THE ARMORY SHOW 2024 JAVITS CENTER, NEW YORK September 6 – 8, 2024 Main section, booth 206

CHRYSSA

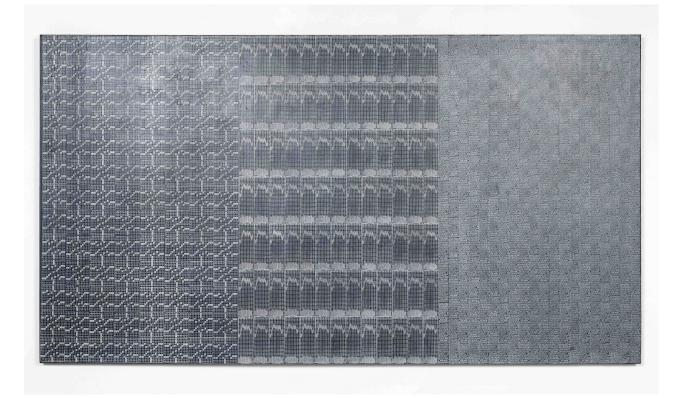


THE ARMORY SHOW 2024 – CHRYSSA

Blue Velvet debuts at the Armory Show with a solo booth in the main gallery section, presenting the work of the late Greek-American artist Chryssa (1933–2013). Chryssa's ability to bridge art, industrial processes, urban environments, and mass communication positions her work as a powerful testament to the early beginnings of Minimalism and Pop Art. We are proud to be able to showcase significant and historical works from every period of Chryssa's life. From her early Cycladic Books and her Newspaper Paintings with clone stamping of advertisements and stock exchange charts from the 50's, to her groundbreaking neon boxes from the late 60's.

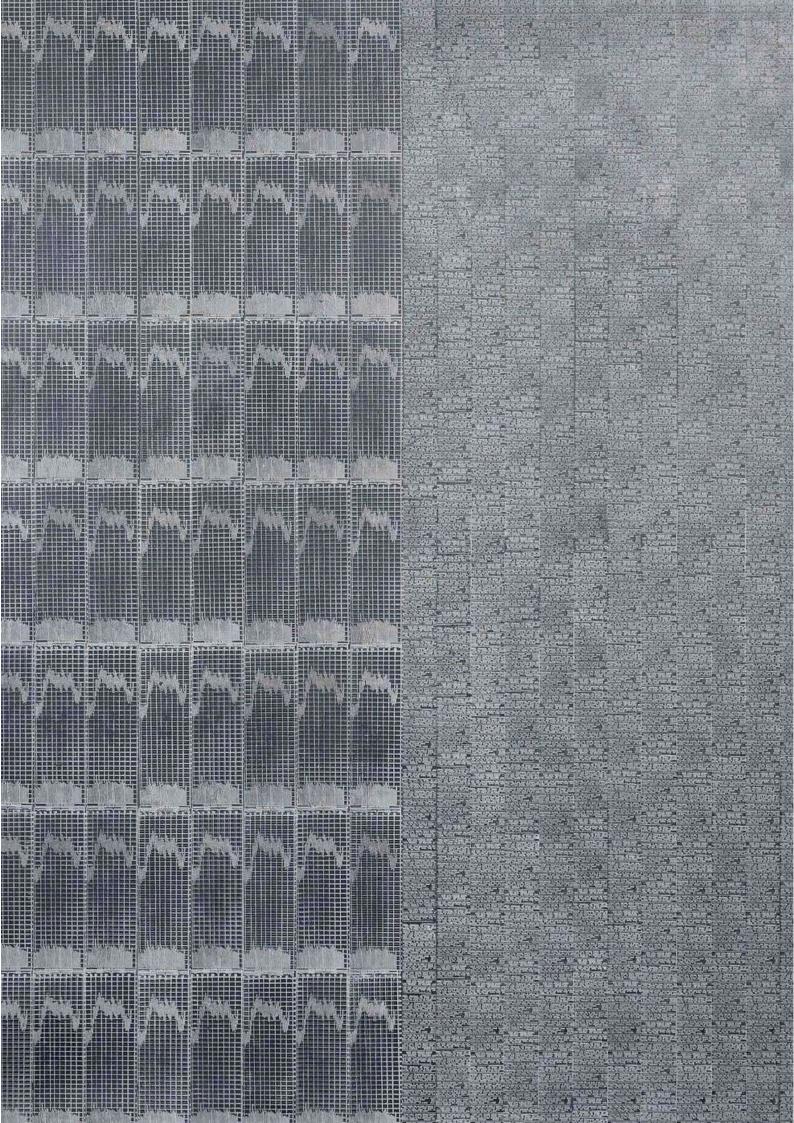
A prominent artist in her own time, one who was represented by Betty Parsons, Denise René, Pace and later Leo Castelli, Chryssa was almost invariably at the forefront of post-war art, often predicting or pressing at the limits of Pop, Minimalism, Conceptualism, and light art. The artist's biographical details are captivating as well: an immigrant to the United States from Greece, an openly queer woman long before Stonewall, Chryssa lived in New York City for nearly half her life, drawing inspiration notably from the neon signage of Times Square, the logographs of Chinatown, and her artistic milieu around the Coenties Slip.

