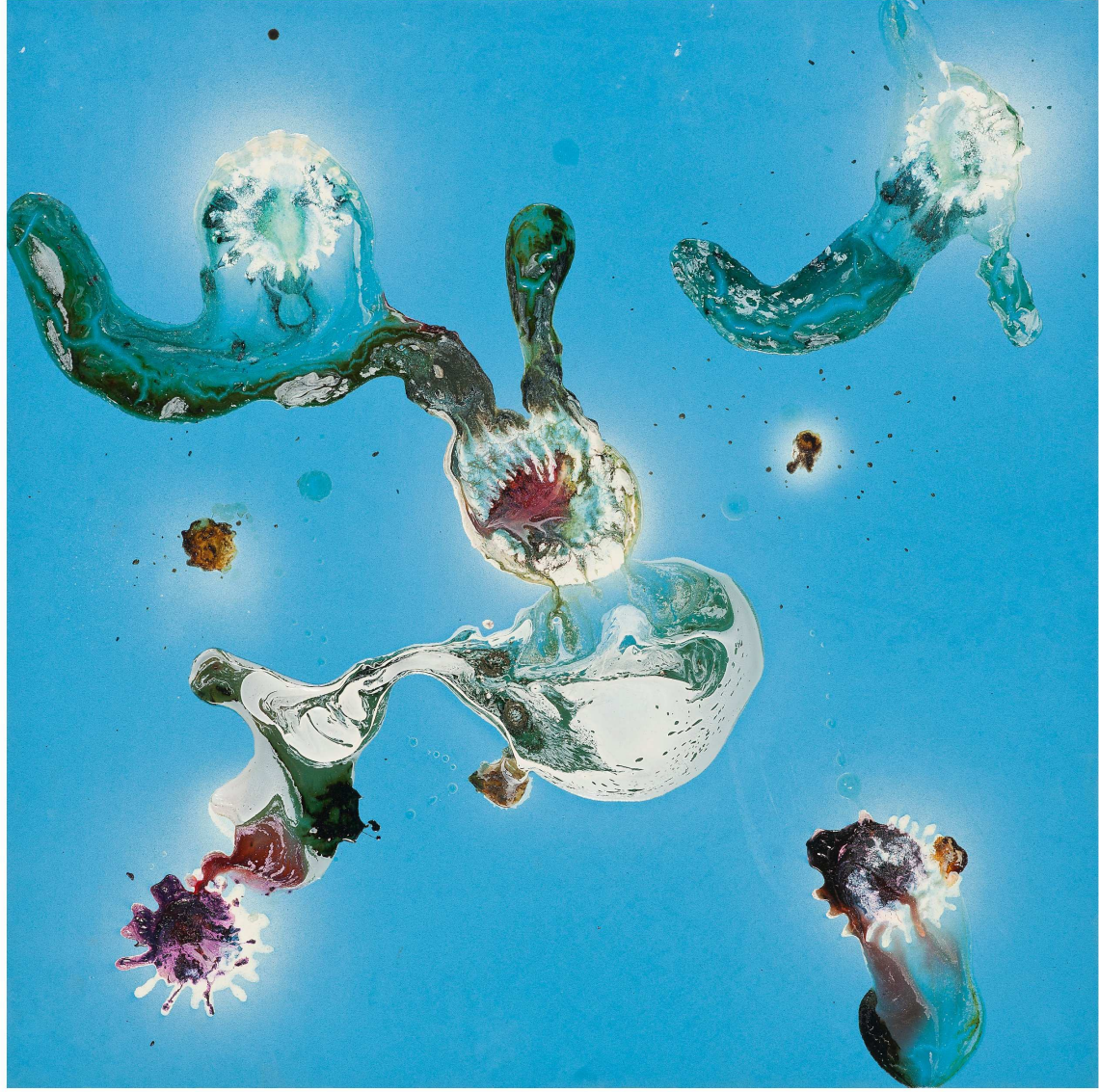


*"The Theory of Chaos II", ink, lacquer, acrylic spray, ceramic paint on canvas, 50X50cm*

The eye of a human being is a microscope, which makes the world seem bigger than it really is.

Khalil Gibran, f Ignorance Is Bliss, Why Aren't There More Happy People?

