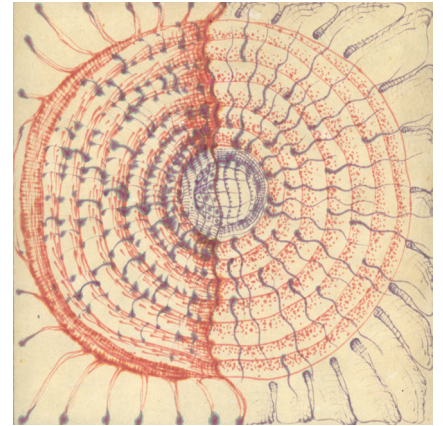
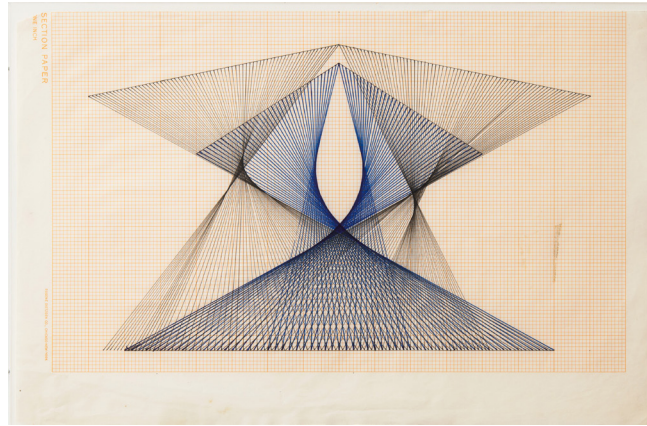


Of Mythic Worlds: Works from the Distant Past through the Present

March 8 – May 14, 2023



For press inquiries and images, contact:
Allison Underwood,
Director of Communications
212 219 2166 x119
aunderwood@drawingcenter.org

The Drawing Center
35 Wooster Street
New York, NY 10013
drawingcenter.org

Free Admission
Wednesday-Sunday: 12–6pm

New York, NY... *Of Mythic Worlds: Works from the Distant Past through the Present* explores the ways in which rituals, myths, traditions, ideologies, and beliefs can intersect across cultures, histories, and time periods. The exhibition is curated by Olivia Shao, an independent curator based in New York.

On view March 8 through May 14, 2023, *Of Mythic Worlds* brings together fifty-three works by more than thirty artists including **Jordan Belson, Lee Bontecou, Cameron, Barbara Chase-Riboud, Walter De Maria, Steffani Jemison, Duane Linklater, Yutaka Matsuzawa, Georgia O’Keeffe, Betye Saar, Warlimpirrnga Tjapaltjarri, and Jack Whitten**, among others. Spanning a wide range of historical periods and cultural traditions, it highlights the esoteric and often elusive pursuit of understanding phenomena that are outside of our objective, worldly experience.

A preview of the exhibition will be on view at The Drawing Center beginning February 3.

Tracing commonalities, both formal and conceptual, *Of Mythic Worlds* draws surprising connections between artists that might otherwise go unnoticed. Rarely exhibited drawings by **Morris Graves, Jack Whitten, Georgia O’Keeffe**, and theorist and writer **Roland Barthes** are presented alongside nineteenth-century Shaker Gift Drawings, as well as major works from artists such as **Mel Chin and Jordan Belson**. Historical block prints from the Qing dynasty are juxtaposed with works made by contemporary artists including **Cici Wu, Bernadette Van-Huy, Julia Phillips, Steffani Jemison, and Robert Bittenbender**. *Of Mythic Worlds* also includes new work made on the occasion of the exhibition by **Duane Linklater**, an Omaskêko Ininiwak artist based in North Bay, Ontario.

Together, the works of these artists investigate personal belief systems, spirituality, and consciousness; explore the metaphysical and the sublime; recall myths passed down from ancient cultures; and expand our understanding of mysticism and immateriality.

“Art records time and culture, transporting the viewer to the past and into the present, from one dimension to another through the material object,” says Shao. “For the duration of the exhibition, the collected works will share a space in time and place where the original meaning and intent of each work is no longer fixed and can evolve to take on new significance.”

Artists in the Exhibition

Jo Baer	Walter De Maria	Janet Malcolm	Lenore Tawney
Roland Barthes	Ilka Gedő	Yutaka Matsuzawa	Warlimpirrnga
Jordan Belson	Morris Graves	Elizabeth Milleker	Tjapaltjarri
Robert Bittenbender	Hu Zhengyan	Georgia O’Keeffe	Bernadette Van-Huy
Lee Bontecou	Steffani Jemison	I. Rice Pereira	Jack Whitten
Cameron	Arnold J. Kemp	Julia Phillips	Cici Wu
Barbara Chase-Riboud	Mohammed O. Khalil	Betye Saar	
Mel Chin	Duane Linklater	Andrei Tarkovsky	

Publication

Of Mythic Worlds: Works from the Distant Past through the Present is accompanied by a new edition of the Drawing Papers series. The publication will feature an introduction by the exhibition's curator Olivia Shao; an essay by writer, educator, editor, and cofounder of *November* magazine Lauren O'Neill Butler; individual texts on each of the artists; and color reproductions of all of the works in the exhibition. The publication will be available for purchase at The Drawing Center and in its online bookstore at drawingcenter.org. As with every publication produced by The Drawing Center, it will also be available to read in a digital format, free of charge.

About Olivia Shao

Olivia Shao is a curator based in New York. She has organized exhibitions and projects at independent spaces, galleries and institutions in New York City, Los Angeles, Europe, and Asia.

Credits

Lead support for *Of Mythic Worlds: Works from the Distant Past Through the Present* is provided by the Burger Collection, Hong Kong and the TOY family, along with The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts. Generous funding is provided by the ADAA Foundation, the Fundación Almine y Bernard Ruiz-Picasso para el Arte, Lonti Ebers, and Gagosian Gallery. Additional support is provided by the Director's Circle of The Drawing Center.

Images:

Lenore Tawney, *Untitled*, 1965. India ink on graph paper, perspex frame, 11 3/8 x 18 inches (29 x 45.6 cm). Courtesy of the Lenore G. Tawney Foundation, New York, and Alison Jacques, London © Lenore G. Tawney Foundation. Photo by Michael Brzezinski

Jordan Belson, *Brain Drawing*, 1952. Ink on paper, 7 13/16 x 7 13/16 inches (19.8 x 19.8 cm). Estate of Jordan Belson, Courtesy Matthew Marks Gallery

####