

Modern Oracles

curated by Melissa Staiger

Malado Baldwin, Monica Carrier, Christina Ondros, Linnea Paskow, & Melanie Vote

Opening Reception:

Friday March 4th, 2016 from 7:00PM - 9:00PM

On View March 4th - April 8th, 2016

Open Saturday's 1:00PM - 4:00PM & by appointment

Trestle Projects, 400 Third Ave 2nd FL, Brooklyn, NY 11215



*image by Malado Baldwin, *LOTTO MANDALAS: WEALTH*, acrylic on canvas, 28 x 72 inches, 2012

Modern Oracles features drawings and paintings by Malado Baldwin, Monica Carrier, Christina Ondros, Linnea Paskow, and Melanie Vote. *Modern Oracles* exhibits pictorial, text-based, and symbolic images which dive below the surface of image making to find patterns that challenge the viewer to connect with their own deeper psyche.

Esoteric and spiritual topics have long been prevalent in art. Artists including Marjorie Cameron, Hilma af Klint, Emma Kunz, Catherine Murphy, and Charmion von Weigand have contributed to a dialogue that engaged with notions of spirituality and visual art. Each artist in *Modern Oracles* follows their own interpretation of esoteric traditions into inspired creations that engage an intuitive creative process.

Malado Baldwin's The "*Lotto Mandalas*" from her "Magick Series" are scaled to human size, but in proportion to the dimension of a New York Lottery ticket. They were created as meditations on what it means to "win" the lottery of life and the essentials of health, wealth, love and vision. Each of the four paintings on view in the exhibition are embedded with symbols and alchemical geometry as a way to conjure a dreamer's

wish into reality.

In **Monica Carrier's** "*Spirit Drawings*", she works with volunteers who pick through an assortment of black ink blob paintings, similar to a Rorschach test used in psychology. Carrier works with the participants to understand what they see in each ink splatter, and then develops a drawing based on their perception by transforming the organic ink marks into black ink drawings on white paper. Through these interactions, thick blobs become fine, detailed lines rich with surprising visual narratives.

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Christina Ondrus's work "*Altered States/Non Dominant*" shows the viewer text-based lists of altered states of consciousness or psychonautic techniques to attain them. She uses her non-dominant writing hand to alter the brain by strengthening neural connections. Silvery graphite text-as-image is scrolled on black paper leading to a hypnotic and magnetic quality in the work.

Linnea Paskow is inspired by the study of dreams as well as the Red Book by psychoanalyst Carl Jung. Her research into archetypal dreams has inspired Paskow to create a series of paintings, including hundreds of collages and drawings, focused on subjects and feelings of her own lucid states. Her paintings and collage include a spectrum of color, with a vivid/rich/saturated color palette and sensual textures.

Melanie Vote's lush group of landscape paintings evoke an eerie sense of disembodiment. The viewer is invited to wonder about the physical states of the figures in these painting. This series of paintings are dedicated to the human figure and earth becoming becoming a new intertwined form. Text elements serve as the messenger of warnings, while nature provides an entry into deeper meaning.

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