



*Cosmic  
Swimming  
Lessons*

MATINA PARTOSA

THE  
DRAWING ROOM  
CONTEMPORARY ART

JUNE 15 - JULY 13, 2024





## INTRODUCTION

In this new series of paintings, ranging from large to minuscule sizes, light swirls and ripples around the space of the canvas with varying intensity and color. Paintings originate in spontaneous snapshots of glasses of water, caught in light and held in suspension, or of silken surfaces of swimming pools. They offer a meditation on the abilities of water to reflect, distort, and refract—in other words abstract—perception. Encounter, zoom in, crop. Indistinct shapes, light blurs, disfiguration and warped shadows are all welcome on the canvas.

The body of work is a continuation of Matina Partosa's practice of treating painting as an act of expanding consciousness. Common notions of perception and boundaries between the self and the cosmos are resolved, invoking a flowing feeling of oneness with the external—termed as *oceanic feeling* by French writer Romain Rolland. Most of the works are entitled 'Maya' which, in



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ancient Indian philosophies, mean either 'illusion' or 'magic'. If the universe is an illusion, it is an illusion we can learn to swim in.

Narcissus looks into the water and sees herself. Sees the self, and everything that is not the self. The clouds and foliage dancing in the sky above, the cocktail from the speakeasy, a 17-minute walk from home, the pizza we ate before watching the latest blockbuster in the cinema, the fallen leaves and dying bugs. The wind ripples the surface, warping the images and jumbling everything together. The water looks cool and inviting. Narcissus dives in.



(On the cover) Maya Express  
Oil on canvas  
91.4 x 122 cm  
2024





Maya (Beam)  
Oil on canvas  
91.4 x 122 cm  
2024



Frangere  
Oil on canvas, triptych  
30.5 x 69 cm  
2024





Lyrical Flower (Cooling Painting I)

Oil on canvas

91.4 x 122 cm

2024



Maya (Dream of clouds along a grid)

Oil on canvas

114.3 x 203.2 cm

2024





Maya  
Oil on canvas  
137.2 x 183 cm  
2024



Maya (Whorl)  
Oil on canvas  
91.4 x 91.4 cm  
2024





Dream of Waking (Cooling Painting II)

Oil on canvas

114.3 x 152.4 cm

2024



Maya (Knot)  
Oil on canvas  
137.2 x 244 cm  
2024





Maya (Self-Dissolving)  
Oil on canvas  
69 x 122 cm  
2024



Maya (Dive)  
Oil on canvas  
152.4 x 213.4 cm  
2024





Maya (Seeds and Roots)  
Oil on panel  
15.2 x 15.2 cm  
2024



Maya (Doorway)  
Oil on canvas  
91.4 x 61 cm  
2024





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