

EKATERINA ARISTOVA
painter of the soul



Paris, France





Ekaterina Aristova (*Kate Aristov*) is a Russian and French artist based in Paris whose paintings have been exhibited nationally, in France, as well as in Italy and Spain. Her art is featured in publications of such art magazines as *Beaux Arts Magazine*, *Le Quotidien de l'Art* and many others. Aristova's works explore various themes that include the soul, the path of life, fear, hidden desires, as well as sensitive topics of our time. Aristova founded the "*unconscious art*" approach, through which chaotic abstraction finds form and meaning.

The artist creates her **works with eyes closed** (during the unconscious part of her practice).

Ekaterina Aristova is a Franco-Russian painter, born in Moscow (1986) and moved to Paris in 2009 where she met an artist Sergueï Toutounov (Surikov Art School painter, heritage of whose father makes part of Tretiakov art gallery collection in Moscow) who became her mentor and encouraged her to continue studying art. She chose the Ecole des Beaux Arts de Paris entering it as a free student and also the historically famous Académie de la Grande Chaumière which laid the preconditions that helped Aristova quite soon to reveal the hidden potential for working with the subconscious.

Ekaterina Aristova is the **founder of a new artistic approach (*Unconscious Art*)** combining the heritage and spirit of her Russian origins recognised in works of her famous compatriots Kandinsky and Rothko, as well as the ideas of the "father of the French surrealism" - Andre Breton, and her own find outs in the field of the unconscious in art - Aristova seems to have managed to catch the **red line between abstract surrealism and reality.**

Since 2022 Aristova has used the line as a simple means of expression. She starts a painting with her eyes closed, realizing in its first part an abstract "one-line" drawing on linen, paper or wood. She seeks to get out of her comfort zone to feel strong emotions during creation and to express the inner unconscious in her work. She works under the music. In the second part the artist examines the forms born through crosslines of charcoal



trying to reveal a story and to find a sense behind it.

Manifesto of Unconscious Art (dec. 2021)

Aristova develops the theory of the unconscious in contemporary art based on the ideas of renowned in this field scientists, artists and philosophers such as Freud, Breton, Kandinsky (The Spiritual in Art), Rothko, Aristotle (The soul and the five senses which influence it), Aristoxenus (The soul and the music) and some contemporary philosophers like J. Rancière ("The aesthetic unconscious") through her own approach and practice - what she presented in the **Manifesto of Unconscious Art** during her solo show in Paris in **December 2021**.

Remarkable artworks

Aristova started as a figurative artist presented commercially successful series *Dance with me* (2015) and later (under influence of lyrical abstraction) *The Pool (La Piscine, 2020)*, but she became renowned as an abstract one, known as a "painter of the soul" (Beaux Arts Magazine) thanks to her work **The Soul (L'âme, 2021)**, **Reflections series**, which became the harbinger for the creation of a new approach of the *Unconscious Art*. That was the first artwork where Aristova noticed on a painted canvas a figurative image of a child appeared through her compulsive unconscious abstract practice realized under Rachmaninov's Concerto N2.



The Soul, Ekaterina Aristova, 116x80 cm, 2021

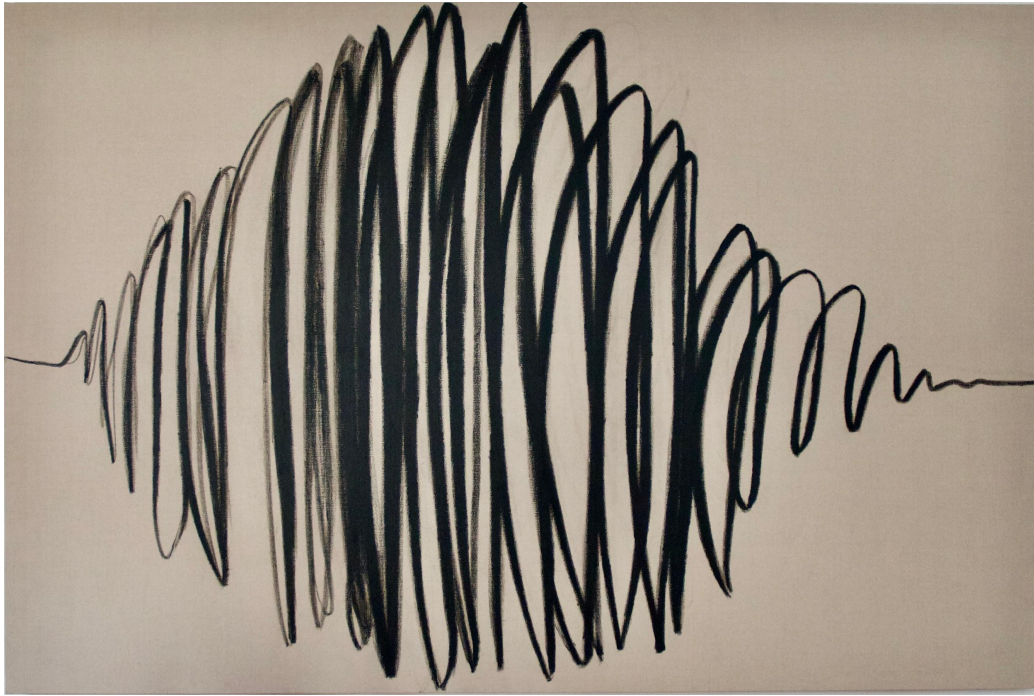
Eyes Wide Shut

Then, inspired by the new discovery, Ekaterina Aristova started to practice painting with eyes closed to increase sensibility and switch off the logos, increasing an unconscious part in her work trying to achieve the same results as it was with *The Soul*.

