



KIRO URDIN
INVISIBLE WORLDS

Mar 21 - May 12, 2024

LIST OF WORKS ON PAPER
EUR PRICES, EXCLUDING TRANSPORT AND INSURANCE
Valid during the Exhibition

INVISIBLE WORLDS

Kiro Urdin has established himself as an avant-garde artist whose multidisciplinary work has been investigating notions of spirituality, environmentalism, and interconnectedness.

Relying on centuries of environmental art traditions, like those of Constable or Monet, and on the depth and freedom introduced by international abstract expressionism and its reflections of the individual psyche, Urdin's work further questions the place of humankind in the universe.

Concerned by man's darker side and growing disconnect with nature, Kiro Urdin's visual research is centered on poetic positivism, forcefully decontextualizing representation from both space and time, and relying on color as a psychological device to trigger direct emotion and spirituality.

Built upon layers of oils, the base of his large size compositions first explores human irrationality and vulnerability in an anxiously gestural manner. In a second phase, the artist endeavors to regain control over this visual chaos, nurturing the picture with geometric and chromatic fields that generate a new equilibrium, a fresh ground for new life. The resulting iconography functions as an osmotic dialogue between chaos and equilibrium.

With *Invisible Worlds*, the master of the Planetarism movement returns with a new body of paintings on canvas, drawings, and sculptures, further investigating the perceived limits of our existence, each point in Urdin's unique visual language connecting the figure to all other elements in the cosmos. Lost in the artist's signature deep blue seas, the viewer is transported beyond the boundaries of the material world, thus becoming the journey in an eternal metaphor of rebirths.

For the French-Macedonian artist, recently made *Chevalier des Arts et de Lettres*, this new solo show with the gallery, his fifth, marks a turning point as he is set to embark on a new adventure, living between Tokyo and New York, including a few months he plans to spend in Africa. This new exhibition will close on May 12 with the celebration of Kiro Urdin's 79th birthday.

Following his *Ancestor* show at the *Miami African Heritage Cultural Arts Center* in the spring of 2023, and his residency at *El Espacio 23 (Pérez Art Museum Miami)*, and his triple homage show in Bucharest over the summer, *Invisible Worlds* will be the artist's last solo show in Belgium before a major retrospective of his work which is to be held at the *Macedonian Academy of Science and Arts* later in the year.

Klaus Pas

KIRO URDIN (North Macedonia / France, 1945)

A lawyer turned journalist, Kiro Urdin studied art and cinema in Paris in the seventies and has been painting since 1985. He is known for his energetic paintings which have been exhibited worldwide since 1986, in cities like Paris, Yokohama, Los Angeles, London, Stockholm and Bratislava. During the same period, in 1988, Kiro went to New York and Hollywood to pursue his film ambitions. There, he directed four films, and he keeps on directing documentaries and experimental films today.

In 1996, Kiro embarked on an epic journey around the world to create the first painting to be worked on all over the world. His idea was to incorporate elements from every place he visited into the canvas, thus symbolically bringing the world together in one undivided unity. The adventure took two years and was spread over thirty locations, from big urban cities to ancient world sites: the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem and the Tomb of Jesus Christ, New York, The Berlin Wall, Ohrid, Brussels, Knokke-Zoute, Bruges, Paris, Rome, Pompeii, Pisa, the Suez Canal, London, Stonehenge, Athens, the Nile, the Great Pyramids in Giza, Kenya, Machu Picchu, Cuzco, Bangkok, the Forbidden City and the Great Wall of China, Tokyo, Kamakura, the Mont Saint-Michel, and Eindhoven.

The result of Kiro Urdin's two-year journey is a 48 square meter oil painting titled *Planetarium*. A Macedonian film crew documented the performance and *Planetarium*, the documentary film, was subsequently released. Directed by Ivan Mitevski, it won *Best Documentary* at the *New York International Independent Film and Documentary Festival* in 2005. A monograph with photographs taken during the trip by Marin Dimevski was released simultaneously to the film. Today this monumental painting is on permanent exhibition at the *Danubiana Meulensteen Art Museum* in Bratislava, Slovakia.

