

MYTHES DE LA MÉDITERRANÉE



ANNA CHROMY@SAINT-TROPEZ

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MYTHS OF THE MEDITERRANEAN

PRESS DOSSIER

"Mythes de la Méditerranée"

16 monumental sculptures by artist Anna Chromy


Exhibited in Saint-Tropez

From July 1st to October 10th, 2011,

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Biography d'Anna Chromy

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From July 1st to October 10th, 2011, the Town of Saint-Tropez will play host in its most remarkable sites to sixteen monumental sculptures in bronze and Carrara marble by artist Anna Chromy.

Following the huge success of her exhibitions in Paris, Place Vendôme, in Athens, Greece, then in Beijing in China, artist Anna Chromy has chosen Saint-Tropez in which to exhibit her "Myths of the Mediterranean", universal themes revisited from the perspective of our contemporary history undergoing far-reaching change.

Whether in marble or bronze, Anna Chromy's sculptures share one point in common: a quest for estheticism and formal beauty. But beyond this self-evident harmony, the meaning imparted to her sculptures has its own thread of powerfulness which challenges the viewer. For the artist : "Beauty alone can awaken love, and it is this kind of energy that mankind needs today". This position which goes against the grain of current trends in contemporary art is, in the case of Anna Chromy, fully assumed in a classic interpretation that sublimates the forms of bodies in motion, free and strong. In combining the rigour of her Central European origins with a passion for Greek mythology and the opera, Anna Chromy has succeeded in creating fabulous sculptures which take the observor and art-lover on a voyage to the origins of Europe and the human being, from the cradle of European culture to the beauty

of the contemporary multi-cultural spirit.

An artist of Bohemian origin, Anna Chromy grew up in Austria, then moved to Paris where she fell in love with the City of Light. She now lives in Monaco and works in her studio in Pietrasanta in Italy. In Carrara, she is currently working on the "Cloak of Conscience", sculpted directly in the Michaelangelo marble quarry, one of the largest marble sculptures ever produced since those of Michelangelo in a single block and the first to be emptied from the inside, with the largest surface area of marble ever covered with subtle folds.

As a preview, a smaller version in bronze of the "Manteau de la Conscience" will be exhibited this summer on the Place de l'Ormeau in Saint-Tropez, where the public will also be able to discover : "Europe" in the gardens of the Annonciade ; "Ulysse" in front of the Tourist Office ; "Prométhée" on Quai Suffren opposite the statue of the Bailli de Suffren ; "Olympic Spirit" on Place Grammont ; "Sisyphé" on Quai Jaurès facing the restaurant L'Escale ; "La Musique des Fleuves" (a set of 5 sculptures) on the Place de la Garonne, "Alcyone" on the Quai de la Pesquière (La Ponche), "Chronos I" and "Chronos II" on the Place des Remparts, as well as small-format reproductions of large sculptures in the Fine Jewellery Art Gallery Francesca Dona on Rue de la Ponche.

For all requests concerning photos and further information, press contact :
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Local representative of the organizer of the exhibition "Mythes de la Méditerranée" :
Francesca Dona

Interview d'Anna Chromy



Anna, you consider yourself European. So why have you selected the Mediterranean?

Even if my roots are central European, I had the good fortune to spend all my adult life on the shores of the Mediterranean between France and Italy. Many of my paintings and drawings are born here and the same is true for all my sculptures. It comes therefore not as a surprise that the themes of my works have been strongly influenced by this cradle of the major civilizations and religions of the world, this accumulation of incredible artistic treasures, and a nature and people who I have come to understand and appreciate over the years.

Many of my sculptures adorn selected locations on a perimeter which reaches from Monaco to Menton and Roquebrune-Cap Martin, from Portofino and Pietrasanta/Forte dei Marmi to Pisa and Florence, and the Vatican. I have also created several works specifically for activities around the Mediterranean, such as the "Golden Olive Tree" for Pax Medicalis, which unites Christian, Jewish and Muslim doctors in an association for peace, or the "Golden Eagle" for the Association Albert II.

Apart from those permanent installations you mentioned, I presume you have had other expositions in the south?