She created her first series made with eyes closed, **Eyes Wide Shut (2021-2022)**, marked with works like *Requiem*, *E95*, *My Love*, *Masquerade*... The series was presented to the public just two weeks before the Russian-Ukrainian War started. By the mood and meaning of these works Aristova predicted and reflected dramatic events that was felt few time before.



Requiem (Mozart), Ekaterina Aristova, 114x145 cm, oil on canvas, Paris 2022



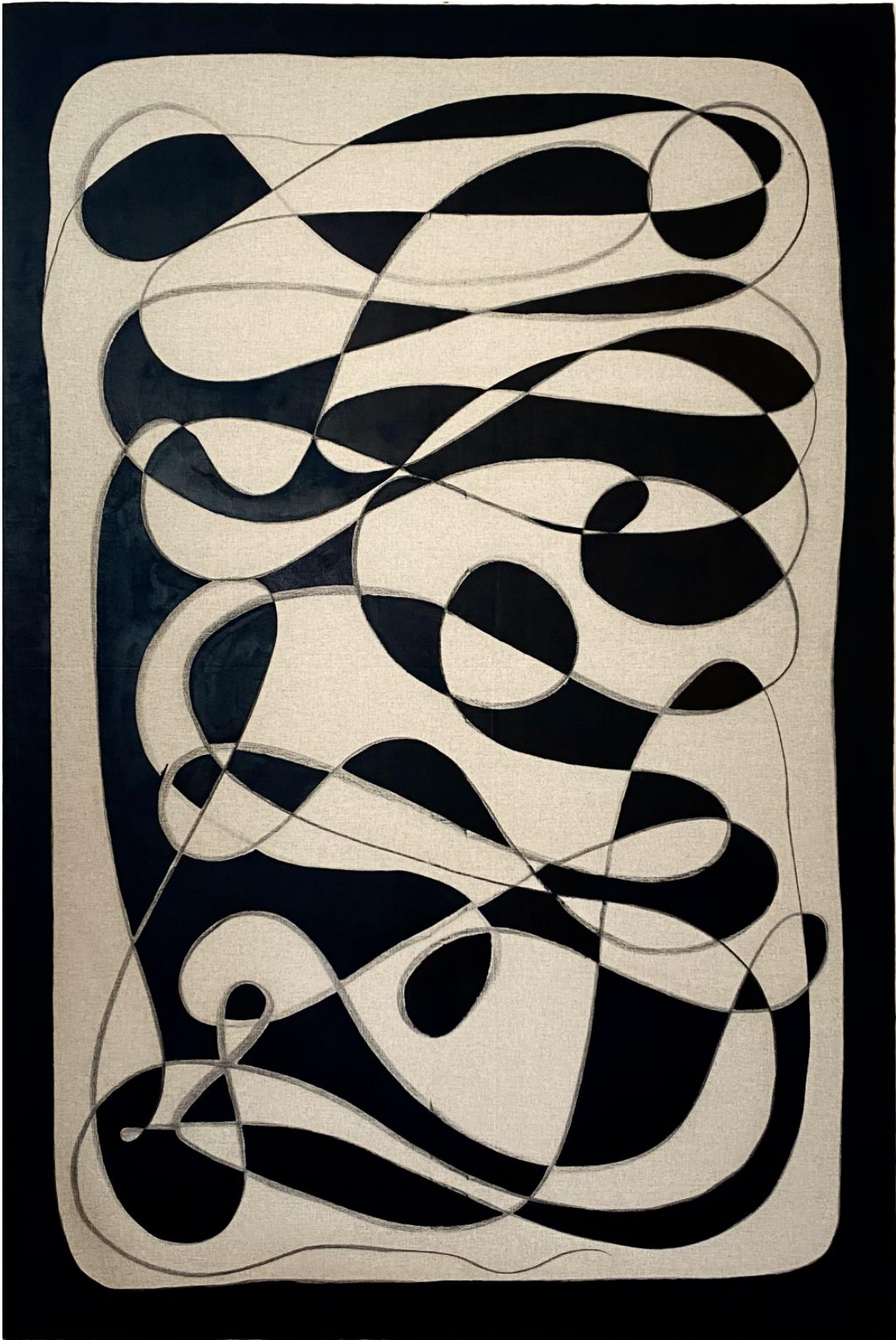
La Vibration Sublime (Anxiety), Ekaterina Aristova, charcoal and black oil sticks on linen
140x210 cm, 2021

Since 2022 Aristova has started to use *the line* as the main means of expression keeping in mind the same principles (eyes closed, research for new forms and meanings in chaotic abstraction) that she used before working directly with paint.

Oasis (series)

In 2022 Ekaterina Aristova created a new series of works, ***Oasis***, produced with her eyes closed, influenced by music, dance and free movement. It is the music that allows the artist to express what is hidden in the depth of the soul.