Planetarium Dance is collaboration project between Kiro Urdin and Toronto-based choreographer Debbie Wilson. On seeing the film, Wilson approached Urdin and proposed to expand the *Planetarium* experience through a new medium - dance. Macedonian composer Venko Serafimov was called onboard to compose the music for the dance. The ballet features eight dancers from Wilson's own troupe, a local Toronto contemporary dance company, and seven from the classically trained *Macedonian National Theatre*. *Planetarium Dance* premiered at the *Toronto Dance Theater* (Canada), and has since been performed in Ohrid, Heraclea, Skopje, Chicago, Ankara, and during the commemoration of the *United Nations 60th Anniversary* in Geneva, Switzerland.

In recent years, the artist has further developed his cosmo-lyrical abstraction into large canvases. In 2020, Urdin embarked on another performance under COVID lockdown, and over several months, painted 500 figurative paintings which can be seen in the book *COVID TIME PERFORMANCE*. For his 2022 solo at *De Zwarte Panter*, in collaboration with *Kloser Contemporary Art*, Urdin started painting an epic 10-meter-wide canvas in which he encapsulates artistic philosophies based on the concept of *Tabula Rasa*. Spread over several months this painting performance will also give birth to a book and a film documenting the work and its surroundings.

Over the years, Urdin's work has evolved beyond traditional media like film and paintings to include dance, sculpture, literature, photography, philosophy, and design. He has published over 20 books, some with his thousand aphorisms, and one book of poetry entitled *Novel*, from which his poem *Light* was selected for the *Pushkin Festival* in Moscow. Working in Belgium, Macedonia, and the U.S.A., Kiro Urdin is vibrantly driven in his efforts by one unifying philosophy, namely, to bridge different cultures, and to bring all art forms into one. Or as he defines the core of the *Planetarism* movement which he founded:

"One Point everywhere, everything in one point. One Art everywhere, everything in one Art."

Selected Exhibitions & Collections

Solo exhibitions (selection)

- 2024 *MM Gallery, Brussels, Belgium*
- 2023 *Bucharest Parliament + Cinémathèque, Bucharest, Romania*
- 2023 *African Heritage Cultural Arts Center, Amadlozi Gallery, Miami, USA*
- 2022 *De Zwarte Panter, Antwerp, Belgium with Kloser Contemporary Art*
- 2021 *Kloser Contemporary Art, Knokke-le-Zoute, Belgium*
- 2021 *MM Gallery, Brussels, Belgium*
- 2020 *MM Gallery, Brussels, Belgium*
- 2019 *Kloser Contemporary Art, Online*
- 2018 *Ningbo Museum, Ningbo, China*
- 2018 *Robert Kidd Gallery, Detroit, USA*
- 2017 *MM Gallery, Brussels, Belgium*
- 2016 *Tom D. Jones Gallery, Knokke-le-Zoute, Belgium*
- 2016 *Louise Gallery, Durbuy, Belgium*
- 2015 *MM Gallery, Brussels, Belgium*
- 2014 *Ningbo Museum, Ningbo, China*
- 2013 *Museum of the City of Skopje, Skopje, Macedonia*
- 2012 *Danubiana Museum, Bratislava, Slovakia*
- 2009 *National Gallery, Nuremberg, Germany*
- 2009 *Galerie Frédéric Moisan, Paris, France*
- 2008 *Represented Macedonia at the Festival de la Francophonie, Moscow, Russia*
- 2007 *Galerie Paris, Yokohama, Japan*
- 2005 *Retrospective at the Macedonian Academy of Science and Arts, Skopje, Macedonia*
- 2004 *Gallery Kamil, Monte Carlo, Monaco*
- 2003 *Galerie Anouck Vilain, Belgium*
- 2002 *Guy Pieters Gallery, Saint-Paul de Vence, France*
- 2000 *Danubiana Museum, Bratislava, Slovakia*
- 1999 *Gallery Kamil, Aspen, USA*