*"Seadrome", ink, lacquer, acrylic spray,  
ceramic paint on foam board, 52X52 cm*





*"Apollo 11", spray, acrylic on foam board, 50X50 cm*



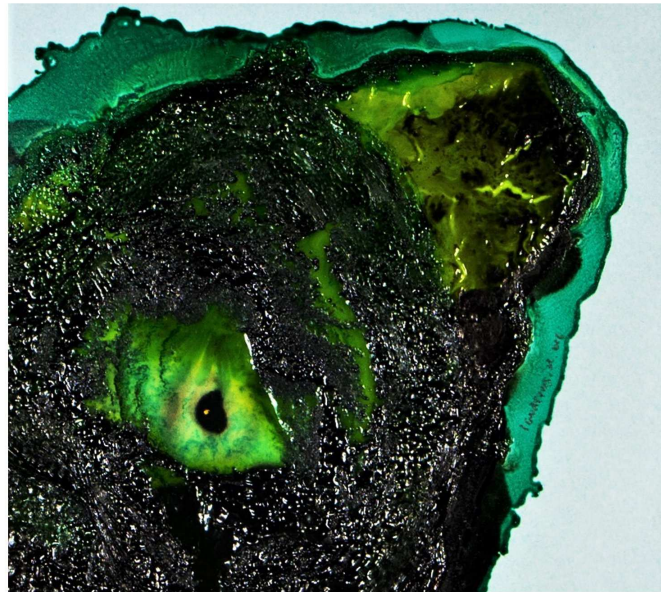


*"After the Rain", ink, lacquer, acrylic spray,  
ceramic paint on paper , 70X50cm*



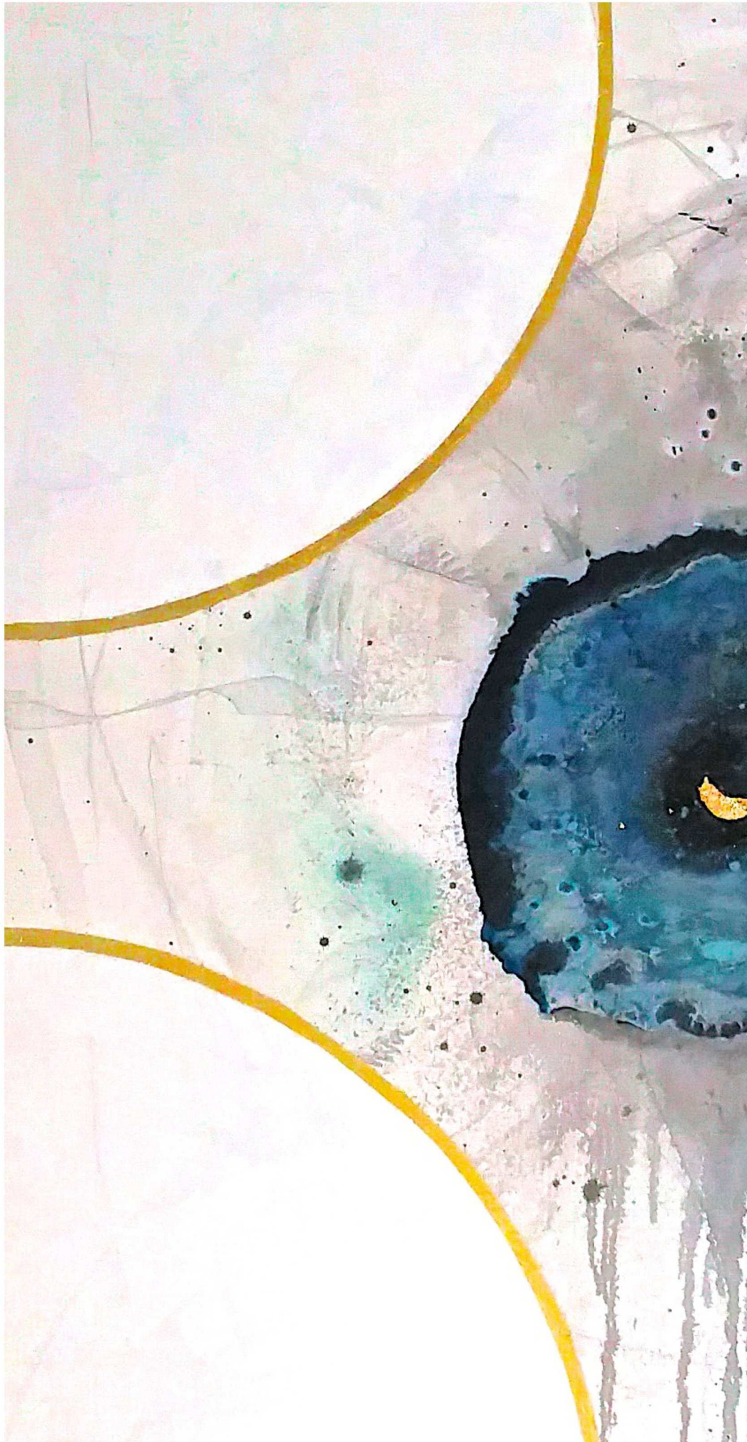
*"Cosmic Euphoria", ink, lacquer, acrylic spray, ceramic paint on paper , 60X150cm*