A short **movie**, *Oasis*, was filmed and out based on this series of artworks. It tells a story interpreted by the artist as a biblical allegory on a theme of the Creator (an artist in the role of the pilgrim), who makes his way alone suffering from a long walk through the sweltering desert drought and finds himself (in a dream or in reality) in the oasis full of temptations, filled with mystical images of birds, exotic plants, a seductive forbidden fruits... When he (or she) wakes up, opens his eyes, looks to the sky and sees a lone airplane, remembers a magical dream, an oasis, which gives him strength, inspiration and freedom to continue his path.



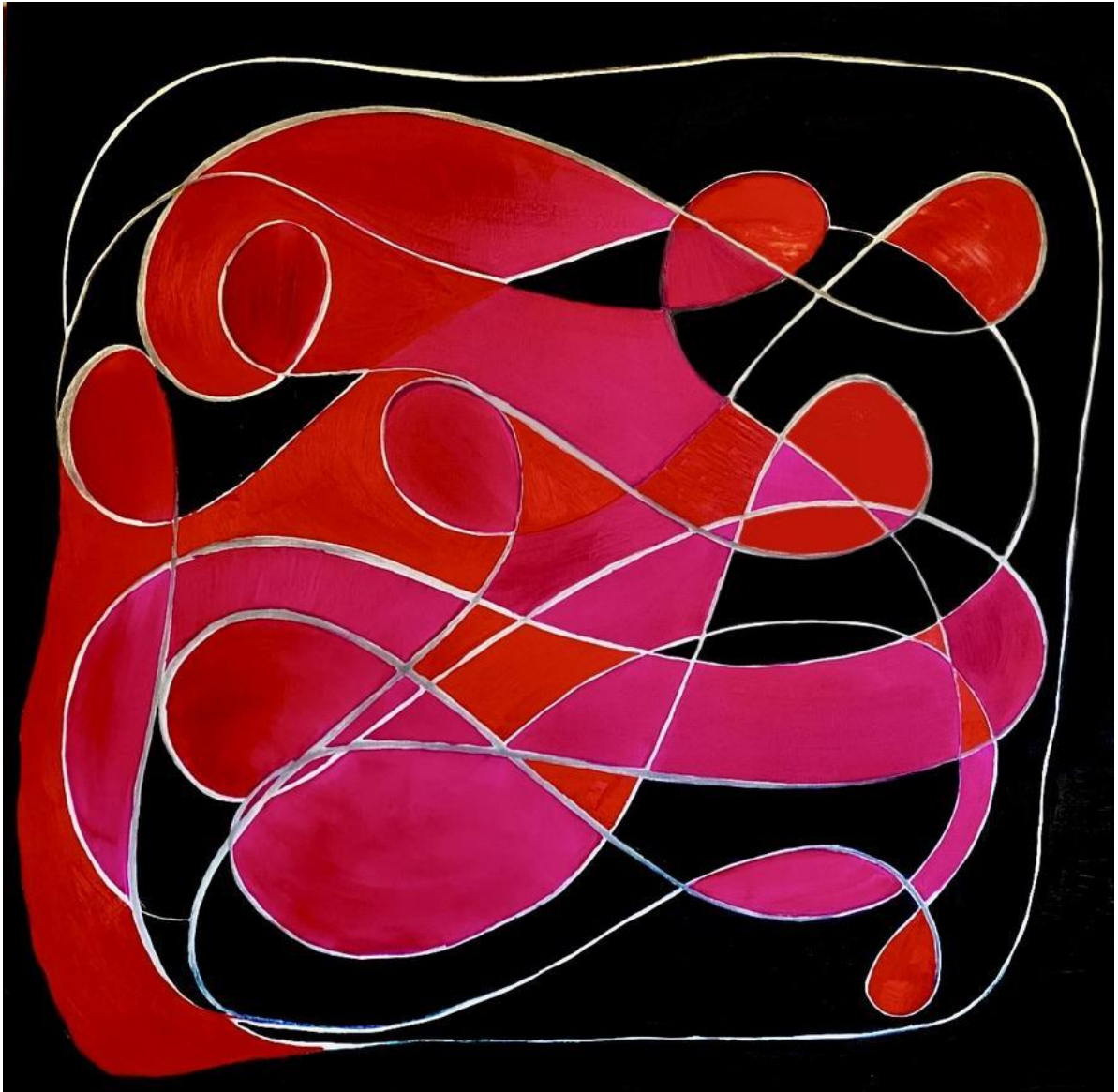
Oasis, Ekaterina Aristova, oil, charcoal on linen, 210 x 140 cm, Paris 2022



Pèlerin, Ekaterina Aristova, oil, pastel, acrylic on linen, 100 x 74 cm, 2022



The Kiss, Ekaterina Aristova, 100x80 cm, oil, charcoal on canvas, Paris 2022.



