

JOURDAN ARPELLE

ABOUT THE PAINTINGS

GAYATRI MANTRA SERIES

1992-1997

SIZE

Series: 62 paintings

Each Painting:

51 paintings measuring 16 in. square / 40.64 cm. square unframed

07 paintings measuring 30 in. square / 76.2 cm square

01 painting measuring 52 in. square / 132 cm. square*

02 paintings measuring 70 in. square / 177 cm. square*

MEDIUM:

Acrylic, graphite and mixed media on wood

Acrylic, graphite and mixed media on canvas*

HISTORY

The “Gayatri Mantra” Series was responsible for returning the artist to her studio after an eleven year hiatus. These were the first professional works of art she created after leaving the MFA program at the University of Houston. Her independent studies on the subject of Contemporary British Sculpture while living in London, England landed her a position at Max Hutchinson Gallery in New York City. Almost from the beginning of her employment in the SoHo gallery in 1981, she chose to sideline her desire to make art so as not to conflict with her chosen mission to support living artists. Eventually, the need to make art asserted itself in the form of an image spontaneously received while in meditation. Two years later, in her first professional studio in NoHo, Jourdan Arpelle began these paintings based on the Gayatri Mantra. These paintings would afford her the image, the focus, the motivation, and the sincerity to follow her dream to make art professionally, as a New York artist.

MEANING/CONTENT

The image of the superimposed circle, square and cross as presented in the “Gayatri Mantra” series is common to those seekers who have achieved inner peace. The name of this series reflects an important Hindu Vedic mantra, second only to the mantra “OM”. It is through this mantra that the artist chose to respectfully acknowledge an ultimate, unchanging reality that lies behind all phenomena, and to express the desire to become at one with that higher spiritual energy; and, to express that energy and vibration through the creation of art. This mantra asks: “You, whose rays illuminate the whole world, illuminate my heart so that it, too, can do Your work”. This mantra expresses humility and a desire to consciously invite the cosmic creative force to work through her. Jourdan Arpelle invoked this mantra as her acknowledgment that to be a creator, an artist, is for her, a calling to the divine.