*"Space Frog", ink, lacquer, acrylic spray, ceramic paint on paper, 10X10 cm*

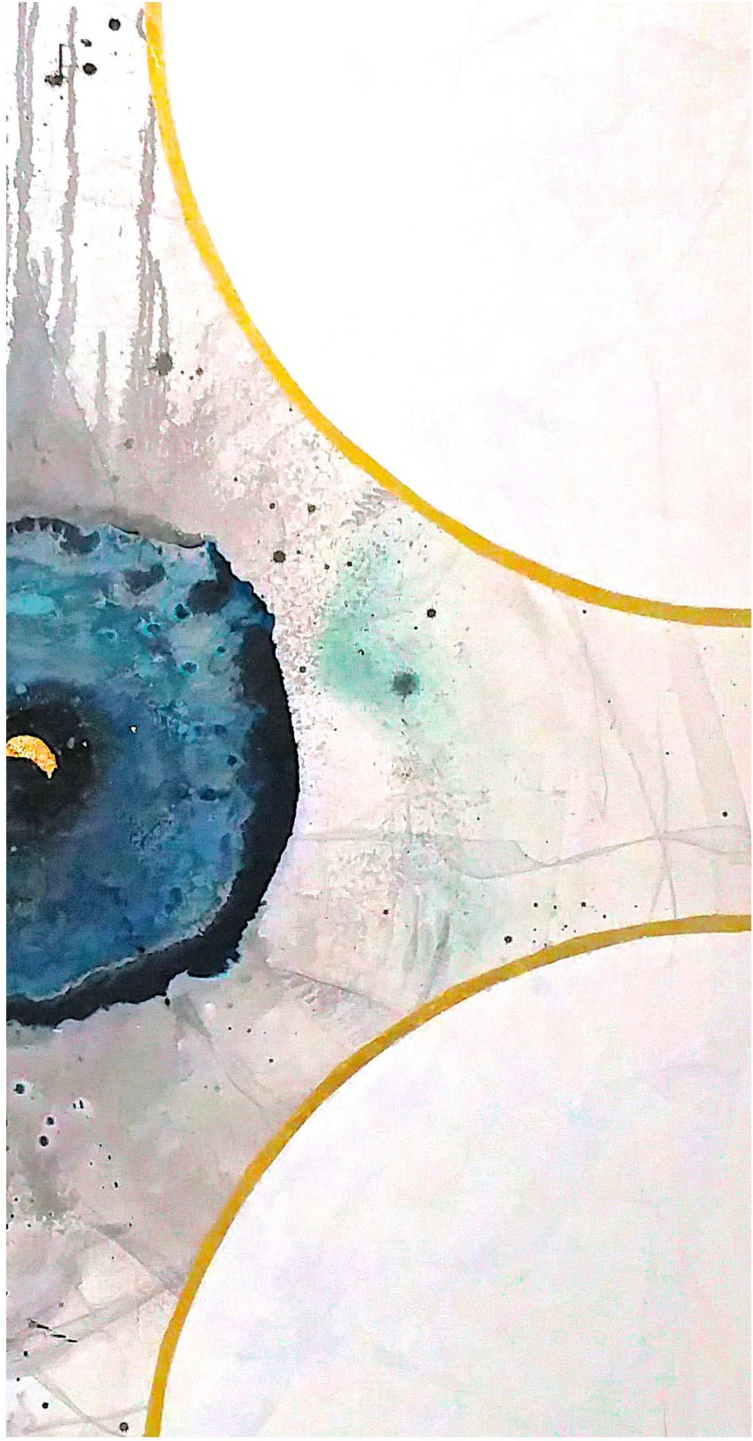


"Were the stars out when I left the house last evening? All I could remember was the couple in the Skyline listening to Duran Duran. Stars? Who remembers stars? Come to think of it, had I even looked up at the sky recently? Had the stars been wiped out of the sky three months ago, I wouldn't have known. The only things I noticed were silver bracelets on women's wrists and popsicle sticks in potted rubber plants. There had to be something wrong with my life. I should have been born a Yugoslavian shepherd who looked up at the Big Dipper every night.

Haruki Murakami, *Hard-Boiled Wonderland and the End of the World*



*"Space Oddity", ink, lacquer, acrylic  
spray, ceramic paint on canvas,  
190X190cm*



*“Regina EM59”, Print on paper, 52X52 cm*



*“Trying to Define my Space”, ink, lacquer, acrylic  
spray, ceramic paint on canvas, 80X60 cm*





*“Evolve in space”, ink, lacquer, acrylic spray,  
ceramic paint, on canvas, 60X80cm*



*"Spacecream" , ink,lacquer, acrylic spray,  
ceramic paint, on canvas, 80X60cm*





## IGNATIOS MITROFANOUS

Ignatios Mitrofanous was born in Nicosia, Cyprus in 1981. He studied at the Athens School of Fine Arts (Greece) with a scholarship due to academic excellence. He lived and worked in Athens for several years. He has presented his work in many venues, including the National War Museum Athens, the Melina Mercouri Cultural Centre and the House of Cyprus in Athens. He participated in the International Youth Salon in Alexandria, Egypt and he represented Cyprus in the VIIemes Jeux de la Francophonie in Nice. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Cyprus Chamber of Fine Arts (E.KA.TE). He currently lives and works in Nicosia, Cyprus.