Our presentation marks the first time in over two decades that a comprehensive selection of Chryssa's work has been made commercially available in New York. Considering the renewed institutional and critical attention currently surrounding Chryssa's practice, our Armory presentation is a long-overdue occasion in the art market.



Chryssa The Magic Carpet (Newspaper), 1962 oil with stamp prints on canvas 48¾ x 89¾ x 13¼ inches (123 x 227 cm)

> Inv.-Nr. 235-15 350,000 USD



CHRYSSA – NEWSPAPER IMAGES

"Her work explores all aspects of the newspaper, particularly its most graphic representations: crossword puzzles, weather maps, and stock market reports. Repeatedly and mechanically marking the surface of her large canvases with stamps made from newspaper plates, Chryssa uses these instruments "to fill an entire area using a new energy. That's why I didn't use them disorderly, but I used them precisely." The newspaper paintings signal a critical return to painting for Chryssa. The work of Jackson Pollock is highly influential to her during this period, evidenced by a shared interest in the infinite expanse of the canvas."

Megan Holly Witko in: Witko, Chryssa & New York, New York, 2023, p. 165 -166

SELECTED COLLECTIONS (with works from the Newspaper series) National Museum of Contemporary Art, Athens Whitney Museum of American Art, New York The Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York Museum of Modern Art, New York New York University Art Collection, New York Collection Irene Panagopoulos, Athens The Menil Collection, Houston Collection Milly and Arne Glimcher, New York

SELECTED LITERATURE

Megan Holly Witko: Chryssa & New York, New York, 2023 Yannis Bolis: Chryssa – Light, Negative, Positive, Athens, 2023 Jacques Lassaigne: Chryssa, Paris, 1979 Douglas Schultz: Chryssa: Urban Icons, Buffalo, 1983 Pierre Restany: Chryssa, New York, 1977 Sam Hunter: Chryssa, New York, 1974 Werner Spies: Chryssa, Stuttgart, 1974 Diane Waldman: Chryssa. Selected Works 1955–1967, New York, 1968



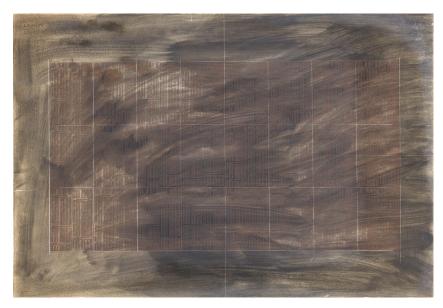
Chryssa Newspaper painting, 1970 - 1973 oil on canvas 51 x 34% inches (129.5 x 88 cm)

> Inv.-Nr. 235-129 75,000 USD



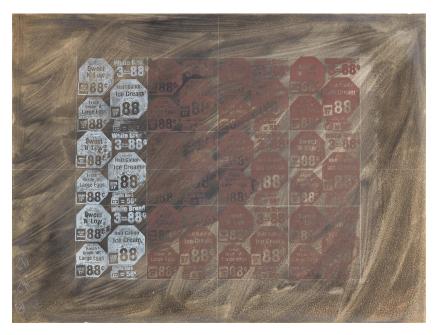
Chryssa Classifieds I, 1959 oil with stamp prints on paper 16½ x 13% inches (42 x 34.5 cm)

> Inv.-Nr. 235-18 16,000 USD



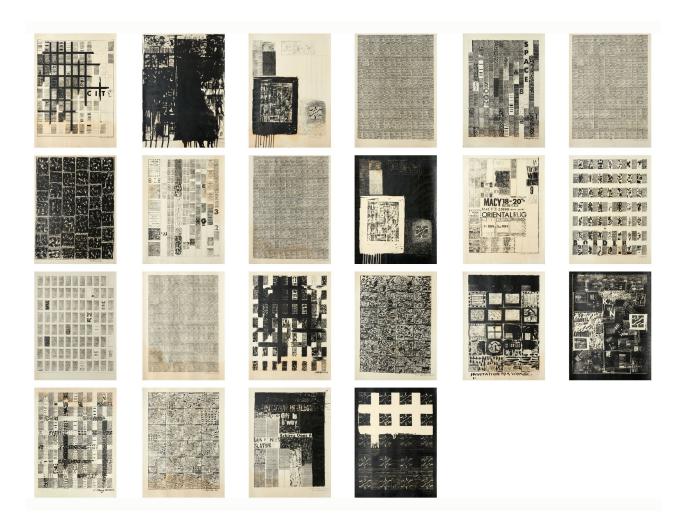
Chryssa Untitled (study for Newspaper), early 1960s gouache with stamp prints on Rives paper 22 x 29⅔ inches (56 x 76 cm)

