

SPAZIO — NOBILE

Contemporary Applied Arts, Design & Photography

Press Release

Spazio Nobile is pleased to announce Amy Hilton, Solo Show, *Subtle Energy* at the gallery from September 8th to November 6th 2022.



Amy Hilton's molten cast glass works in progress at CIAV Meisenthal, July 2022.

*I looked for the moon within me,
I came to worship You.
Here and there I found Narayana,
I found Him in the fabric of everything.
Why does He take all these forms?*

- Lalla "Mystical Songs of Kashmiri Tantrism"

Everything in the universe, from the subdivisions of physical matter to higher worlds, co-exists and retains a connection. This notion of 'connection', along with those of totality and fragmentation is precisely what Amy Hilton addresses through her artistic practice and research.

Subtle Energy extends Hilton's fascination with esoteric ideologies and the belief that human life simultaneously subsists in two parallel dimensions: the 'physical body' and the psychological, emotional, spiritual, mindful, non-physical 'subtle body'. Through these two entities, we are confronted by higher planes of existence: subtle, etheric, astral. At the core is her quest to achieve a deeper understanding of unity, of the layers of metaphysical meaning that shape our existence. In this exhibition, featuring stone and glass sculptures and drawings in ink, crayon and dry pastel, the spectator is invited to move through the invisible to the visible, from the spirit to the form and vice versa.

Hilton's investigations of these higher realms go further to explore inner illumination through the chakras - a Sanskrit term signifying a 'wheel'. From the Tantric period of yoga philosophy around 500 to 1000 CE, they are specific points of connection in which energy flows from one chakra to the other. Tantric spirituality is one of duality, linking heaven and earth, masculine and feminine, inner and outer, microcosm and macrocosm, mind and body in which the emphasis is placed on incorporating everything, completely, totally and consciously rather than rejecting any one aspect of reality in favour of another. In this way, the chakras epitomise the essential elements of our existence.

Representing a map for healing, a profound formula for wholeness and a template for transformation, the chakras describe the soul's architecture, enabling the practitioner to channel the subtle energies of the soul. In her work, Hilton associates the chakras with the five cosmic elements, - earth, water, fire, air, ether - ascending from bottom to top, encompassing a spectrum of creation from the physical earth to pure consciousness. During meditation, the visualisation of these five elements as graphic symbols enables stimulation of the inner vital energies and can be concentrated upon for psycho-cosmic integration.

Through an alignment of five geometric shapes, made of different stones such as sandstone, onyx, red travertine, white marble and rock crystal, the artist aims to eliminate the boundary between the material and spiritual. The sculptures exist as energy centres, strung invisibly together like jewels. Aligning from base to crown along the axis of a vertical core, they embody the energetic vitality of each chakra, each element, each different stone. Within each shape, this energy expands far beyond their geometry; they have a pulse, which, by aligning each one, acts as a stepping stone to the next, connecting heaven and earth. The last sculpture, representing ether, is the most transparent; when the crown chakra is achieved, it is aglow with the purest, crystal-clear clarity.

In the dry pastel drawings, harmonies of colour and energy permeate the paper. The artist pays particular attention to the colour scheme. In each work, the sensitive application of the pastel is purely symbolic, the colours referring to philosophical ideas and expressing varying states of consciousness and auras derived from the higher planes. Diagrams which reference the artist's research on yantras (tantric symbols of cosmic unity), as well as her studies for the stone chakra sculptures will also be presented.

All works depict a personalised colour theory and a visual vocabulary inspired by esoteric tenants of Theosophy. Drawing specifically on Eastern thinking, they delve into translations of ancient Hindu texts, to the esoteric philosophy of H.P Blavatsky's 'The Secret Doctrine', Anthroposophy (doctrines of Spiritual science by Rudolph Steiner) as well as Goethe's 'Theory of Colours'.

