

GALLERY
WENDI NORRIS

A Visionary Line: Remedios Varo Drawings

GALLERY WENDI NORRIS OFFSITE
in association with Adler Beatty

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New York, NY: Gallery Wendi Norris is honored to present *A Visionary Line: Remedios Varo Drawings*, the first exhibition dedicated to the drawings of the indelible Remedios Varo (b. 1908, Anglès, Spain; d. 1963, Mexico City, Mexico). Marking her first New York City solo show in nearly four decades, the exhibition unveils a rare collection of drawings owned by a couple who were dear friends of Varo.

The nine works on paper in *A Visionary Line* reflect Varo's Renaissance-inspired techniques and showcase her technical precision. As indexes of the artist's fantastical ideas and blueprints for her masterful paintings, Varo's sketches are also works of art in their own right. Included are the developmental studies for such major paintings as *El flautista* in the Museo de Arte Moderno in Mexico City and *Tailleur pour dames* in the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston.

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A Visionary Line: Remedios Varo Drawings further expands the growing international recognition of Varo's exquisite oeuvre, denoted by major museum acquisitions; her noteworthy inclusion in the 59th Venice Biennale *The Milk of Dreams* (2022); and the groundbreaking exhibition *Remedios Varo: Science Fictions* (2023) at the Art Institute of Chicago, with an accompanying catalogue co-published with Yale University Press. Moreover, Varo's work is featured in the touring exhibition *IMAGINE! 100 Years of International Surrealism (2024-2026)*, which recently opened at the Royal Museums of Fine Arts of Belgium (Brussels, Belgium). The exhibition travels to the Centre Pompidou (Paris, France), the Hamburger Kunsthalle (Hamburg, Germany), the Fundación MAPFRE (Madrid, Spain), and concludes at the Philadelphia Museum of Art (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania).

This is the third Remedios Varo exhibition for Gallery Wendi Norris, the only gallery to present solo shows of Varo's artwork since her untimely death in 1963. *A Visionary Line* continues the gallery's offsite exhibition model, celebrating its third iteration in New York City, following *Leonora Carrington: Story of the Last Egg* (2019) and *Alice Rahon and Ranu Mukherjee: Time Warriors* (2023).

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ABOUT REMEDIOS VARO

Remedios Varo was born in Anglès, Spain, and passed away at age 55 in Mexico City, Mexico in 1963. Raised by a Catholic mother and an agnostic engineer father, these two forces—the spiritual and scientific—greatly influenced Varo’s artistic career. A Spanish artist who played an integral role in the Mexico City-based Surrealist movement, Varo is known for her enigmatic paintings which unite scientific technical precision with esoteric and feminist subject matter.

After graduating from the Royal Academy of Fine Arts of San Fernando in Madrid, Varo moved to Barcelona in the mid-1930s and joined the Surrealist avant-garde art group Logicophobista. After the outbreak of the Spanish Civil War in 1936, she fled to Paris with Surrealist poet Benjamin Péret. In Paris, Varo became deeply involved with the Paris-based Surrealists, and her work was exhibited in the ground-breaking exhibition, *Fantastic Art, Dada, Surrealism* at The Museum of Modern Art, New York (1936), as well as multiple early Surrealist exhibitions around the globe: *Exposition Internationale de Surréalisme* (Tokyo, 1936), *Surrealist Objects & Poems* (London, 1937), *Exposition Internationale de Surréalisme* (Paris, 1938), *Exposición Internacional del Surrealismo* (Mexico City, 1940), to name a few.

With the outbreak of the Second World War, Varo fled Nazi-occupied France for Mexico City, where she connected with other exiled artists such as Alice Rahon, Wolfgang Paalen, Gordon Onslow Ford, and Leonora Carrington, who became Varo’s closest friend and colleague. During her early years in Mexico City, Varo honed her distinctive painting style while working various odd jobs, most notably creating illustrations for the pharmaceutical firm Casa Bayer between 1942 and 1949. Beginning in the mid-1950s, Varo experienced domestic stability that enabled her to devote the rest of her life to painting. During these years, she produced a body of work typified by its female and androgynous figures (often disguised portraits of Varo herself), mystical narrative content, and a quality of ambiguity, mystery, and dark humor. In this last decade of her career, she developed a unique and virtuosic painting style that paired detailed preparatory drawings and meticulous rendering of her primary subjects in the tradition of early Renaissance masters, with Surrealist-derived automatic techniques like decalcomania. In 1956, Varo had her first major solo exhibition in Mexico City, and it catapulted her to the forefront of the art scene. She continued to exhibit widely thereafter before her premature death in 1963.