- 1998 *Gallery Kamil*, Monte Carlo, Monaco
- 1998 *Galerie Frank*, Paris, France
- 1996 *Miura Museum*, Hokkaido, Japan
- 1996 *Galeria Urania*, Ohrid, Macedonia
- 1995 *Gallery Arthur Danziger*, NYC, USA
- 1995 *Museum Yuyu Yang*, Taipei, Taiwan
- 1994 *Museum of Contemporary Art*, Skopje, Macedonia
- 1994 *Hiroi Gallery*, Matsuyama, Japan
- 1993 *Gallery One*, NYC, USA
- 1993 *Tamya Gallery*, Fukuoka, Japan
- 1993 *Galerie G.*, Helsingborg, Sweden
- 1993 *SCAG*, Copenhagen, Denmark
- 1991 *Royal Ginza Gallery*, Tokyo, Japan
- 1990 *Timsit International Galleries*, San Juan, Puerto Rico
- 1990 *Robinsons Gallery*, Knokke-le-Zoute, Belgium
- 1989 *Galerie Corinne Timsit*, Paris, France
- 1989 *Gummesons Gallery*, Stockholm, Sweden
- 1989 *Catherine van Notten Gallery*, Geneva, Switzerland
- 1988 *Warner Gallery*, LA, USA
- 1988 *I.A.C. Fine Art*, Beverly Hills, LA, USA
- 1988 *Schloss Gallery*, Tirol, Austria
- 1988 *Printemps Gallery*, Mastuyama, Japan
- 1987 *Paris Gallery*, Yokohama, Japan
- 1987 *Melys Gallery*, NYC, USA
- 1986 *Galerie Messara*, Paris, France
- 1984 *Hotel Presidente*, Acapulco, Mexico

Group exhibitions (short selection)

- 2015 *Ningbo Museum*, China
- 2014 *Mouche Gallery*, LA, USA

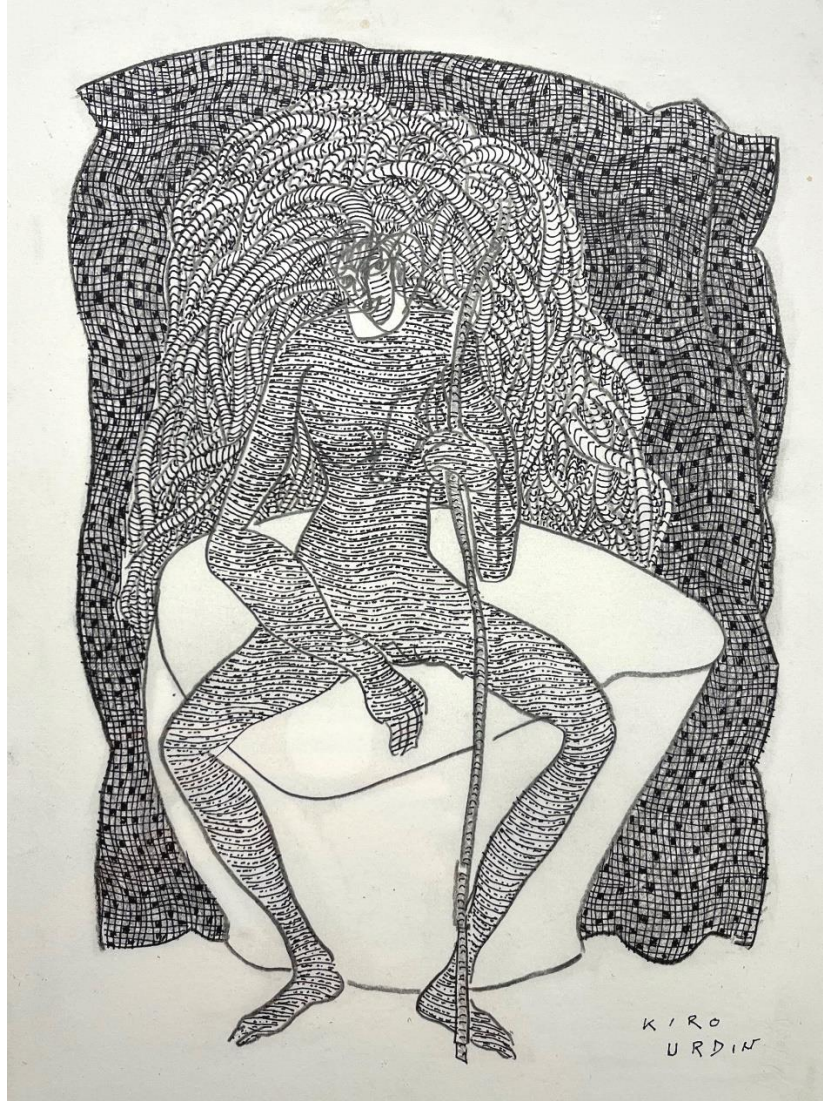
- 2003 *DARC*, Roma, Italy
2003 *UNESCO*, Paris, France
2000 *Museum Jan van der Togt*, Netherlands
1999 *Fondation Epicur*, Madrid, Spain
1997 *Riverside Studios*, London, UK
1996 *Yayoyi Museum*, Taipei, Taiwan
1993 *Stockholm Art Fair*, Stockholm, Sweden
1992 *Art Miami*, Florida, USA
1991 *Tokyo Art Expo*, Tokyo, Japan
1989 *Museum of Modern Art*, Liege, Belgium

