

Flash Art

Ariana Papademetropoulos *Unweave a Rainbow*
Vito Schnabel Projects / New York

by Alexandre Stipanovich
January 8, 2021



Ariana Papademetropoulos *Unweave a Rainbow*. Exhibition view at Vito Schnabel Projects, New York, 2020. Photography by Argenis Apolinario. © Ariana Papademetropoulos. Courtesy of the artist and Vito Schnabel Projects, New York.

Ariana Papademetropoulos's latest show at Vito Schnabel Projects is a soft, immersive experience that takes the viewer on a metaphorical journey. We feel compelled to follow the otherworldly music and wander throughout the space, just like the children who followed the irresistible music of the Pied Piper of Hamelin. A large room, carpeted with a vibrant and plush orange carpet that gives off a sense of exhilarating retro comfort, welcomes visitors. But I'm told this color matches the one used to identify Agent Orange, the defoliant chemical used during the Vietnam War. The manufacturer of Agent Orange was Rainbow Herbicides – a clue regarding the title of the exhibition, *Unweave a Rainbow*. What seems dreamlike at first takes an acrid turn. Processing this information, we imagine the loading of

weapons of mass destruction; our reverie becomes more anxious and ambiguous, but loosens up when we discover a series of playful, rainbow-shaped modular floor cushions. On the walls are a series of three large paintings, each featuring a giant bubble floating in the air that encapsulates – or mirrors? – a domestic interior. The bubbles register somewhere between a time travel device and a magical spell, between a scientific experiment and a poetic symbol. They evoke the traveling domestic interiors of Jules Verne (think of Propeller Island or the Nautilus in *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*); or the end of E. T. A. Hoffmann's *The Golden Pot*, when the author himself wonders why he does not have a "nice little farm in Atlantis that is a poetic possession of his inner mind."

ARIANA PAPADEMETROPOULOS



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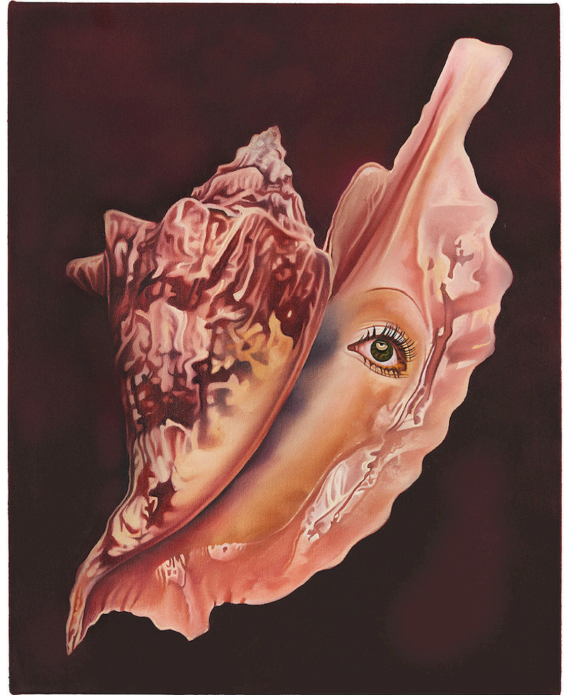
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Ariana Papademetropoulos, *Curse of the Boys with Butterfly Tattoos*, 2020. Oil on canvas. 84 x 108 1/2 in. © Ariana Papademetropoulos. Courtesy of the artist and Vito Schnabel Projects, New York.



Ariana Papademetropoulos, *Death of a Mermaid*, 2020. Oil on canvas. 20 x 16 in. © Ariana Papademetropoulos. Courtesy of the artist and Vito Schnabel Projects, New York.



Ariana Papademetropoulos, *Espulsione dalla discoteca*, 2020. Oil on canvas. 90 x 120 in. © Ariana Papademetropoulos. Courtesy of the artist and Vito Schnabel Projects, New York.



Ariana Papademetropoulos, *Keira*, 2020. Oil on canvas. 20 x 16 in. © Ariana Papademetropoulos. Courtesy of the artist and Vito Schnabel Projects, New York.



Ariana Papademetropoulos, *The Shadow of Clouds*, 2020. Oil on canvas. 84 x 120 in. © Ariana Papademetropoulos. Courtesy of the artist and Vito Schnabel Projects, New York.



Ariana Papademetropoulos, *Spying on Zeus was never a good idea*, 2020. Oil on canvas. 20 x 16 in. © Ariana Papademetropoulos. Courtesy of the artist and Vito Schnabel Projects, New York.