### Exhibitions

2015, Invisible Worlds ,solo exhibition ,Camden image Gallery London

(curator: Dr Efi Kyprianidou)(Organised by the Cyprus High Commission Cultural Center )

2015, Colors of Greece ,group exhibition in the Hamptons NY.

2015, group exhibition, Papenhuder57 Gallery, Hamburg.

2014 Young Cypriot artists, group exhibition, Akamandis Cultural Centre (curator: Eleni Nicodemou)

2014 Alter Ego, group exhibition, Fytorio Visual Artist Association Nicosia, (curator: Dr Andri Michael)

2014 Anasystasi: From Greece to Cyprus, group exhibition (organized by the Embassy of Greece in Cyprus in collaboration with EKATE)  
(curator: Dr Efi Kyprianidou)

2013 VIIemes Jeux de la Francophonie in Nice, France (Cyprus participation)

2010 50 years Republic Of Cyprus, Athens House of Cyprus, Greece Mary Alexiou Gallery, Athens Greece

2010, Young Artists, Mary Alexiou Gallery, Athens.

2009 Notes on a Tree, Melina Mercouri Cultural Center, Athens.

2009 New Generations: Great Masters, Hydra Greece

2009 Four Seasons, National War Museum, Athens.

2008 Center-Decentralized, Cultural Center Saint Stephan, Athens.

2008 International Youth Salon of Alexandria 3rd AAW, Alexandria

2008 Space/ Action/ Picture, Technopolis Gazi, Athens.

2007 Skull Place, Antonis Tritsis Park, Athens.

2006 European Social Forum, Eleutherios Venizelos Airport of Athens, Athens.

*The Big Bang, ink, lacquer, acrylic spray, ceramic  
paint, on canvas, 80X60cm*

*Σχεδιασμός καταλόγου: Έφη Κυπριανίδου, Ιγνάτιος Μητροφάνους*

*22.9 - 04.10.2016*

*AlphaCK Gallery Nicosia*





