

Art is a prayer.

Long before art served as decoration or commerce, it functioned as a means of communicating with forces beyond the visible world. Across cultures and centuries, spiritual art has acted as a bridge between the human and the sacred, giving form to beliefs about life, death, nature, and the cosmos.

In contemporary practice, spirituality often moves beyond singular belief systems or organized religion. Artists today may draw from diverse traditions, including Indigenous knowledge, personal ritual, and healing practices. Spiritual art continues to reflect a shared human desire to understand our place within a larger, mysterious whole.

Prism Press is honored to present “Spirit,” a virtual exhibition and catalogue publication featuring eight contemporary artists: Aryamaan Borgohain, Mark Dierker, A.D. Herzel, Katarzyna Hołda, Stephen Von Mason, Julia McTiernan, Kristin Reed, and Olga Volodina. Each artist emerges from a distinct cultural and experiential background, spanning global perspectives and offering a richly varied exploration of the spiritual.

Across Spirit, the works engage spirituality through diverse visual languages ranging from figuration and performance to symbolic abstraction. While varied in form, each artist navigates the relationship between the inner self, the spiritual realm, and the external world.

Mark Dierker and Olga Volodina create a compelling dialogue between the external and internal dimensions of the spiritual. Both employ staged, photographic compositions centered on the human body. Dierker’s ritualistic imagery draws on ancestral memory and pagan ceremonial practices, reaching toward a collective, archetypal experience. In contrast, Volodina’s emotionally charged surreal scenes turn inward, exploring identity and the psychological self.

A.D. Herzel and Aryamaan Borgohain present dense and intricate compositions with surrealist sensibilities reminiscent of automatic drawing. Borgohain's work incorporates figures and mythical creatures that are reminiscent of cultural visual narratives and folklore. Herzel's compositions are more introspective, characterized by kaleidoscopic detail, intuitive mark-making, and a personal symbolic language that explores meditative and philosophical states.

Stephen Von Mason and Julia McTiernan approach the spiritual from different positions. Von Mason's work is quiet and introspective, grounded in subtle, personal moments. McTiernan's practice is more symbolic and expansive, drawing on myth and layered imagery. Together, they balance the intimate and the universal.

Katarzyna Hołda and Kristin Reed explore consciousness from two distinct perspectives. Hołda's light, translucent watercolors depict reincarnation through figurative transformation, from human to human and dog to human, grounding the spiritual in lived, narrative experience. In contrast, Reed's planetary, geometric abstractions draw on sacred geometry, using radiant, gradually shifting color against dark space to evoke a vast, cosmic consciousness.

Spiritual practice and art remains as vital today as it has been throughout history. In a rapidly changing and uncertain world, it continues to offer meaning, reflection, and connection, reminding us of our place within something larger than ourselves.

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