> Inv.-Nr. 235-86 22,000 USD



Chryssa Untitled (study for Newspaper), early 1960s gouache with stamp prints on Rives paper 22 x 29% inches (56 x 76 cm)

> Inv.-Nr. 235-85 22,000 USD



Chryssa Newspaper Book (Full Portfolio), 1962 Full set of 22 offset photolitographs 1 of 7 editions approx. 331/2 x 25 inches each (84 x 63,5 cm each)

> Inv.-Nr. 235-188 100,000 USD

"Chryssa printed a limited seris of twenty-two litographic "newspaper images", which go to make up the Newspaper book. There exist only seven complete copies of the Book, issued by Leo Steinberg; one is in the collection of the Museum of Modern Art, New York"

Pierre Restany, in: Restany, Chryssa, New York, 1977, p.33



Installation view of Chryssa & New York, The Menil Collection, Houston, 2024. Photo by Paul Hester



Installation view of Chryssa & New York, Dia Art Foundation Chelsea, New York, 2023.



Chryssa Bronze Tablet: Homage to the Seagram building, 1957 bronze 57¾ x 22½ inches (145.8 x 57.2 cm)

> Inv.-Nr. 253-1 150,000 USD



Chryssa Bach, 1956 wood, plaster 111/4 x 111/4 x 4 inches (28.6 x 28.6 x 10.2 cm)

> Inv.-Nr. 253-2 40,000 USD

"Some works created around the same time as the "Bronze Tablets" draw inspiration from music, as their titles suggest. Among these, "Bach" (1956) reflects a more deliberate approach to organizing the fundamental materials. [...] This method of juxtaposing and repetitively treating letters in relief is a defining feature of Chryssa's work and embodies her philosophy of the fragment."

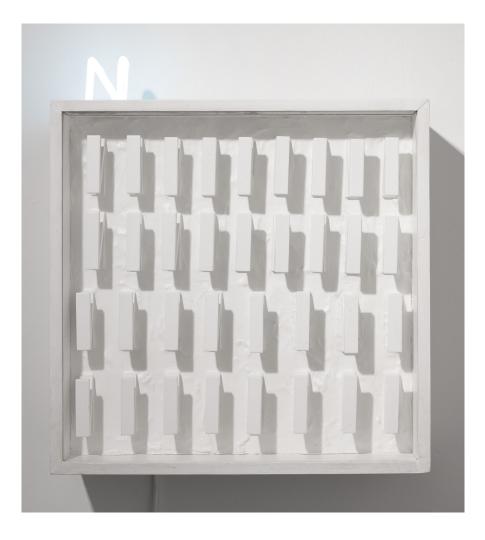
Pierre Restany, in: Restany, Chryssa, New York, 1977, p. 17



Chryssa *Plaster N's I*, 1970 mixed media 46 x 31 x 9 inches (116.8 x 78.7 x 22.8 cm)

> Inv.-Nr. 8-28 200,000 USD

In 1970, Chryssa revisited a technique she had previously explored in her "musically' inspired pieces "Bach" (1956) and "Requiem" (1959), focusing on the combination between neon and plaster. [...] She divided the surface into four equal sections, arranging groups of letters alternately in horizontal and vertical positions relative to the plane. The neon elements served to highlight and enhance the resulting rotational effect. This rotating structural model serves as the foundation for "Plaster Ns" (1970).



Chryssa White Plaster with neon N's, 1975 - 1976 plaster, wood and neon light 191⁄4 x 191⁄4 x 57⁄8 inches (49 x 49 x 15 cm)

> Inv.-Nr. 235-16 50,000 USD



Chryssa Bouzouki Capital, 1957 - 1960 bronze, brass and ivory 15¾ x 14‰ x 14‰ inches (39 x 37 x 37 cm) Edition size unknown. Archive material suggests an edition of 3 to 5 works.

Inv.-Nr. 235-170 50'000 USD

"In 1961 Chryssa was also trying to divest her work from personal experience. Whether seen as a commentary on the diasporic complexity of Greek identity, a parody of homegrown or international stereotypes of Greekness, or a lament for the country's cultural downfall, Bouzouki Capital is a lens on her practice. Doubling as a sonic sculpture, it blends concurrent interests in antinomies and sound surfacing in her late wall constructions while also inviting the spectator's engagement for its activation. In its irreverent pairing of a sculptural staple of both ancient and ersatz neoclassical architecture with a popular musical instrument, Bouzouki Capital suspends hierarchies of Greek culture, foregrounding the uneasy dialectic of high and low in Chryssa's work. It is with this dynamic that she pushed through the boundaries of modernism using its own means."

Kalliopi Minioudaki in: Witko, Chryssa & New York, New York, 2023, p. 155



Chryssa Cycladic Book (Cardboard Installation), 1957 - 1962 plaster, cardboard, plexiglas and wood 40½ x 40 inches (102 x 101.5 cm)

> Inv.-Nr. 235-130 100,000 USD

CHRYSSA - CYCLADIC BOOKS, 1954 – 1962

The Cycladic Books are among Chryssa's most iconic works. They are notable for being one of the earliest examples of Minimalism, while also foreshadowing her interest in mass culture and Pop Art.

