

# JOURDAN ARPELLE

## ABOUT THE PAINTINGS

### PERSEPHONE SERIES 1998

#### SIZE

Series size: 13 paintings

Dimensions : 4 paintings measuring 65 inches or 165 cm square

9 paintings measuring 29 inches or 731.66 cm square

Framed dimensions: Large: 66.5 inches or 168.91 cm square

Medium: 30.75 inches or 78 cm square

#### DESCRIPTION

These glazed paintings in shades of red with layers of subtle color are energized by atmospheric brush strokes which convey intense emotion. Red is a primal, primary color, the color of tribal loyalties and mother Earth. Red is the color of the river of life that connects all cultures and bridges Eternity. Red is the color of lifeblood that flows through the veins of the whole of Humanity. Red is the color of vibrancy, love and passion. Red is the color of fire. Red is the color of pomegranate juice, the paint of Persephone. Red is the color of challenge and the individual's trial by fire. Red is the color of anger which fuels the seeds of transformation. Red is the color of the forge where steel is tempered into the sword of Truth. Red is the color of the fires of alchemy which turn lead into gold. Red is the color of the wings of fire on the chariot of the cycles of life. Red is the color of the pyre of cremation, the transmutation of matter into spirit. Red permeates the burning embers from which the phoenix rises to renewal, the omega to the alpha, the return to life.

#### INSPIRATION: THE MYTH OF PERSEPHONE

In Ancient Greece, Persephone was worshipped as the Queen of the Underworld. Her archetype carries the ability to delve into the unconscious, to explore the dark side, to illuminate the "shadow" of the personality. Her gift is psychic clarity. In the agrarian society of Ancient Greece, Persephone was worshipped as the goddess who served as a guide to the dead. She aided the lost souls on their decent into death in the Underworld, where they awaited their rebirth into new life.

Winter is the fallow period in the fields. Symbolically, it is a period of introspection and psychic insight. In the creative cycle, it represents the period between endings and new beginnings. During this time of forced rest, emptiness and quiet, the creative energies are renewed. Persephone's winter is the season when the nature of potentiality is considered. It is a time of enrichment for the cultivation of ideas, the expansion of imagination, and the preparation for inspiration – all elements awaiting to burst forth into full expression in the Spring.