



‘THE ORACLE’S EYE’

curated by Stephen Romano

Cover Image: : Thann Clark “Winslow - Phantom of the Paradise” 2023

The photograph depicts the ICONIC original Phantom of the Paradise costume that actor William Finney wore as the character of Winslow Leach.

“Never sing my music again. Not here, not anywhere. Do you understand? Never again. My music is for Phoenix. Only she can sing it. Anyone else who tries, dies!”

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Featuring William H. Mortensen, Wolfgang Grasse,
Charles Dellschau, A Fiorello, William Blayney, Albrecht Durer,
Jacob Bohme, Jordan Barlow, Darcílio Lima, Josh Stebbins,
Edward Colver, Chris Stein, Matthew Bede Murphy,
Brittany Rose Luciani, Barry William Hale, Daniel Gonçalves , Des-
tiny Turner, Kim Bo Yung, Alexis Karl, Courtney Brooke Hall, Dan
Barry, Ken Weaver, Erik Bergrin, Cormac Figgis, Ray Robinson,
Ellen Stagg, India Evans, Dolorosa De La Cruz, Thann Clark,
Adam De Ville, Shane Michael Donnelly, Ebon Flowe, Dominic
Murphy, Sam Wellington, Matthew Dutton, and others.

“THE ORACLE’S EYE”

“The Oracle’s Eye” is the third exhibition in a series that spawned from Stephen Romano’s 2019 “Transmutations: Witches, Healers and Oracles” at Cleveland’s Buckland Museum of Witchcraft. The first follow-up exhibition was staged at the WYRD WAR Gallery in Portland OR entitled “The Witches Eye: The Camera as Occult Device” and featured the art of William Mortensen alongside Britney Rose Luciani, Matthew Dutton, Edward Colver, and Lorena Torres Martell. Most recently, the second installment was mounted at GalleryX in Dublin entitled “The Shamanic Eye” and featured along with William Mortensen such diverse work as Chris Stein’s (of Blondie) photographs of Debbie Harry stylized by H.R. Giger, Edward Colver’s photographs of Christian Death’s original founder Rozz Williams, Cormac Figgis’ stunning portraits of Iggy Pop, Brittany Rose Luciani’s re-creation of Mortensen’s “The High Priestess” from 1924. A selection of these works will be infused in the upcoming exhibition to give New York audiences an opportunity to experience them firsthand, along with so much more..

An oracle is someone who is believed to offer wise advice, prophetic predictions or discernment, which is often thought to be inspired by divine sources. In the Bible, a message from God to humanity is usually given in response to a prayer for direction. When such predictions are made using occult methods, it is considered a form of divination. The term “oracle” comes from the Latin verb “to speak,” *orāre*, and accurately describes the act of a priest or priestess making a prediction. In broader usage, the term “oracle” can also refer to the location where the prediction is made or the prediction itself. Oracular utterances are known as “*khrēsmoi*” in Greek. Oracles were believed to be a direct means for the gods to communicate with humans. They were not like seers, who interpreted messages from the gods through animal entrails, bird signals, or other means.

The most significant oracles in Greek antiquity were the oracles of Dione and Zeus at Dodona in Epirus, and Pythia, the priestess of Apollo at Delphi. Other

Apollo oracles can be found on the Anatolian coast at Didyma and Mallus, in the Peloponnese at Corinth and Bassae, and in the Aegean Sea at the islands of Delos and Aegina.

The Sibylline Oracles are a collection of prophecies attributed to the Sibyls, prophetesses who revealed divine truths when in a frantic condition and written in Greek hexameters. In 2019, Stephen Romano Gallery presented a tribute exhibition to William Mortensen entitled “William Mortensen and the Coven of the Sibylline.” This exhibition is grounded in the concepts explored in that exhibition, as well as the aforementioned “Transmutations” exhibition. The exhibition expands the parameters of its theme, sometimes playfully, and in other instances, unnervingly.

Having said that, the exhibition expands the parameters of consideration of its theme, sometimes playfully, and in other instances unnervingly.