Yes, I have taken part in a large number of collective exhibitions all over Italy and also some individual ones. I would like to give here only two examples: Several years ago I participated in a sculpture exhibition in Ostia, the port of Rome, with the title "La Bellezza venuta dal Mare". It was accompanied by a very instructive seminar on beauty, the beauty of the Mediterranean. A few years later, in 2007, the National Archeological Museum in Athens honored me with an exposition of my sculptures titled "Mythos Revisited". It was the first time in its history that this Museum-Treasure of the Antique

decided to organize a show of contemporary sculptures and it was met with a huge success.

What attracts you in particular in this Mediterranean civilization?

Its beauty, beauty understood in the sense of Keats ("Beauty is Truth and Truth is Beauty"). This has become the credo of my creation, and the adaptation and interpretation of the Greco-Roman Myths for our modern times has become my passion. Artists have at all times drawn on the content of Myths, because they associate emotion and memory with the intellect. It's this combination which helps the observer to understand a work. Mythology has created the themes which later have been developed by literature, morals, science, fine arts, movies, and the human society in general.

She allows us to share the exaltation of courage, this classical "virtu" which continues to fashion the Western conscience. For Aristotle beauty is the an accomplished ideal: she is metaphysical and reveals herself nevertheless to man and the world through "armonia", which is the source of felicity. The rediscovery of this Harmony has become imperatively necessary for today's societies. It is significant that a grand country like China has made harmony and felicity the prime aspirations of its development.

Why have you chosen Saint-Tropez to show your works?

I defend in my creations, against all temporary fashions, the humanist ideal which considers beauty as the source of natural harmony. But it is also a return of Myth, as enchantment of a time when the Gods (and Man) still knew how to enjoy happiness. The harbour, the city and the peninsula, with its preserved nature, its constructions on a human level, and its founding myths, constitute an ideal setting for my works.

I'm therefore thankful to the Mayor of the city and his Municipal Council to give me the occasion to familiarize the many friends of this privileged corner of the Mediterranean with my contemporary interpretation of this ancient civilization.

Recent works



Eurydice

Beauty is eternal, it never dies, it only takes on new forms. The harmony of Eurydice's body echoes endlessly in the instrument and song of Orpheus.

Eurydice's ultimate gesture of love is this metamorphosis of her body into a cello to enable Orpheus to continue his song. The object of his love thus becomes the subject of his music.

The pain for the loss of his beloved gives the song of Orpheus supernatural strains that tame wild beasts, soften the gods and touch the soul of every human being.

Metamorphosis d'Eurydice, Hôtel Byblos

Sculpture en marbre blanc de Carrara

Année : 2004

Dimensions de la sculpture: H180 x L50 x P220 cm

Poids de la sculpture : 1200kg

Alcyon

"In this world I am a drop of water seeking another drop in the ocean; I plunge to find my companion and dissolve in my quest". I got my inspiration for the Alcyon through the observation of the acrobatic flights of the seagulls in front of my window out on the Mediterranean.

What elegance, what lightness, what freedom and effortlessness – a lesson for us poor two-legged creatures. Year after year I see the same couples build their nest and raise their off springs.

My Alcyon is the symbol of this fidelity and abnegation by risking her life for her companion.

The liberating effect of this sacrifice gives her the wings for her salvation and of her compassion towards others.

Alcyon, jetée de la Ponche Sculpture en bronze Year 2004

Dimensions de la sculpture: H400 x L250 x P150 cm Weight : 1200kg



Europe

"Suddenly, the vortex of an anomalous wave rises, a real Tsunami of blistering whiteness, hurling high in the air the body of a young woman". This is the image the marble of Carrara offers to Zeus in my "Rape of Europe". The king of the gods no longer assumes the seductive semblance of a meek young bull, but becomes a huge bursting tide. Instead of the small hand-carved horns of Ovid's tale, "more transparent than a pure gem", there is a crystal globe: an immense eye, the eye of conscience.

Europe is painfully braving the surging waves. The bronze, youthful surfer-like figure, skillfully bends sideways in her bid to reach the shore, almost dancing on the crest of the wave. The first impact suggests courage. Its sweetness reveals the enigma that has tormented the conscience of man for thousands of years, - can the energy of a smile balance blind strength? Can beauty and a peaceful protest contrast the delirium of power?

Europe, Musée de l'Annonciade

Sculpture en bronze, marbre et cristal Swarovski

Year : 2004

Dimensions de la sculpture : H330 x L120 x P170 cm

Poids de la sculpture: 1800 kg



Sisyphus

"You must imagine Sisyphus happy" said Albert Camus talking about his hero of the absurd; and regarding the subject of the artist he added: "To create means to live twice, the only chance to keep our conscience". Maybe we artists, as heralds of the absurd, are happier than the others? Homer considered Sisyphus the wisest and craftiest of men. How does that apply to us?