Rêve (Fantaisie), Ekaterina Aristova, oil, charcoal on canvas, 150 x 150 x 5 cm, 2022



Amazona, Ekaterina Aristova, oil and charcoal on linen, 210 x 140 cm, 2022



Waves Runner, Ekaterina Aristova
Oil and charcoal on linen,
220 x 280 cm, 2022

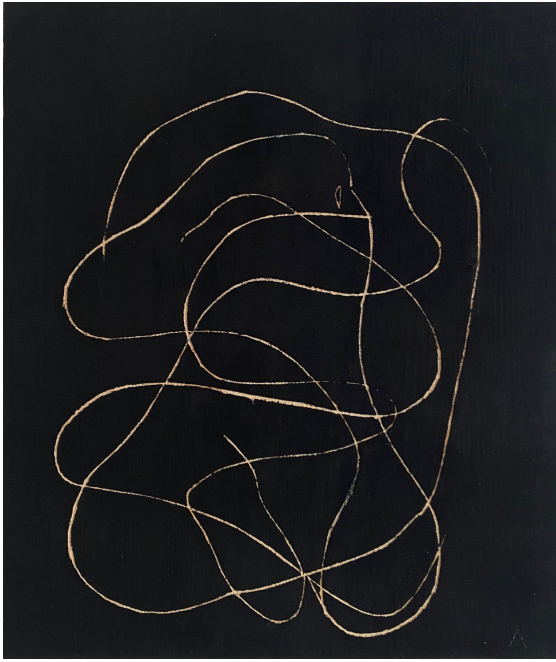
When the Oasis is an escape into a reverie of the magical and peaceful paradise but seductive and full of temptations, then works realized later in 2022 (such as **Svistoplyaska (Dance of Whistles)**, **Crying Angel**, **Mother**, **Worlds apart** and others) bring us back to a real life, reflecting the anxiety and confusion that has swept the world through the author's deeply personal empathy to all people suffering in the **war [in Ukraine]**.

Xylography

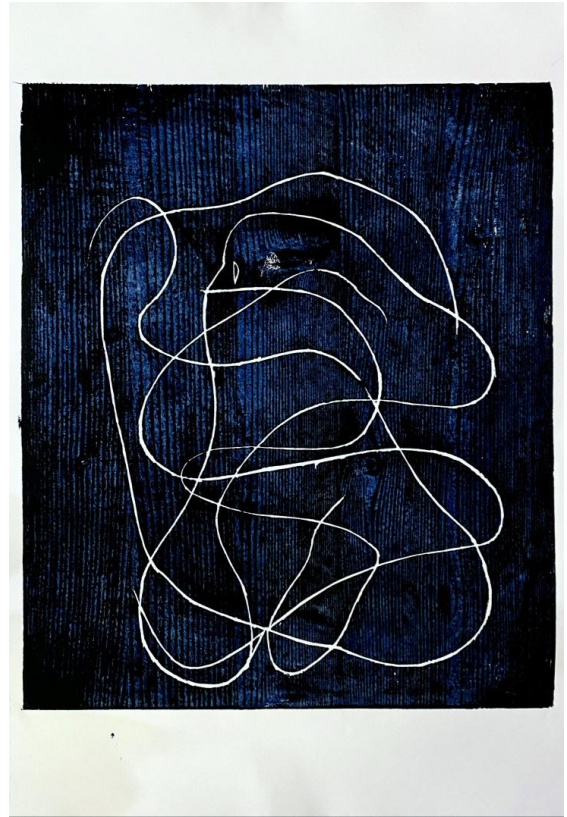


Ekaterina Aristova in her studio, Paris 2023

Aristova continues her research and during the winter 2022-2023 produces **the first xylography (*Sirine. Rebirth [Renaissance]*)** in accordance with the approach of **unconscious art**. All the work, from the first drawing made with closed eyes in charcoal on a wooden board to the creation of the first print on cotton paper, handmade by the artist.



Sirin.Rebirth, Ekaterina Aristova, Encre, gravure sur Bois, 58 x 50 cm, 2023



Handmade print (1/1)

Newest [unexhibited yet] artworks

Annunciation (Marie & Gabriel)



Annunciation (Marie & Gabriel), Ekaterina Aristova, 140x210 cm, oil and charcoal on linen canvas, Paris 2023