"In 1954-55 the Cycladic Books appeared. These are reliefs in plaster, the image Tshaped, and corresponding to the mold of the inside fold of a cardboard packing box. The inside fold of the carton, once it was cast, produced the purified and stylized geometric relief characteristic of Cycladic sculpture. Chryssa had had an intuitive vision of this tablet hinting at a Cycladic face (the horizontal fold suggests brows and eyes, the vertical ridge the nose) while looking at the bottom of one of those countless cardboard boxes that are symptomatic of our consumer society.

The Cycladic Books are not encumbered with discourse. They are "letterless." Apart from their intrinsic beauty, the objects are fascinating because of the definitive, irrevocable, axiomatic aspect of their presence. Her (Chryssas) vision acquired at the outset its rigor of synthesis, its power for order, its poetic sharpness. In short, she begins at the end, if I may say so, or rather her first work is an end in itself."

Pierre Restany in: Restany, Chryssa, New York, 1977, p. 17

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

Betty Parsons, New York, 1961 Guggenheim, New York, 1961 MoMA, New York, 1963 Documenta 4, Kassel, 1968 Museum of Cycladic Art, Athens, 1997 Rethymnon Center for Contemporary Art, Creta, 2000 Mihalarias Art Gallery, Athens, 2001-2002 Documenta 14, Kassel, 2017 Chryssa & New York, Dia Chelsea, New York, 2023

SELECTED COLLECTIONS

Daskalopulos Collection, Athens The Menil Collection, Houston National Museum of Contemporary Art, Athens Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington

SELECTED LITERATURE

Megan Holly Witko: Chryssa & New York, New York, 2023 Barbara Rose: Chryssa: Cycladic Books 1957-1962, Athens, 1997 Pierre Restany: Chryssa, New York, 1977 Diane Waldman: Chryssa. Selected Works 1955–1967, New York, 1968



Chryssa Cycladic Book, 1957 - 1962 plaster 11 x 51/2 x 11/2 inches (28 x 14 x 3 cm)

> Inv.-Nr. 235-171 28,000 CHF



Chryssa Jazz, undated (late 1960s) neon light, plexiglas 271/2 x 201/8 x 121/4 inches (70 x 51 x 31 cm)

> Inv.-Nr. 237-1 150,000 USD

CHRYSSA – NEON WORKS

At just twenty-one, Chryssa sailed to New York. "I had an enormous curiosity about America and I felt that it would be much easier in America to achieve a freedom of expression rather than in European countries." Shortly after her arrival in the early 1950s, she discovered the neo-Byzantine world of Times Square, with its glowing, blinking signs and letters. The dazzling neon imagery of Times Square had a profound impact on her: "I saw Times Square with its light and letters, and I realized it was as beautiful and difficult to do as Japanese calligraphy... In Times Square the sky is like the gold of Byzantine mosaics or icons. It comes and goes in the foreground instead of remaining in the background." Chryssa transformed these signs into her own symbols and alphabetic forms, capturing what she referred to as the "Homeric wisdom" of the signs. Her genius spanned various mediums, with her neon works standing out as some of her most innovative and groundbreaking creations.

"Chryssa was the first artist to repeatedly work with and push the medium of neon. Engaging with the material in both deconstructive and reconstructive ways, she was asking: Why does it have mass appeal? In the 1960s, when she started working with it, neon as an art form was still in its infancy in relation to, for example, printmaking or painting. Chryssa was a pioneer in the medium, which was likely both a privilege and challenge: artistic constraints in neon had not yet been established, so she could innovate, but she didn't have the benefit of seeing and building on a precedent. On a metaphysical level, she channeled and respected neon's vernacular, use, meaning, and culture. But her orientation was much deeper than that; her use of the medium went beyond how it's perceived culturally and into the real magic of finding ways to harness, bend, and create light. The bend backs and drop backs in her neon work are very intricate. I can imagine her talking to the tube benders and watching them roll their eyes and say, "You want me to do what? And why?" Hers is not the logic of a neon tube bender, it's the logic of an artist- someone who can see dimension. She channeled and brought out the truth of the medium, its full potential. That, I think, is a really impactful part of what pushed neon forward at that time."

