

“Meine Reise nach Atlantis”

Mariola Szparadowska

Studio Bildende Kunst | John-Sieg-Straße 13 | 10365 Berlin

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According to Plato, Atlantis was a mythical island located “beyond the gates of Hercules”, in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean. From more than 10.000 years, it has remained sunk in the depths of the sea. Mariola Szparadowska presents us her own version of this myth: a version in which the lost island seems to be the pure essence of her own soul, sunk into the inner depths of her subconscious mind. Through this exhibition, she invites us to take part in her long search-journey. The watercolours and engravings are like the open pages of a travel notebook.

Her path seems not to be clear and linear, but rather has the form of a big labyrinth. A labyrinth populated by archetypical images: wandering couples, lonely women, mothers, children, animals, monsters, and even their own dreams, all embraced together in a vortex of cyclic movement which leads from heaven to hell, and viceversa. Among these images, the couples seem to have a prominent role. Man and Woman are represented as two poles which seek each other, in an eternal search of a final state of unity, resembling Marc Chagall’s well known paintings. But sometimes the woman finds herself alone, and then she meditates, and dreams of herself as a lonely queen with a pale horse. Now the horse is gone, and it becomes an eerie demon-cat, like the one in “Alice in wonderland”, and it brings a gift for the queen: a mirror in which dreams may come true. A magical surface in which reality and fantasy are finally blended together.

Certainly, this is a complex path, full of passion and intensity. Love, hate, despair, hope and desire, all find their place in the artist’s work. It is a representation of the richness of life itself, with its lights and shadows, and so it has a sense of universality that transcends the particularity of her own experience. Mariola’s journey to Atlantis is also our own journey. Her travel notebook is a mirror in which we recognize our own path to the depths of our souls.

Juan Almarza Anwandter