To what extent can the creation of a couple, a family, a home, increase or attenuate the absurdity of our existence? Questions that "L'homme revolté" asks since his creation. My Sisyphus has chosen a family to progress, or at least he tries. His eternal pedaling, which mirrors the bolder rolling down the hill after each ascent, measures the absurdity of our existence. It's the rebellion against a blind and unjust destiny and the search for a meaning in our life which confers us our dignity as humans.

Sisyphus, Quai Jean Jaures Sculpture en bronze

Dimensions de la sculpture: H290 x L70x P250 cm Poids de la sculpture: 900kg

Olympic spirit

In Antiquity the Olympic Games were the greatest of all challenges. Our modern days have added many others, such as the space adventures, genetic research, etc. However, until today the Games are the symbol for peaceful competition and the desire to surpass one-self. Yet, these three acrobatic athletes in their precarious balance are also the symbol of our life as a permanent challenge.

Technically the Spirit is the most daring of my bronzes. Only very few believed that it could stay upright. Despite those justified doubts about its apparent imbalance, the Spirit shows a perfect balance and stability, a model for our life.

Olympic spirit, Place Georges Grammont

Sculpture en bronze Année 2004

Dimensions de la sculpture: H580 x L110 x P150 cm

Poids de la sculpture: 700kg



Prometheus

Prometheus is the creator of man. He has given him the fire to allow his survival. He has modeled man out of clay, a gesture repeated since by all sculptors, and has given him an aspect similar to God. This similarity was not going to please God, who spoiled the future of humanity by opening Pandora's Box and spreading disasters on earth.

This genesis of an antique myth gives a better description of our human condition than the sacred texts of the different religions. Despite our spectacular scientific and economic advances the world is still afflicted by many woes and millions of humans suffer in their flesh and soul, like my tattered Prometheus. We cannot continue like this for much longer.

We have to close definitely Pandora's Box and discover for a second time fire, the fire of Love. This will entail a profound revolution, spurred by a radical evolution of our Conscience, humanity's only chance to continue a peaceful and sustainable development. As depicted in the 10th and final gate of the Kabala, this change will open our heart, bring us serenity, maximize our brain power and create a total communication with the Infinite, symbolized in my sculpture by a half moon.

Prometheus, Quai de Suffren

Sculpture en bronze et acier inoxydable poli, Année 2010

Dimensions de la sculpture : H500 x L180 x P120 cm

Poids de la sculpture : 700 Kg

The Cloak of Conscience



This Cloak is for me the symbol of what survives us after our passage on earth. Like "Jedermann" ("Everyman"), the play of Hugo von Hofmannsthal which accompanied my youth in Salzburg, we will be accompanied on our passage by our faith and our good deeds, by our love towards others and the support we have given them. The void of the Cloak is filled by our soul, by our conscience, and our creative energy, which will survive us forever.

From the beginning the Cloak created the greatest interest among all my works, in the public and the media. Many public institutions and individuals have decided to mark symbolic places with this enigmatic symbol. Thus a Cloak in bronze, 150 centimeters high, reminds us of the Commander in Mozart's Don Giovanni and its first performance at the Stavovské divadlŮ (Estates Theatre) in Prague; another original reflects the Pieta in front of the Salzburg Cathedral, the image of a mother suffering for the world; still another represents the image of philosophy at Fondazione C'† la Ghironda in Bologna. All these sculptures, together with many others installed over the last ten years, create a lively reaction by the public, which are expressed in numerous letters and e-mails. It seems that, even without further explanation, these Cloaks contribute to an awakening of conscience in all people who encounter them.

As my Cloak is now completed I realize that it's softly undulating tissue of marble radiates a feeling of immense harmony and peace of mind, and I want as many people as possible to share this feeling. I'm convinced that the Cloak will find alone its final point of installation, in a place somewhere in the world which radiates a particularly strong energy.