Matt Dilling in: Witko, Chryssa & New York, New York, 2023, p. 55

SELECTED LITERATURE

Megan Holly Witko: Chryssa & New York, New York, 2023 Yannis Bolis: Chryssa – Light, Negative, Positive, Athens, 2023 Jacques Lassaigne: Chryssa, Paris, 1979 Douglas Schultz: Chryssa: Urban Icons, Buffalo, 1983 Pierre Restany: Chryssa, New York, 1977 Sam Hunter: Chryssa, New York, 1974 Diane Waldman: Chryssa. Selected Works 1955–1967, New York, 1968



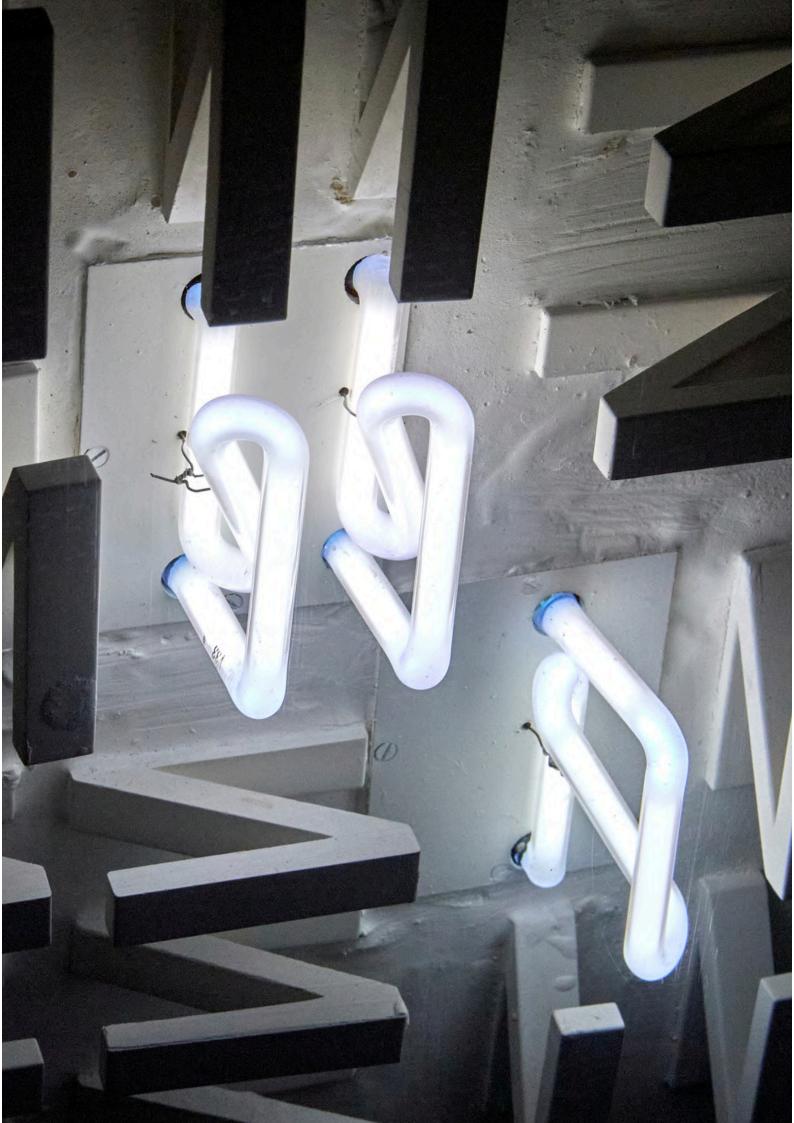
Chryssa New York Cityscape, 1974 neon light, plexiglas 36¼ x 27½ x 9% inches (92 x 70 x 25 cm)

> Inv.-Nr. 209-33 150,000 USD



Chryssa Krispy Kreme, 2009 - 2010 metal, neon light, acrylic paint 401/2 x 357% x 17 inches (103 x 91 x 43 cm)

> Inv.-Nr. 235-22 100,000 USD



FULL WORKLIST (NET PRICES)



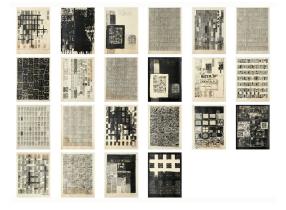
Chryssa

The Magic Carpet (Newspaper), 1962 oil with stamp prints on canvas 48¾ x 89¾ inches (123 x 227 cm)

Inv.-Nr. 235-15 350,000 USD

Chryssa Newspaper painting, 1970 - 1973 oil on canvas 51 x 34% inches (129.5 x 88 cm)

Inv.-Nr. 235-129 75,000 USD



Chryssa

Newspaper Book (Full Portfolio), 1962 Full set of 22 offset photolitographs approx. 33½ x 25 inches each (84 x 63,5 cm)

Inv.-Nr. 235-188 75,000 USD



Chryssa Classifieds I, 1959 oil with stamp prints on paper 16½ x 135⁄8 inches (42 x 34.5 cm)

Inv.-Nr. 235-18 16,000 USD









Chryssa Plaster N's I, 1970 mixed media 46 x 31 x 9 inches (116.8 x 78.7 x 22.8 cm)

Inv.-Nr. 8-28 200,000 USD

Chryssa White Plaster with neon N's, 1975 - 1976 plaster, wood and neon light 191⁄4 x 191⁄4 x 57⁄8 inches (49 x 49 x 15 cm)

Inv.-Nr. 235-16 50,000 USD

Chryssa Study for Plaster N's, ca. 1969 graphite and crayon on transparent paper 17½ x 17¾ inches (44.5 x 45 cm)