Throughout the history of art, the association between artists and the occult has been a consistent theme. It is no wonder that many artists find inspiration in the mysterious and mystical. From ancient civilizations to modern times, the power of the occult has fascinated and captured the imagination of artists. This has resulted in some of the most haunting and unforgettable works of art, either as foretellers of fantastical utopian futures or as vehement end-of-the-world prophets.

Although none of the artists in this show consider themselves to be soothsayers or oracles, their creative process allows them to gain access to metaphysical wisdom as the veils that separate them from the real substance of the world become thinner. When spiritual knowledge is conveyed cathartically in the artist’s work, it can serve as an affirmation for seekers who long for deeper spiritual awareness and empowerment.

14BC is an art gallery connecting and exhibiting artists, researchers, and community members near and far.

The gallery is located at 626 E 14th St, New York, NY 10009 and is open Thursday through Saturday 3 pm — 8pm.

























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1. Albrecht Dürer
"St Jerome Penitent in the Wilderness"
created ca. 1496, late 17th strike from the original plate
NFS private collection of the curator

2. India Evans
"Waiting for The Future" 2020
\$2000

3. Dan Barry "Krapus" 2015.
Private Collection, Brooklyn

4. Except from
The Flying Leaves of the XVI. and XVII.
Stuttgart, Scheible, 1850.
\$1000

5. Fritz Gareis (1872–1925)
"Lucifer, The Light" circa 1920
ink and watercolor
\$3500

6. Darcilio Lima (1944-1991)
"THE MAGI" from 1973
Unique signed print
NFS private collection of the curator

7. "Invitation to Lust" 1968
Vintage lobby card
\$500



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9. Jordan Barlow
"colloquia cum umbra" 2024
\$2400

10. Attributed To Johann Georg Gichtel (1638 – 1710)
3 copper plate etchings illustrating the works of Jacob Bohme 1680.
\$3500

11. Josh Stebbins
"Opia", "Blossom of Mind", "Alazia"
"Oraculum" "Eternal Slumber" 2022–2023.
\$1500



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12. Barry William Hale
"Peripheral Spectres: series 2006"
\$1200

13. Brittany Rose Luciani
"The High Priestess" 2023
\$600 each



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14. Ellen Stagg "Possession of Bowie" 2016.
\$350

15. Destiny Turner "Divine Divination" 2024
NFS private collection of the curator

16. Matthew Bede Murphy "Space Brothers" 2010
\$800 for the pair

17. Edward Colver "Rozz Williams" 1981
Contemporary print by the artist.
\$800 each

18. Cormac Figgis "Iggy Pop June 6 2023".
\$800 each



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20. Wolfgang Grasse "Dresden" 1977
Private Collection of Max.

19. William Mortensen
Courtney Crawford as Morgan Le Fey
1924
NFS Private Collection of the Curator

19



21. Ken Weaver "Daughter of Oracle" 2023

\$650

Ken Weaver "The Incubus" 2023

\$650



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22. Shane Michael Donnelly
"Other Aethyrs" 3D construction of an AI-generated digital image 2024
\$400 each, \$1000 for the set.



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23. Charles AA Dellschau (1830 - 1923)
Excerpted from "Recollections" 1898
NFS Private collection of the curator

24. Dominic Murphy
"Goddess of the Living Womb" 2024
\$800

25 Ray Robinson (1932 - 2022)
"From Hell - Lucifer the Living Light" 2016
NFS private collection of the curator

26. William Mortensen
"The Hag with Scrying Bowl" 1927
NFS private collection of the curator

27. Courtney Brooke Hall "Wraith" 2023.
\$400



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28. Chris Stein

Debbie Harry Stylized by H.R. Giger 1981

Contemporary prints signed and stamped by the artist

\$650 each

29. Alexis Karl Palmer

Alexis Palmer Karl "The Persistence of Ritual" film still 2023,
featuring Hannah Fierman from the film V/H/S

NFS Private collection of the curator.