Public collections (short selection)

- Pérez Art Museum Miami (PAMM)*, Miami, USA
Miami Dade County Collection, Miami, USA
Museum of Fine Arts, Taipei, Taiwan
National Gallery, Skopje, Republic of Northern Macedonia
Contemporary Art Museum, Skopje, Republic of Northern Macedonia
Danubiana Meulensteen Art Museum, Bratislava, Slovakia
Ningbo Museum, Ningbo, Zhejiang Province, China

Filmography

- 2023 *Before and After*, HD, 56 min
2012 *Steps*, HD, 15 min
2011 *Two Times*, HD, 44 min
2008 *Water and Fire*, HD, 59 min
2007 *Dogs and Trains*, HD, 34 min
2004 *Debbie Wilson and Planetarium*, 16mm, 35 min
2002 *Dogona*, 16mm, 26 min
1998 *Planetarium*, 35mm, 57 min
1994 *I love you*, Iban, 16mm, 25 min



Untitled (2024)

Charcoal & Ink on Paper

Circa 36 x 26 cm (65 x 55 cm framed)

EUR 5'500



Untitled (2024)

Oil on Paper

Circa 36 x 26 cm (65 x 55 cm framed)

EUR 5'500



Untitled (2024)

Charcoal & Ink on Paper

Circa 36 x 26 cm (65 x 55 cm framed)