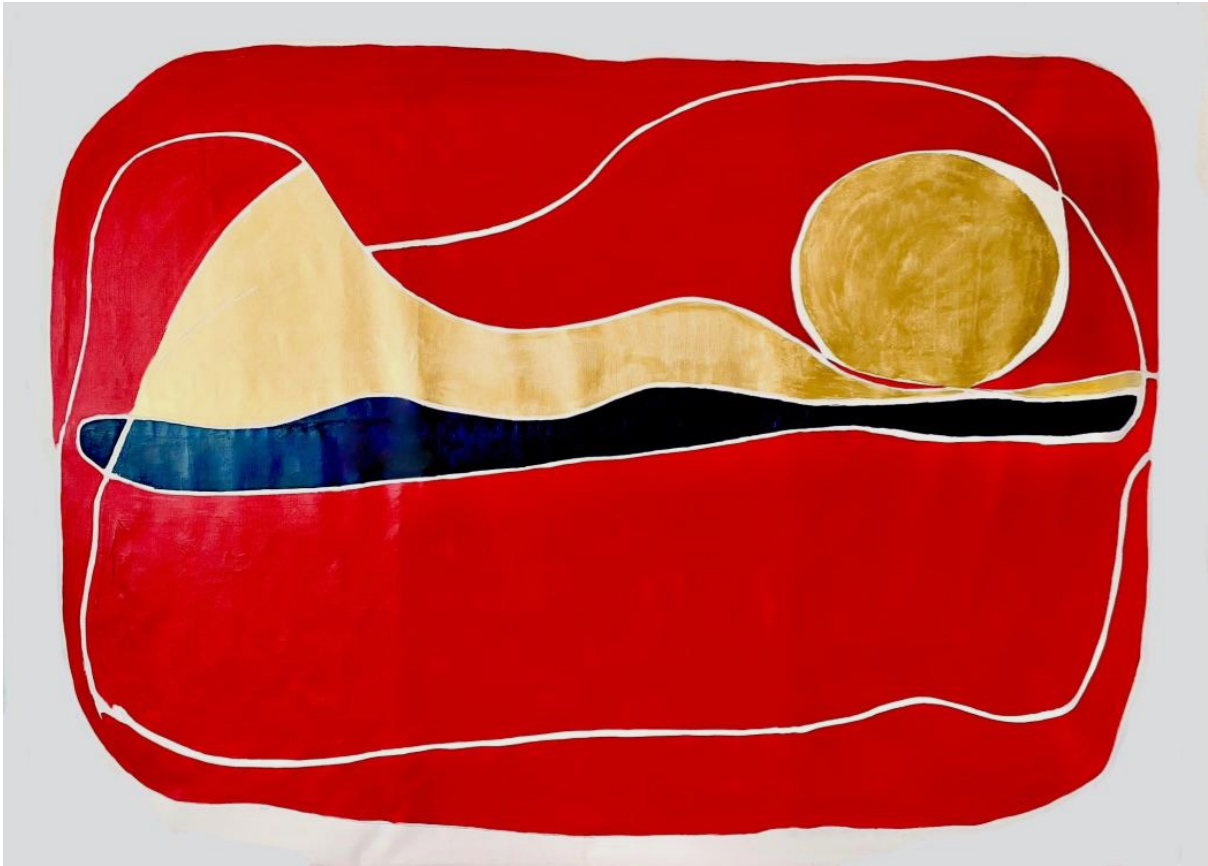
During spring 2023 Aristova created a new remarkable work, *Annunciation (Mary & Gabriel)*.

Tired of dark thoughts provoked by the war and the overall restless mood, Ekaterina starts a new canvas with a single intention to create a work full of love, light and hope... a kind of Paradiso. Aristova makes an abstract drawing in charcoal on canvas with her eyes closed then the artist observes it, she even turns the canvas clockwise before revealing a divine story behind the found forms and images reminiscent of the famous biblical episode - the appearance of the angel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary to announce her divine maternity.

The Annunciation is one of the favorite themes of Christian art, both Byzantine and Western. The very popular subject in all eras both in iconography and among the most famous painters such as Fra Angelico, Botticelli, Titian, Caravaggio, Leonardo da Vinci, Delacroix...

Interesting that Aristova does not plan such a subject in advance, but creates it *unconsciously* manifesting forms from abstract chaos.

The Red Mountain (or The Mountain of The Soul)



The Red Mountain, Ekaterina Aristova, 220x300 cm, oil and charcoal on linen canvas, Paris 2023

Despite the apparent simplicity and conciseness of execution, Aristova devotes all her time and thoughts to this remarkable artwork realizing it during spring-summer 2023.

Ekaterina needs time to solve the problem both artistically, realized through the symbolism of colors and shapes, and historically from the point of view of historical memory related to the dramatic events in Ukraine.

Having made the abstract drawing on the canvas, like all her unconscious abstractions, with her eyes closed (in her first part as free expression inspired by music and instant strong emotion), and having raised the red blindfold, Aristova is captivated by a disturbing subject found in this chaos of dark lines of charcoal.

A landscape but not like the others. A mountain. It is about the history of her country and the fraternal country or even all of humanity if we look wider.

The solution of the color palette comes immediately after the found meaning. The work becomes on the one hand a reflection of the time and historical events of our days and on the other hand a spiritual symbol.

The emotional power of color makes it a privileged medium for the expression of spirituality.

The work "Krasna Gora" (Red Mountain) is made in three colors - red, gold and blue. The color red is dominant on the canvas. Red is deeply linked to the notion of life and to light. This red has the same energy as in the painting of Orthodox icons with their ample monochrome plan of a frank red, on which the contours of the subject are inscribed. In addition, red is an eminently "Russian" color, the word for which means "the Beautiful" in Russian. Widely used in works of Rothko, Chagall and Nicolas de Staël (making reference to its last and the most monumental work executed also in red color, *The Concert*, in the permanent collection of Picasso Museum of Antibes).

It is an imprescriptible color in Orthodox iconography, which symbolizes the blood of the Savior, it is synonymous with passion but also with redemption. Red still refers to fire and blood, and by extension to war.

Gold (of the mountain and of the sun in the work) linked to the notions of power and the divine. Gold is associated with the expression of earthly and heavenly power, material and spiritual wealth.

Each element in the work "Red Mountain" carries a certain semantic load both from a historical point of view and from a philosophical point of view.