To realise is to 'see' with 'real' eyes, to see what is real, to see the energy behind the material representation. According to the artist, it is the manifestation of our visions into reality which completes our life purpose and takes higher consciousness into its full, outward expression to evolve the world around us. The chakra system incorporated within this exhibition serves a map for that process. An integrative system, it is one that can return us to wholeness once again.

Experience, embodiment, meditation and reflection assume pivotal roles in this new body of work where visual art acts upon the viewer and the space it occupies. The work informs us more deeply of Hilton's perception of the world and her sensitivity to that which is both visible and invisible, both material and spiritual - underlying the sacred unity of self and cosmos.



Subtle Energy, Dry pastel on paper, 120 x 240 cm, unique piece.

*In your body is Mount Meru
encircled by the seven continents;
the rivers are there too,
the seas, the mountains, the plains,
and the gods of the fields.
Prophets are to be seen in it, monks,
places of pilgrimage
and the deities presiding over them.
The stars are there, and the planets,
and the sun together with the moon;
there too are the two cosmic forces:
that which destroys, that which creates;
and all the elements: ether,
air and fire, water and earth.
Yes in your body are all things
that exist in the three worlds,
all performing their prescribed functions
around Mount Meru;
he alone who knows this
is how to be a true yogi.*

*Siva Samhitā, 2, 1-5, texts cited and translated by Jean Varenne in *Yoga and the Hindu Tradition*

In the system of chakras we find that each phase of energy is represented by an element, in an aligned central axis, in an ascending order: earth, water, fire, air and ether. Each of the five vortices signifies a new quality, and each is both an extension and a limitation of another. Upon concentrating on the chakras in turn, all of the 'truths' that they embody are spontaneously known by illumination.

The central column of the radiating world is identical with our own subtle spine. The earth (Mūladhara chakra) becomes subtle and dissolves into water (Svādhishtāna chakra); water is resolved into fire (Manipūra chakra); fire similarly merges into air (Anāhata chakra); air is absorbed into ether (Viśuddha chakra); and ether is resolved into avidyā, which emerges into the Abode of Bliss (Sahasrāra chakra).

EARTH (santafora)

Connection

At the root center, Mūladhara, is the square, associated with the element earth, its 'quality' is cohesiveness and solidity; resistance and inertia. This level is one in which one may remain content, experiencing no desire to change or to expand into any other state. At the same time, just as the root of a tree implies the possibility of its growth, the earth center denotes an opportunity to expand the awareness.

WATER (onyx)

Contraction

The second chakra, Svādhishtāna, has the nature of its corresponding element water: the energy of flow and purification. In the shape of the crescent moon, white, silvery, luminous, filled with the vital breath.

FIRE (red travertine)

Expansion

Manipūra, the third chakra, associated with the element of fire, has an upward, consuming movement like flames. It is radiant as the rising sun. The contemplation of this triangle-shaped chakra leads to knowledge of the physical organism and its functions, because this is the chakra of the life force. It also relates to the principle of sight and light, the rising expansiveness of the fiery quality.

AIR (white Carrara)

Movement

The fourth chakra, Anāhata, associated with air, the circle, is characterized by a tendency to revolve in different directions and to relate itself to other possibilities. Here 'air' is the atmosphere, the immensity of space and the conveyor of sound. The name of the chakra implies that it commits a mysterious cosmic vibration, that of an 'unstruck' sound – that is, sound beyond the realms of the senses. Anāhata, is located at the spinal center, at the region of the heart.

ETHER (rock crystal)

Space

The fifth chakra, Viśuddha, associated with ether, is a vessel within which all the elements fuse. The chakra synchronizes all colours, encompasses all senses and all functions, and is all-pervading in its power. It is illumined with knowledge and inspired with love, using the unspoken word as an effective tool of communication of the truth of things. Following this, the last chakra, Sahasrāra, is formless: the center of quintessential consciousness, symbolically showering the subtle body with spiritual radiance. As the wisdom center, it shines with the light of cosmic consciousness. It embraces an infinite richness of multicoloured variations in a flash of intuition and an infinite stream of time in an eternal now. This crystal center is in perfect unison with all the lower chakras, providing a glorious insight into the non-temporal and indefinable depth-dimension and unity of existence.