The archi-sculpture

Encouraged by a friend who was born in the marble mountains of Carrara, the Abbot of the Basilica and Holy Convent of Saint Francis in Assisi, I decided to create a space for meditation and the return to ourselves in the form of the Cloak. To make it spectacular and unique I decided to create this work out of a single block of white marble. There is only one quarry in the world capable of supplying blocks of a suitable dimension, - the Cave Michelangelo in Carrara. These quarries have supplied the marbles for the monuments of Ancient Rome, and they allowed Michelangelo, Bernini and many other geniuses to create their masterworks.

The block with a weight of 250 metric tons had first to be worked in the quarry itself, the first time after Michelangelo 500 years ago. It is also the first time in the history of sculpture that a block was emptied inside in order to create a space to find ones inner self and harness the energy of conscience. In 2008 this exploit was honored with the "Premio Michelangelo", the most coveted prize for sculptors in Italy.



Sculpture en bronze Année : 1993
Dimensions de la sculpture: H125 x L85 x P120 cm
Poids de la sculpture: 100kg

As a preview, a smaller version in bronze of the "Manteau de la Conscience" will be exhibited this summer on the Place de l'Ormeau in Saint-Tropez.

ANNA CHROMY – PUBLIC SCULPTURES, MUSEUMS, AWARDS

In 1992 Anna Chromy decided to hide her stock of over hundred oil paintings and several hundred drawings from the public eye and to exhibit for the next 20 years only her sculptures. During this period she participated in nearly hundred exhibitions, with an average of one museum show per year.

2011 Exhibition "Myths of the Mediterranean", 15 large sculptures at the harbor of Saint-Tropez

Painting "Celestial Encounters" for the Beatification of John Paul II

2010 Installation of Anna's "Galileo Galilei" sculpture on the main road of Science City in Guangzhou

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Appointment of Anna as Judge in the Chinese City Sculpture Committee
Inauguration of the Chromy Art Space in Pietrasanta, Tuscany

A "Cloak" as distinction for the Master Class in Mediation and Diplomacy of University Paris South
The "Olivier d'Or/ Pax Medicalis 2010" is awarded to the "Gaza Doctor" Izzeldin Abuelaish
Completion of the Cloak of Conscience in Studio Michelangelo in Carrara

2009 Inauguration of the "Christ Resurrected" in the Saint Severin Church by the Archbishop of Munich

"Equus" Trophy for Count Landsberg-Velen, Honorary President of the Order of Malta, Nuremberg
Prince Albert II of Monaco honors the Peace Nobel Elie Wiesel with the "Olivier d'Or" created by Anna
Creation of the "Peace Eagle" for the Ecological Foundation of Prince Albert II of Monaco
Installation of the sculpture "Franz Schubert" at Bad Gastein, Austria
Support of Tony Blair and his Faith Foundation for the IWCA and the Cloak of Conscience project
Personal exhibition at the Arts Space of the Beijing Hongkong Jockey Club (a first for a foreign artist)
Anna Chromy is awarded the Professor title by the Chinese Minister of Culture and invited to join the National Academy of Sculpture in Beijing as permanent member

2008 "Premio Michelangelo", Carrara, Tuscany, for Anna Chromy (the highest award for a sculptor in Italy, Laureate 2008 Sister Emmanuelle, the "French Mother Theresa")

Creation of "Olivier d'Or" Trophy for "Association Pax Medicalis", Cote d'Azur, France
Installation of the group "Saint Francis with Poverty" in the Monastery of Saint Francis in Assisi
Creation of IWCA (International World Conscience Association)
Audience with Benedict XVI at Saint Peters in Rome and presentation of a model of the Cloak
Presentation of the Cloak of Conscience project to Nikolas Sarkozy, the President of France

2007 Installation of the "Cloak of Saint Martin" at the entrance of Cap Martin, Cote d'Azur, France

Installation of "Saint Martin" on the altar of the Saints Chapel at Basilica di San Francesco, Assisi
Exhibition "Mythos Europe" at the National Archeological Museum, Athens
Installation of a "Cloak" at the National Archeological Museum

Installation of a "Cloak" at Fondazione Ferrero, Alba, Italy

2006 "Premio Voce delle Alpe Apuane" for Anna Chromy, Massa-Carrara, Tuscany

Creation of "Premio Ulysses" for the City of Forte dei Marmi, Tuscany
A block of 200 tons of white Carrara marble as gift of "Cave Michelangelo" to Anna Chromy
Installation of "Carmen" in the new Opera house of Guangzhou, China
Installation of "Sisyphus" in the Museum of Modern Art of Guangzhou
Installation of "Violin Player" and "Trumpet Player" at "Le Dome", Luxemburg