The mountain symbolizes the soul's path to paradise. For this reason the mountain bears the color gold, symbol of the divine, and not red despite the name of the work. The artist is inspired by the spiritual symbolism of Dante's "Divine Comedy", where the mountain is a purgatory on the way to paradise.

Thus, the "Red Mountain" as a historical reality symbolically becomes the Mountain of the Soul - those trials, the rings of purgatory, on humanity's path to eternal happiness.

There's also a reference to Gao Xingjian's "La Montagne de l'âme", Nobel prize awarded literary masterpiece, that's also influenced Aristova's interpretation of her artwork.

The sun is a symbol of life, power and divine. In the Orthodox religion a halo or nimbus symbolizes the divine light, the God.

The large blue stripe in the middle of the work, like other shapes, has a double meaning. The river near Krasnaya Gora (Red Mountain) in the Donetsk region is called Bakhmutovka. It was here that heavy fighting took place during the Russian-Ukrainian war.

From the point of view of the work's philosophical symbolism, the river is a symbol of time, of the temporality of everything, which seems to tell us "everything will pass".

"Krasnaya Gora" (The Red Mountain) is Ekaterina Aristova's largest work up to date. The canvas is 220x300 cm. Made in oil, acrylic and charcoal in 2023 in Paris.

Paradiso (series)

The latest series, *Paradiso (June 2023)*, is a graphic series of charcoals on paper in the form of mosaics (on 16 sheets of paper each artwork). The series was interpreted by Aristova as the third book of Italian genius Dante Alighieri, *Paradiso*, of his trilogy *The Divine Comedy*.

Aristova's artworks of this series highlight the idea of the human's path to paradise through hell and sufferings. It deals with the biblical theme of the Fall.



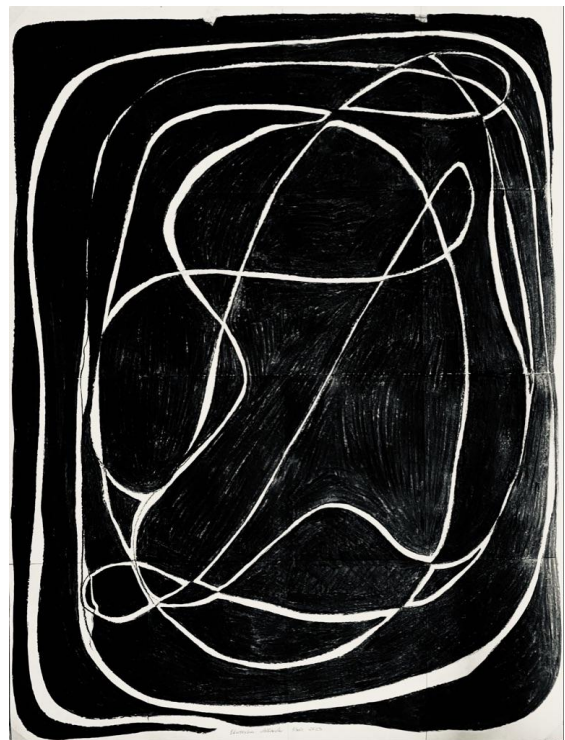
Forbidden fruit, Ekaterina Aristova, 119 x 85 cm, charcoal on paper (16 sheets mosaics), Paris 2023



Fève, Ekaterina Aristova, 119 x 85 cm, charcoal on paper (16 sheets mosaics), Paris 2023



Nueva Madre, Ekaterina Aristova, 119 x 85 cm, charcoal on paper (16 sheets mosaics), Paris 2023



Musique infinie, Ekaterina Aristova, 119 x 85 cm, Paris 2023

Theory of chaos - Butterfly effect

Since June 2023 Ekaterina Aristova has been interested in her practice with a theory of chaos, and more particularly experimenting with “*butterfly effect*” applying it to her “unconscious approach”.