Inv.-Nr. 235-172 12,000 USD

Chryssa Bach, 1956 wood, plaster 111/4 x 111/4 x 4 inches (28.6 x 28.6 x 10.2 cm)

Inv.-Nr. 253-2 40,000 USD



Chryssa

Untitled (study for The Stock Market),, Early 1960s gouache with stamp prints on Rives paper 22 x 29% inches (56 x 76 cm)

Inv.-Nr. 235-86 22,000 USD

Chryssa



Untitled (Study for Newspaper), Early 1960s gouache with stamp prints on paper 22 x 29% inches (56 x 76 cm)

Inv.-Nr. 235-85 22,000 USD





Chryssa "Florida \$89", 1959 oil with stamp prints on paper 22 x 22 inches (56 x 56 cm)

Inv.-Nr. 235-64 18,000 USD

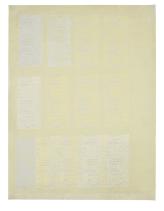
Chryssa Untitled, 1959 oil with stamp prints on paper 22 x 22 inches (56 x 56 cm)

Inv.-Nr. 235-66 18,000 USD









Chryssa Untitled, 1959 oil with stamp prints on paper 24 x 18½ inches (61 x 46 cm)

Inv.-Nr. 235-83 18,000 USD

Chryssa Untitled (stock market stamps & sienna chinese characters), 1959 oil with stamp prints on paper 231/4 x 173/4 inches (59 x 45 cm)

Inv.-Nr. 235-6 18,000 USD

Chryssa Untitled, 1959 oil with stamp prints on paper 24 x 181⁄8 inches (61 x 46 cm)

Inv.-Nr. 235-77 18,000 USD

Chryssa Classifieds II, 1959 oil with stamp prints on paper 23% x 17% inches (60 x 45.5 cm)

Inv.-Nr. 235-17 18,000 USD



Chryssa Bronze Tablet: Homage to the Seagram building, 1957 - 1957 bronze 57¾ x 22½ inches (145.8 x 57.2 cm)

Inv.-Nr. 253-1 150,000 USD

Chryssa Bouzouki Capital, 1957 - 1960 bronze, brass and ivory 15¾ x 14¾ x 14¾ inches (39 x 37 x 37 cm)

Inv.-Nr. 235-170 50,000 USD

Chryssa Cycladic Book (Cardboard Installation), 1957 -1962 plaster, card box, Plexiglas and wood 40½ x 40 inches (102 x 101.5 cm)

Inv.-Nr. 235-130 100,000 USD

Chryssa Cycladic Book, 1957 - 1962 plaster 11 x 5½ x 1½ inches (28 x 14 x 3 cm)

Inv.-Nr. 235-171 28,000 USD















Chryssa Jazz, undated (late 1960>s) neon light, Plexiglas 271/2 x 201/8 x 121/4 inches (70 x 51 x 31 cm)

Inv.-Nr. 237-1 150,000 USD

Chryssa Jazz Blues I, 1960s - 1999 ink, gouache and graphite on transparent paper 24 x 17³/4 inches (61 x 45 cm)

Inv.-Nr. 235-19 4,500 USD

Chryssa New York Cityscape, 1974 neon light, Plexiglas 36¼ x 27½ x 9% inches (92 x 70 x 25 cm)

Inv.-Nr. 209-33 150,000 USD

Chryssa Untitled, 1971 gouache on wove paper 151⁄8 x 115⁄8 inches (38.5 x 29.5 cm)

Inv.-Nr. 8-33 12,000 USD



Chryssa Untitled, 1973 neon light, Plexiglas 38% x 26¾ x 10 inches (98 x 68 x 25.5 cm)

Inv.-Nr. 243-1 120,000 USD





Chryssa Untitled, 1971 charcoal and watercolour on wove paper 10% x 13¾ inches (27.6 x 35 cm)

Inv.-Nr. 8-34 4,000 USD

Chryssa Inspirational drawing for The Gate To Times Square, 1963 - 1965 graphite, gouache (mixed media) on paper 71/8 x 91/2 inches (18 x 24 cm)

Inv.-Nr. 235-140 6,000 USD

Chryssa Krispy Kreme, 2009 - 2010 metal paint with neon light 401/2 x 357% x 17 inches (103 x 91 x 43 cm)

Inv.-Nr. 235-22 100,000 USD

CHRYSSA (ATHENS, 1933 – ATHENS, 2013)

Chryssa (Chryssa Vardea-Mavromichali) was an American artist, born in Greece, who is best known for her monumental assemblages of neon tubes and large- scale minimalist paintings on canvas. Her work refers to early characteristics of Pop Art, Minimalism and Conceptual Art. Today, Chryssa is considered an important representative of these artistic movements and an early pioneer in light art. After studying at the Académie de la Grande Chaumière in Paris and the California School of Fine Arts, she moved to New York in 1958. Her first solo exhibition at Betty Parsons Gallery in 1961 quickly led to a major show at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum. Throughout her career, Chryssa was represented by prestigious galleries such as Leo Castelli, Pace, and Denise René. Her work was showcased at renowned institutions, including MoMA, Guggenheim, the Whitney Museum, Tate Modern, Documenta, and the Venice Biennial. Chryssa passed away in Athens in 2013.