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30. Thann Clark “Winslow — Phantom of the Paradise” 2023,
featuring the original costume worn in the 1974 Brian De Palma film.
\$750 each

31. Dolorosa De La Cruz “Invocation of la Reina Roja 2” 2016
NFS Private collection of the curator

32. Erik Bergrin “Dissolution 8: Emptiness” 2023
\$1000



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33. Adam De Ville "Blood Moon" 2023
NFS Private collection of the curator
Prints are available \$500 each.

34. Kim Bo Yung
"Dream Sentinels 1" 2016
\$800

"Dream Sentinels 2" 2-16
\$800

35. Daniel Gonçalves "#458" 2020
\$600

36. William Blayney
"The Celestial Eye" circa 1970's
NFS Private Collection, Museum of Everything, London



37. Matthew Dutton "Fauna Gomorrah", 2015
\$2000

38. Sam Wellington "The Oracle" 2023
\$800

39. Burt Shonberg Title Unknown (The White Sphinx) c. 1958
NFS Privater Collection

The Curator wishes to express deep gratitude to Ken Weaver for his STUNNING exhibition design and installation, and for the opportunity to present "The Oracle's Eye".

The curator also wishes to extend gratitude as well to the artists, the true heroes in our culture, whom have through their selfless generosity of spirit enriched our lives.

Stephen Romano Feb 2024



When I was 19, I used to live in the small town of Sarnia, Ontario. We had only one newsstand that carried my favorite magazine, Heavy Metal. It was like a bible to me. We knew exactly on which day the newsstand would get its limited number of issues, and we would do anything to get one. I remember once, the day after Christmas in 1981, I walked three miles through a blizzard and a cemetery to get the latest issue, and what I saw inside was absolutely life-changing. Debbie Harry, whom I was a big fan of, was styled by H.R. Giger, the artist behind the first Alien movie, and



photographed beautifully by Chris Stein. It was the Holy Grail! I bought all the copies, gave some to my best friends, and still have mine to this day. It's such a thrill and honor for me to now, over 40 years later, showcase these works in a parthenon with some of my most beloved artists. This experience reminds me of an ancient Canadian Eskimo proverb that says, "You never know if the story is ended until Sedna sings."



Chris Stein Debbie Harry stylized by H.R. Giger 1981.

I'll say it: these are some of the most profoundly beautiful and sublime photographs ever created. One of the most beautiful and accomplished women to ever walk the face of the earth has been reimagined by one of the greatest artists of all time, and the photographs have been taken by one of our most beloved visionary national treasures.





When I was twelve years old and living in the frozen tundra of Ottawa, Ontario, my friends and I went to the Saint Laurent Mall to watch the movie “The Sting”. Unfortunately, the show was canceled, and we decided to watch “The Phantom of the Paradise” instead. I had seen the movie’s advertisements in the newspaper, and being a hardcore fan of Bowie, Alice Cooper, The Sweet, New York Dolls, and Black Sabbath, I was eager to see what it was all about. “The Sting” wasn’t a big deal to me anyway.

From the very first frames of the film, where Rod Serling narrates over a slow pan-out of a dead bird graphic in a pop art-ish dot matrix style, I was completely mesmerized. “This is the future we want” I thought.

I not only stayed for the entire show but also stayed for the next showing and the one after that! Then, I went back the next day and watched it two more times!

On Monday mornings, during my time at a Catholic school, the teacher would ask each student to stand up and briefly talk about what they did over the weekend. The following Monday morning, it was my turn to speak, and I excitedly exclaimed that I had watched the same movie five times over the weekend. Everyone in the class, including the teacher, looked at me puzzled. The teacher asked me which movie I was talking about, probably thinking that no parent of a 12-year-old would allow them to watch the same movie five times in a weekend. (The movie had an equivalent rating of PG in Canada, but we weren't allowed to watch it because we weren't accompanied by an adult of 16 years or older.)

“Phantom of the Paradise!” I proudly exclaimed.

Bewildered, the teacher could only say, “Sit down, Stephen.” She didn't believe me, no one did, and very few believe me to this day.