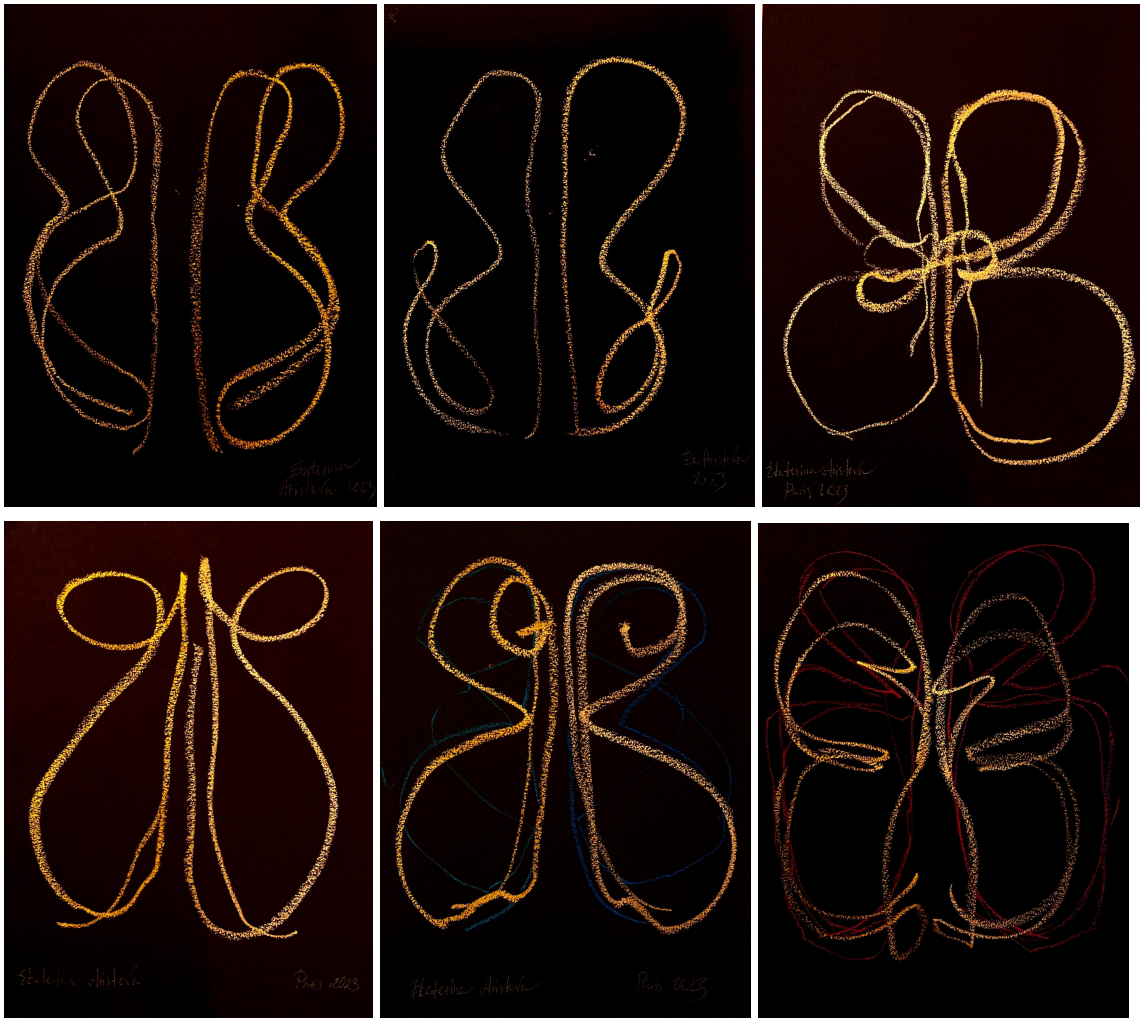
The butterfly effect is a term that encapsulates the more rigorous concept of "sensitive dependence on the initial state of a nonlinear dynamical system" in chaos theory: small changes in the initial state of a system can produce large changes in its [long-term] behavior.

Only an approximate return of the system to its initial state,” as well as “the sensitive dependence of the system on the initial state” are the two main components of chaotic motion.

Aristova works on a series of drawings and paintings exploring the “*butterfly effect*”, realizing different size (from small to huge ones) drawings with her eyes closed and working with *both hands simultaneously* looking to achieve a *mirror effect* on a canvas. This “experiment” allows us to see the difference between each drawing realized with more or less the same initial conditions and differences in line behavior reflecting the right and left hemispheres of the brain’s work.



Ekaterina Aristova at work in her studio in Paris, June 2023



Theory of chaos: Butterfly effect, Ekaterina Aristova, golden oil sticks on paper/canvas, Paris 2023

Exhibitions

Solo shows

24 juin 2023 Solo Show "Paradiso", Paris France - online

15-16 février 2023 Solo Show "Daydreamer" à la Galerie Au Médicis (in partership with Singulart as curator of the show) - 5, rue de Médicis 75006 Paris

27-29 octobre 2022 Solo Show Oasis à la Galerie Au Médicis - 5, rue de Médicis 75006 Paris

28 avril - 30 mai 2022 Solo Show à la galerie Wanderley Cabral - 9, rue Poussin 75016 Paris

17 Février 2022 - 14 avril 2022 "Les yeux grands fermés" (Solo show) à la Galerie David Cha - 51, avenue Montaigne 75008 Paris

17 Décembre 2021 - 7 Janvier 2022 "Solstice d'hiver" à la Galerie Aldema Design&Art - 127, rue de la Tour 75016 Paris

10-12 Décembre 2021 Manifeste: L'Art Inconscient (Solo show) - Galerie 29, bd Exelmans 75016 Paris

Le 5 décembre 2021 Birds (Les Oiseaux) - Exposition On-line sur le site de l'artiste www.aristova.fr

Octobre 2021 - Galerie David Cha - 51, avenue Montaigne 75008 Paris, France

20 Septembre - 10 Octobre 2021 Solo au Bureau d'art 29, bd Exelmans 75016 Paris, France

Août 2021 Exposition personnelle online "Sud" (une rétrospective des oeuvres figuratives de l'artiste) - artsteps.com

Mai-Juin 2021 Solo show à Art Room Paris 16 - 75016 Paris, France

1 Déc 2020 - 1 Mars 2021 Solo show (digitale) à New York (curator Art Yourself Studio NYC - www.artyourself-studio.com), New York

24 Nov 2020 - 15 February 2020 La Terre et la Mer (Earth and Sea) Exposition à l'espace d'art 29, bd Exelmans 75016 Paris