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS AND BIENNIALS

2024 Wrightwood 659, Chicago 2023 Menil Collection, Houston 2023 Dia Foundation, New York 2022 MOMus-Museum Alex Mylona, Athens 2022 Blue Velvet, Zurich 2017 Documenta XVI, Kassel 2007 Hirshhorn Museum, Washington, DC 2005 Mihalarias Art Centre, Athens 1997 Leo Castelli Gallery, New York 1991 Leo Castelli Gallery, New York 1990 Mihalarias Art Center, Athens 1988 Leo Castelli Gallery, New York 1979 Musée d'art moderne de la Ville de Paris, Paris 1977 Documenta VI, Kassel 1975 André Emmerich Gallery, Zurich 1974 Museum of Modern Art, Montreal 1973 Galerie Denis René, New York 1972 Whitney Museum of American Art, New York 1972 Venice Biennial 1970/71 Whitney Annual (now Biennial), New York 1970 Galleria d'Arte Contemporanea, Torino 1969 Obelisk Gallery, Boston 1969 Galerie Rive Droite, Paris 1969 Galerie der Spiegel, Cologne 1968 Documenta IV, Kassel 1968 Walker Art Center, Minneapolis 1968 Harvard University, Cambridge 1966/68 Pace Gallery, New York 1966/67 Whitney Annual (now Biennial), New York 1965 Institute of Contemporary Art, Pennsylvania 1963 The Museum of Modern Art, New York 1963/69 Sao Paolo Biennial 1962 Cordier & Ekstrom, New York 1962 Whitney Annual (now Biennial), New York 1961 Guggenheim Museum, New York 1961 Betty Parsons, New York

SELECTED INSTITUTIONAL AND PRIVATE COLLECTIONS

Albright-Knox Art Gallery, New York Boca Raton Museum of Art, Boca Raton FL Brooklyn Museum, New York **Collection Irene Panagopoulos, Athens** Collection Milly and Arne Glimcher, New York Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington DC D. Daskalopoulos Collection, Athens Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Smithsonian Institution, Washington DC Indianapolis Museum of Art, Indianapolis Macedonian Museum of Contemporary Art, Thessaloniki Menil Collection, Houston Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York Metternich Collection, Düsseldorf Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen, Rotterdam Nationalgalerie, Berlin National Gallery of Athens, Athens National Museum of Contemporary Art, Athens Nelson A. Rockefeller Art Collection, New York San Francisco Museum of Art, San Francisco Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York Tate Gallery, London The Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago The Museum of Modern Art, New York Van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven Walker Art Center, Minneapolis Whitney Museum of American Art, New York

SELECTED LITERATURE

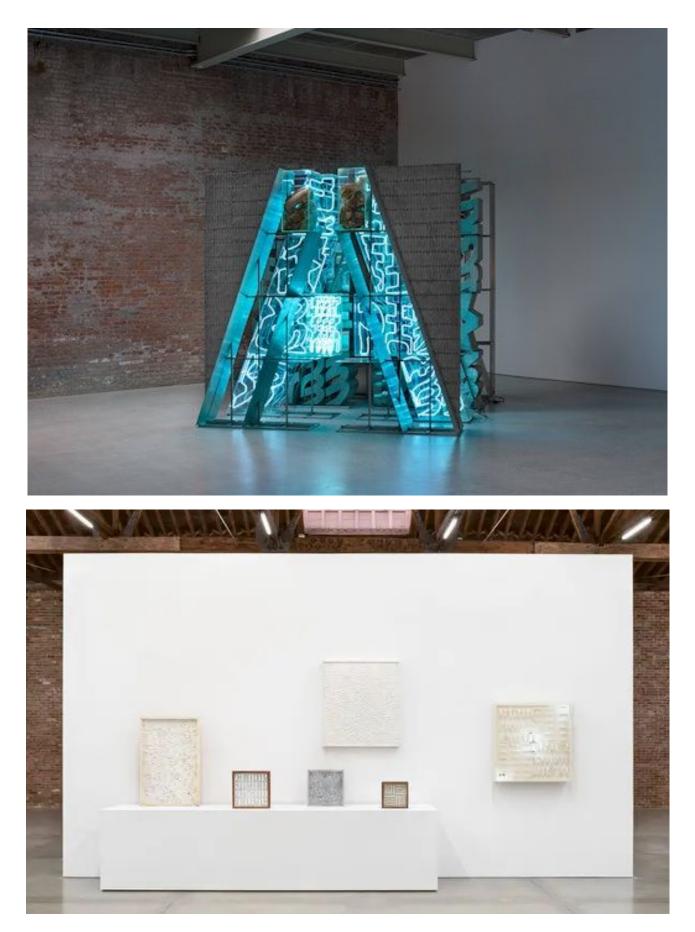
Megan Holly Witko: Chryssa & New York, New York, 2023 Yannis Bolis: Chryssa – Light, Negative, Positive, Athens, 2023 Barbara Rose: Chryssa: Cycladic Books 1957-1962, Athens, 1997 Doumas Mavrotas Takis: Chryssa: Cinema Oasis, 1996 Douglas Schultz: Chryssa. Cityscapes, London, 1990 Douglas Schultz: Chryssa: Urban Icons, Buffalo, 1983 Jacques Lassaigne: Chryssa, Paris, 1979 Pierre Restany: Chryssa, New York, 1977 Sam Hunter: Chryssa, Stuttgart, 1974 Diane Waldman: Chryssa. Selected Works 1955–1967, New York, 1968