Biography Amy Hilton

Amy Hilton received her degree in literature from the University of London's Goldsmiths College. In January 2008, she settled in the French Alps, where she reconnected with Nature. Her artistic aspirations developed over the seasons spent among the valleys and mountaintops. Today, she splits her time between Paris and Burgundy. The conjunction of 'the parts and the whole' is a concept that has accompanied the artist along her academic and very personal work. She uses a variety of subjects and media to question the notions of totality and fragmentation, to try to open up being and phenomena, which far from existing only independently and distinctly, according to her, find their sense in their relationship, and even more in their relationship to Nature. This "deep ecology", to use the artist's own words, highlights the power of physiological and mythical links and cycles. Amy Hilton has a story she likes to tell in order to illustrate the inspiration that animates her work: she talks about her discovery, on an isolated beach, of a stone broken into two separate parts. Two distinct parts; two parts that fit perfectly together. The sharpness of the stone's crack does not prevent us from thinking of it as a coherent and unique form. Spazio Nobile organised Amy Hilton's first solo exhibition, "*Dreamstones*", for the Art on Paper show at BOZAR Brussels, in 2018, and "*In Between*" during the Brussels Drawing Week in 2018. She was also Guest Editor of TLMag on the theme of Precious: *A Geology of Being* in 2020. Amy Hilton has also taken part in the gallery's Group Exhibitions and Fairs such as *Le Sacre de la Matière*, *The New Age of Humanism*, *Threads of Nature*, *Spazio Nobile At Home: Inner Landscapes*, as well as Art Brussels, Art Week Luxembourg. She is represented by Spazio Nobile since 2018.



Amy Hilton in her studio, July 2022, Paris. Credits : Thomas Vassort

We are very pleased to invite you to the the opening of her show on Thursday 8th of September 2022, from 6 to 9pm and to our Sunday Brunch on September 11th 2022, from 11am to 6pm during Brussels Gallery Weekend.

All PR materials are available on the link sent by email, do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.



Amy Hilton's *Air to Ether* work in progress.

About Spazio Nobile

By opening Spazio Nobile in 2016 in the very lively and cosmopolitan neighbourhood of Place Brugmann in Brussels, art historians Lise Coirier and Gian Giuseppe Simeone have united their passions for design and art history, initiating an erudite dialogue between contemporary applied arts, design and photography. With no boundaries between disciplines, the visual arts interact with the fine arts. Commissioning a collection of unique pieces, limited editions and installations both experimental and artistic, with a particular sensitivity to everything related to nature and minerality, each year the gallery organises five exhibitions and several events in art and heritage venues (Maison Louis Carré, Yvelines, France, arch. Alvar Aalto; Ancienne Nonciature, Grand Sablon; Lempertz (former galerie Leroy Frères), Brussels, etc), including Spazio Nobile At Home in their private villa in Tervuren. Spazio Nobile also takes part in Belgian and international fairs such as Art Brussels, Luxembourg Art Week, Art on Paper, Collectible Design Fair, Nomad Circle, PAD Paris and PAD London, Design Miami/Basel, Unique Design Shanghai, etc. The gallery represents around 30 emerging and renowned artists and designers on an international scale, while promoting high-end craftsmanship and the cultural dialogue between East and West. Spazio Nobile also curates "TLmag True Living of Art & Design, established by Lise Coirier in 2008; through this bi-annual art and design magazine, available in print and online, the gallery shares its selection and its artistic and cultural commitment to collectible art and design. Spazio Nobile has received the Homo Faber label of excellence, and continues exploring its Glass is Tomorrow international project. In 2020, Spazio Nobile Gallery opened Spazio Nobile Studiolo, a permanent exhibition space, across the street of the main gallery which is located at the 'bel étage' of a 1920s house.

www.spazionobilegallery.com

Spazio Nobile
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