2005 Exhibition "Mythos Europe" on Place Vendome, Paris (20 monumental sculptures)

Installation of « Christoph Willibald Gluck » in the State Opera House, Nurnberg, Germany
Anna is invited as Guest of Honor at the Art Fair in Guangzhou, China

2004 Installation of "Sisyphus" in Scuola Superiore di Sant'Anna, University of Pisa, Italy

Installation of "Ulysses" on "Espace Cocteau", Menton, France
Installation of "La Bella Elvira" in the Palace of Regione Toscana, Florence, Italy
Creation of the Official Poster of Tuscany for the World Women's Day 2004

2003 "Medal Franz Kafka" for the life-time achievements of Anna Chromy, Prague (former laureates include: Steven Spielberg, Milos Forman, Norman Mailer, a.o.)

Installation of "Marionette Dancer" at "Museo del Parco", Portofino, Italy
Installation of a "Marionette Dancer" on Piazza Garibaldi, Pietrasanta, Italy
"International Premio Salvador Dali" for the surrealist artist Anna Chromy, Prague
Bronze portrait of Karheinz Boehm for Foundation "Menschen fuer Menschen", Vienna, Austria
Edmund Stoiber, Prime Minister of Bavaria, receives the "Equus Trophy" created by Anna Chromy

2002 Installation of fountain "Czech Musicians" by the Major of Prague I on Sènovàznè nàmesi

"Heart of the World", for Pope John Paul II and audience on St. Peters Sq., Vatican, Rome
"Masaryk Price for European Reconciliation" for Anna Chromy, Prague
Installation of a Cloak at the Philosophs Cercle of Museum C' à la Ghironda, Zola Predosa, Bologna
Installation of bronze portrait of Count Johannes Moy, Anif/Salzburg

2001 Installation of "Ulysses" together with the four "Constellations" at Pontile, Forte dei Marmi, Italy

Installation of "Herbert von Karajan" at his birthplace in the center of Salzburg, Austria, and inauguration with the Vienna Philharmonic, Riccardo Muti, Eliette von Karajan, etc.
Installation of a bronze portrait of Herbert von Karajan at the cemetery of Anif/Salzburg, Austria
Installation of a bronze portrait of Oscar Wilde at the Museum of Modern Art, Menton, France
Installation of a Cloak at "Museo dei Bozzetti", Pietrasanta, Italy

2000 Sculpture Exhibition "Mythos Europe" as part of "Prague European Capital of Culture"

Installation of a Cloak, or "Commendatore", in front of Stavovské divadlo, the Prague Opera house
Installation of "Elvira" and "Don Ottavio" in the new Headquarters of Nuernberger Versicherung
Bronze portrait of Herbert von Karajan for State Theatre Ulm and Karajan Center Vienna

1999 Installation of a Cloak or "Pieta" by the Archbishop of Salzburg in front of the Cathedral

Installation of "Carmen" by Prince Rainier III at the Grimaldi Palace in Monte Carlo
CD-Edition "Don Giovanni" by W.A. Mozart illustrated with the sculptures of Anna Chromy

1997 Installation of a "Cloak of Conscience" at Keitum Church, Sylt, Germany

Installation of a "Heart for Children" at RTL Television headquarters, Cologne, Germany
Exhibition "Don Giovanni" group at Opera de Monte Carlo and Opera Comique, Paris

1996 Installation of a Cloak in bronze by Prince Rainier III at Grimaldi Palace, Principality of Monaco

1995 Installation "France Triomphante" and "Leporello" at Roquebrune Cap Martin, France

1993 Creation of "Equus Trophy" for Bavarian Equestrian Federation, Munich, Germany

1991 Creation of "Prague Autumn", the official painting and poster for the "Prague Autumn Festival"
Painting exhibitions at Vasarely Museum, Aix-en-Provence; Palfy Palace Museum, Bratislava; Karolina University, Prague; Michailiwska Trapezna Museum, Kiev, Ukraina ; National Museum Budapest

1988 The motive of the official painting of EXPO'92 is used for the first telephone card issue in Monaco

1986 "Man, Earth, Universe" becomes the Official Painting of EXPO'92 in Seville, Cartuja Museum

1985 "Peace On Earth", three drawings for the United Nations in New York

1980 Painting "To be, or not to be" with the first image of the Cloak of Conscience