12-23 Juillet 2016 Ekaterina Aristova - Solo show à la Gallery 21 (21, Rue Dauphine 75006 Paris - Saint Germain-des-Prés)

Collective shows

2 Septembre - 2 Octobre 2021 Exposition collective "Modern archétypes" Galeria Azur Madrid - Madrid, Espagne

Juin-Juillet 2021 Exposition collective à la Galerie Rossocinabro - Via Raffaele Cadorna, 28 - Rome, Italie

5 Avril 2021 - 5 Juin 2021 Galerie Sonia Monti - Paris Matignon (6, avenue Delcassé 75008)

7-10 Juin 2016 Exposition collective à la Galerie 21 Dauphine, 21, Rue Dauphine 75006 Paris France

Studies

École des Beaux Arts de Paris, 2015-2016

Académie de la Grande Chaumière (prof. de dessin et peinture - Laurent Cattaneo, prof. de morphologie - Antoine Barjini (ENSBA), 2015-2016

Atelier de Sergueï Toutounov (peintre de l'École d'art Sourikov), 2009-2010

Université Paris-Dauphine, 2009-2010

Université d'Etat de Moscou Lomonossov, 2003-2010

Press

[Beaux Arts Magazine](#)

[Le Quotidien de L'Art](#)

[Ours Magazine](#)

[Artistik Rezo](#)

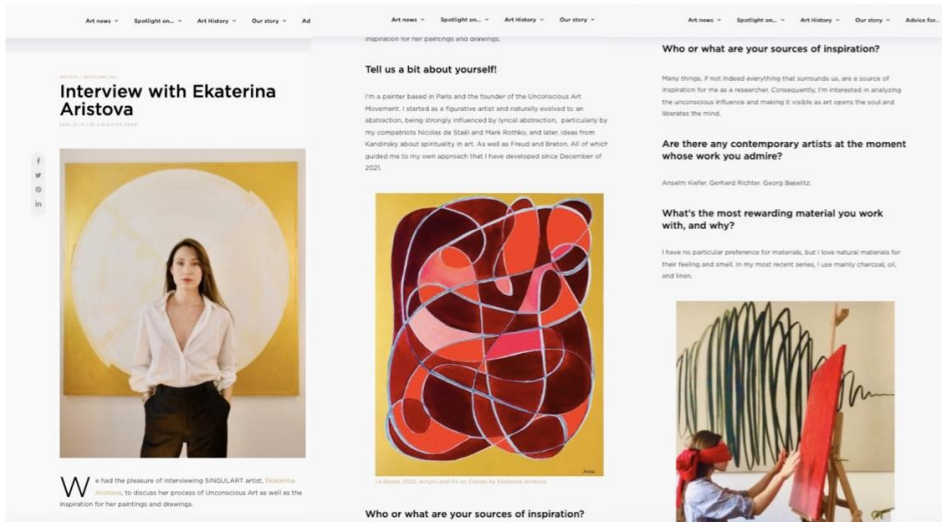
[Le Parisien](#)

[Muse Daily](#)

[Cinéart Magazine](#)

[Dolce Magazine](#)

[Singularart Magazine](#)



MENU



Ekaterina Aristova : "L'âme est une énergie sans forme ni couleur"

CULTURE / MARDI, AOÛT 16TH, 2022

oursmagazine.fr

Ekaterina Aristova : "L'âme est une énergie sans forme ni couleur"

CULTURE / MARDI, AOÛT 16TH, 2022

Èlève du peintre russe Toutounov, Ekaterina Aristova vit en France depuis plus de dix ans. Cette talentueuse artiste moscovite a ouvert les portes de son atelier à L'OURS Magazine.

L'atelier baigne dans la lumière blanche de la fin juillet. Au sol, une bâche transparente protège le parquet. Le calme intérieur tranche avec la passion des toiles fixées au mur. Un rectangle rouge, une forme noire, un fond bleu... Tout se mélange dans ce lieu de création mais seules les œuvres vivent, le reste est un attirail secondaire.

Dans cet atelier une silhouette blanche vole de toile en toile, la créatrice. Ses doigts s'arrêtent sur un cadre, pointent l'artefact caché, sa tête se penche pour inverser la perspective, pensive. Elle qui a travaillé l'œuvre est maintenant travaillée par celle-ci. Il est plaisant d'écouter la jeune peintre russe narrer la genèse de ce précieux décor.

Ekaterina Aristova s'est formée auprès de Sergueï Toutounov, pur produit de l'institut Sourikov, fidèle à la tradition picturale du XIXe siècle. Pour parfaire son éducation artistique, l'enthousiaste disciple a suivi les cours aux Beaux-Arts, pour la théorie, et l'académie de la Grande Chaumière, pour ce qui regarde la pratique. Après une première exposition en 2016, Aristova a dévoilé plusieurs séries de tableaux, dont la prochaine sera exposée en septembre à Paris. Elle attire désormais l'intérêt des collectionneurs et du public, qui suit son évolution sur les réseaux sociaux.

Assez rapidement, sa technique se perfectionne. Cette première formation lui permet de toucher à tout : paysages, portraits... Hélas, la fin du séjour français approche et l'étudiante russe retourne à Moscou.



Ekaterina Aristova dans son atelier parisien. Courtoisie de l'artiste.

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Film OASIS



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