

Labyrinth Dances

Myriam Thyes

1st version, white/blue: 1992

triptych, each 140 x 160 cm, acrylic on cotton

2nd version, green/red/blue: 1994

vertical triptych, each 77,5 x 90 cm, acrylic on cotton

Titles of the individual paintings:

Snake and Deer, Lotus and Bee, Vigilance

The line describes the path through a labyrinth with seven turns – Ariadne's thread (not the 'wall' of the labyrinth. Classical labyrinths always have an odd number of turns and are not mazes: a single path leads to the centre, passing through all the turns).

This line is interwoven with hand gestures (mudras) from Indian temple dance. Originally, Indian priestesses danced in honour of the goddess (Kali / Durga / Shakti / Devi); later, in honour of various deities of the Hindu pantheon. All gestures in the dance have specific meanings – each meaning has a narrative, a religious and an erotic dimension.

