

MARIA KAIMAKI - SPIRITS OF THE LAND

I have the great pleasure today to present the work of an artist I admire - Maria Kaimaki. Her work is original and beautiful, but also deeply introvert and personal. Even if she is extremely laconic, her images speak in our soul. I hope you will love them as I do.



I live and work in a remote, almost half deserted village on Chios Island. An extremely solitary person and a textbook introvert with a touch of social anxiety disorder, I found my love and voice through photography 11 years ago.

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PROJECT: "SPIRITS OF THE LAND"

Being in love with nature, I started out as a landscape photographer. I always said that the landscape is constant and eternal and we're just a pixel in this big picture. A small, ephemeral pixel, yet with the power to capture moments of that eternity. And that's what this tiny pixel set out to do, travelling around Greece for the first few years.



Children of Chaos II - Thalassa_Aerial

Thalassa was a primordial deity in Greek mythology, goddess of the sea and the literal body of the sea.

I ride the waves to far-off seas

I reflect the sun

I make you dream

At some point the traveling ended, became more esoteric and spiritual and I decided to work both behind and in front of the camera thus bringing the ephemeral human element in the foreground and portray its -my- relationship to the landscape. And right after that, the next step was to bring the eternal to the eternal, replacing the human with divine, archetypal figures. Diving deep into the vast pool of Greek mythology, I brought out the divinities personifying and ruling over some of my favourite elements: the ocean, waves, winds, rivers, light, darkness... Thus "Spirits of the Land" was born.



Children of Chaos I - Nyx

Nyx (Greek: "Night") is the Greek goddess (or personification) of the night. A shadowy figure, Nyx stood at the beginning of creation and mothered other personified deities such as Hypnos (Sleep) and Thanatos (Death), with Erebus (Darkness). Nyx is one of the ancient Protogenoi, the basic components of the universe, the first-born elemental gods and goddesses and one of the children of Chaos. Chaos is the origin of Greek Mythology.



Children of Chaos II - Thalassa

*"To the Shoreline
I followed her to the shoreline.
I'd follow her to the grave.
Two sinking ships in the darkness.
And we are much too close to break away."*



Atlas

In Greek mythology Atlas was a Titan condemned to hold up the celestial heavens for eternity.



Hemera

In Greek Mythology Hemera was the primordial goddess of the day. She was a daughter of Erebus (Darkness) and Nyx (Night) and the sister and wife of Aether (Heavenly Light).



Oceanids I – Amphitrite

In ancient Greek mythology, Amphitrite was a sea goddess, wife of Poseidon and the queen of the sea. She was referred to by poets as the representation of the sea.



Oceanids II – Aura

In Greek mythology Aurae were Oceanid nymphs of the breezes, daughters of Oceanus.



Oceanids III – Galatea

Galatea (Greek: Γαλάτεια; "she who is milk-white"), the Nereid of "the milky white" sea-foam.

Galatea was loved by the Cyclops Polyphemus. However, she was in love with Acis. When Polyphemus discovered Acis and Galatea together, he crushed Acis to death with a boulder. His blood, gushing forth from beneath, was metamorphosed by Galatea into a river bearing his name, Acis or Acinius, at the base of Mount Etna (the modern river Jaci). Galatea is also the name of the statue that Pygmalion creates and then falls in love with so hopelessly that Aphrodite takes pity on him and brings the statue to life.



Oceanids V – Lethe

Lethe, (Greek: “Oblivion”), in Greek mythology the personification of oblivion and goddess of the River Lethe, one of the five rivers in the infernal regions.

The River Lethe is believed to have flowed through the caves of Hypnos, the god of sleep, in the underworld and it formed the border between gloomy Hades and the paradise realm of Elysion (Elysium). When the souls of the dead passed into the afterlife, they had to drink from the river if they were to forget their past life. If, on the other hand, they wanted to carry their earthly memories to the afterlife with them, they had to drink from another river, the Mnemosyne. "Within the abyss of the Underworld, Lethe, measureless in sweep, glides smoothly on with placid stream and takes away our cares".



Galene

Galene (Greek: Γαλήνη) in ancient Greek religion was a minor goddess personifying calm seas.



Hamadryads I- Atlanteia

Dryad of the Woods

*“Then came a girl
A dryad of the woods
With a sign over her door saying
If you enter
You must forgive me everything!
Sometimes, forgiving will
Just take you one step too far
And you find yourself on remedy lane*

*Sometimes forgiving is too much
Like self abuse
Sometimes forgiving leaves
Too much scar tissue behind*

*Even if I could one day learn
To forgive you everything
Could I learn to forgive myself?”*