Varo created roughly 400 works of art, over half of them drawings, which are now globally dispersed. Walter Gruen donated 38 significant artworks to the Museo de Arte Moderno in Mexico City. Gallery Wendi Norris has worked with Varo’s art since 2004 and has been the only gallery to present solo exhibitions of the artist since she passed away: *Indelible Fables* (2012) and *Remedios Varo: Encuentros* (2023).

In 2023, Varo was the subject of the solo exhibition *Remedios Varo: Science Fictions* at the Art Institute of Chicago. Varo’s work has been acquired by museums worldwide, including The Museum of Modern Art, New York; Centre Pompidou, Paris; National Museum of Women in the Arts, Washington, D.C.; Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía, Madrid, Spain; Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; Detroit Institute of Arts, Detroit, among others. She has had solo shows at the National Museum of Women in the Arts, Washington, D.C. (2000); Mexican Fine Arts Museum, Chicago, IL (2000); Museo de Arte Moderno, Mexico City, Mexico (1971, 1983, 1994, 2001, 2016, 2018); and Museo de Arte Latinoamericano de Buenos Aires (Malba), Argentina (2020).

Varo’s work has been included in many group museum exhibitions, including *Surrealism: Desire Unbound*, Tate Modern Gallery, London, United Kingdom (2001); *In Wonderland: The Surrealist Adventures of Women Artists in Mexico and the United States*, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, California (2012); *Exquisite Corpses: Drawing and*

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ABOUT **REMEDIOS VARO** (continued)

Disfiguration, The Museum of Modern Art, New York (2012); *Campo Cerrado: Spanish Art 1939–1953*, Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía, Madrid, Spain (2016); *The Moon – From Inner Worlds to Outer Space*, Louisiana Museum of Art, Denmark (2018); *Fantastic Women: Surreal Worlds from Meret Oppenheim to Frida Kahlo*, Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt, Germany (2020) and Louisiana Museum in Copenhagen, Denmark (2020); *Surrealism Beyond Borders*, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York (2021) and Tate Modern, London (2022); *Surrealism and Magic: Enchanted Modernities*, Peggy Guggenheim Collection, Venice, Italy (2022) and Museum Barberini, Potsdam, Germany (2022); and the 59th Venice Biennale, *The Milk of Dreams* (2022). Most recently, Varo's work is celebrated in *IMAGINE! 100 Years of International Surrealism* (2024–2026), an exhibition honoring the 100th anniversary of the birth of Surrealism. Beginning at the Royal Museums of Fine Arts of Belgium, Brussels, the show travels to the Centre Pompidou, Paris, the Hamburger Kunsthalle, Hamburg, the Fundación MAPFRE, Madrid, and the Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia.

ABOUT **GALLERY WENDI NORRIS**

Gallery Wendi Norris is a leading international art gallery with headquarters in San Francisco, California. The gallery holds decades-long relationships with 20th-century luminaries such as Leonora Carrington, Dorothea Tanning, Wolfgang Paalen, Remedios Varo, and Alice Rahon, artists whose nomadic and visionary practices interrogated the aesthetic, scientific, and philosophical movements of their times. The gallery also represents María Magdalena Campos-Pons, Chitra Ganesh, Julio César Morales, Ranu Mukherjee, Eva Schlegel, Peter Young, and other contemporaries, artists whose work similarly flows across disciplines, continents, and generations as they speculate on the present moment.

Opened in 2002, Gallery Wendi Norris remains committed to its founding principles of rigorous programming, development of artists' legacies, public accessibility, and cultural significance. To those ends, the gallery hosts visiting academics, sponsors artist talks, and publishes highly-researched books with original contributions from international scholars. The gallery actively supports artists in engaging new audiences through influential commercial, biennial, and institutional collaborations. Pioneering an offsite exhibition model in 2017, the gallery produces public-facing artworks and shows wherever they might reach the widest viewership and provide the deepest impact. Working in concert with major museums, private collectors, and innovative curators, Gallery Wendi Norris builds enduring, well-represented collections for its respected array of international clients.

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ABOUT **ADLER BEATTY**

Adler Beatty offers expertise in Fine Art with a focus on Western Artists from Old Masters through Contemporary - sourcing paintings, sculpture, and works on paper of the highest quality for private clients and institutional collections. Adler Beatty occupies a unique position in the marketplace as one of the only true generalist firms in existence handling artworks from the 14th century through today of the highest caliber. Founders and Principals Frances Beatty and Alexander Adler have fifty years of combined experience and longstanding personal relationships with market participants both commercial and academic to offer our clients comprehensive but bespoke global sales strategies and market intelligence.