EUR 5'500

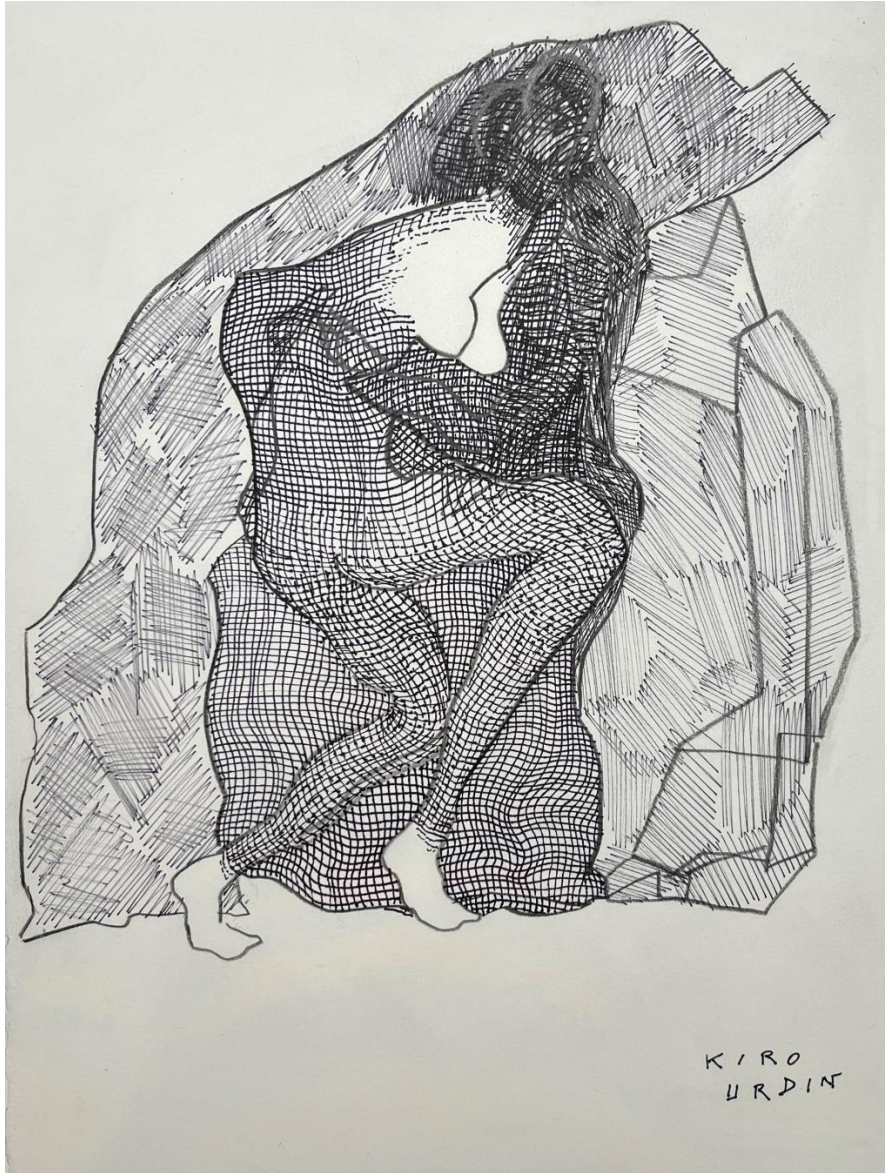


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Oil, Charcoal & Ink on Paper

Circa 36 x 26 cm (65 x 55 cm framed)

EUR 5'500



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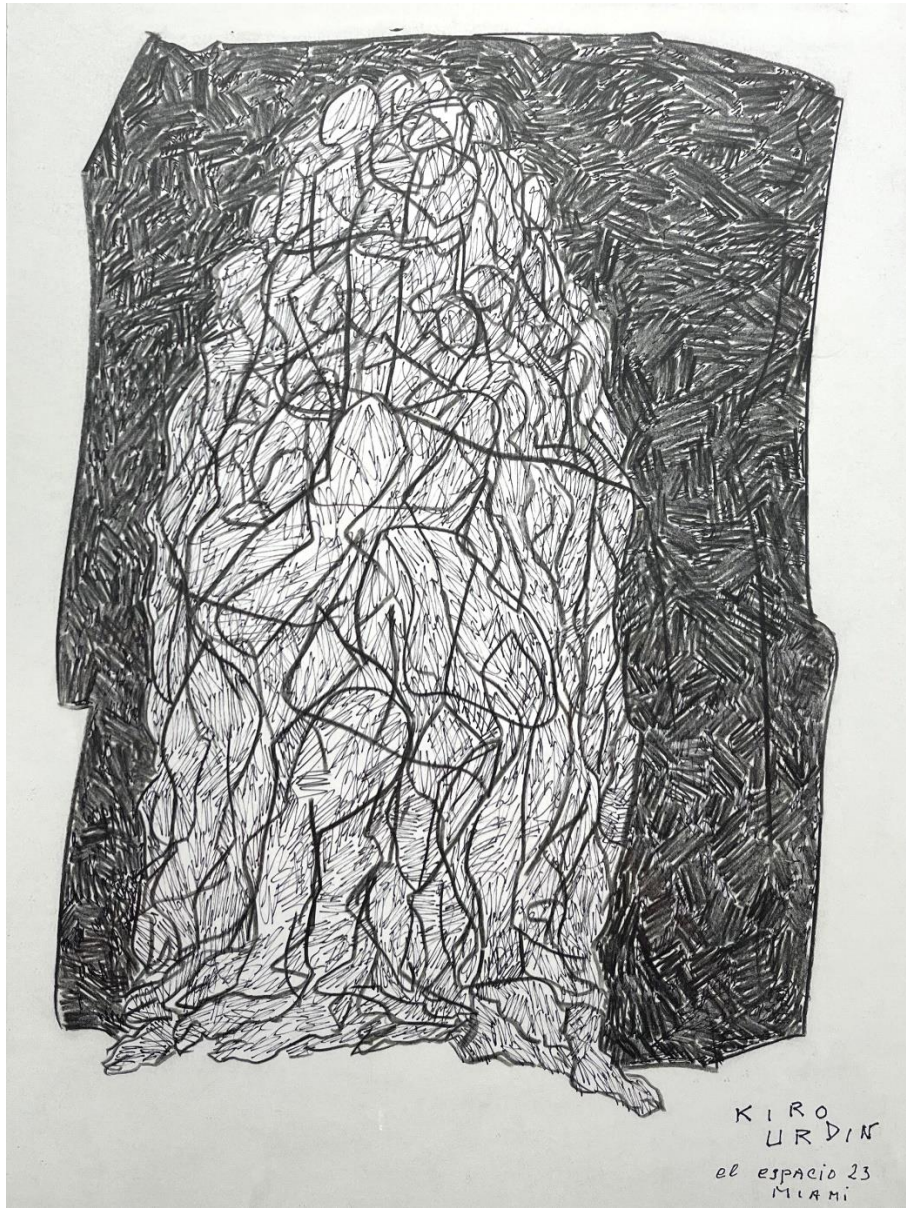


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