EXHIBITION VIEWS

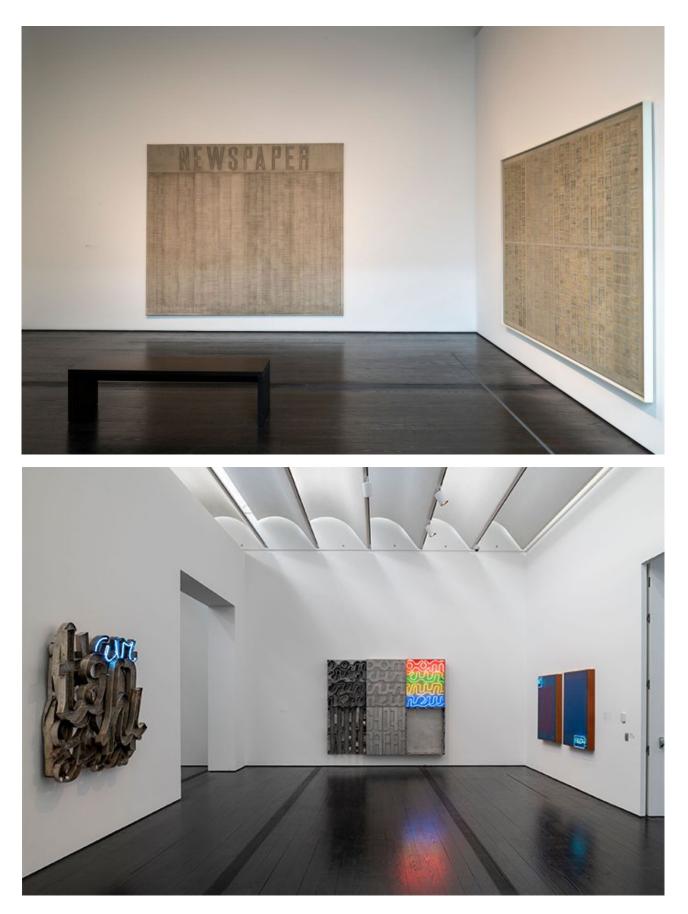




Exhibition views of "Eccentric Abstraction", Blue Velvet, Zurich, 2022



Exhibition views of "Chryssa & New York", Dia Chelsea, New York, 2023



Exhibition views of "Chryssa & New York", The Menil Collection, Houston, 2024 (Photo by Paul Hester. Courtesy The Menil Collection)



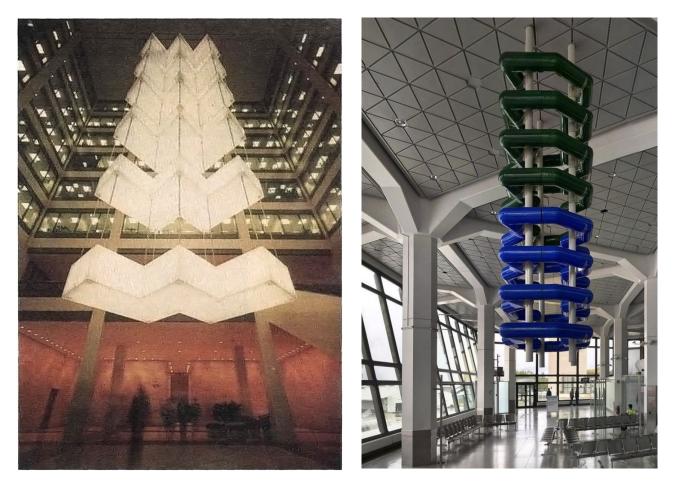
Exhibition view of "Chryssa", Leo Castelli Gallery, New York, 1991



Exhibition view of "Americans 1963", Museum of Modern Art, New York, 1963



Exhibition view, Documenta 14, Kassel, 2017



Chryssa, *Untitled Light Sculpture*, 1980. Installation view, lobby of 33 West Monroe Street, Chicago, 1981 (left). Chryssa, *Flug der Vögel*, 1976. Flughafen Tegel, Berlin (right) Chryssa, *Flug der Vögel*, 1976. Flughafen Tegel Berlin, Nebelhalle, Warteraum B



BLUE VELVET

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