

SEAN KELLY

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MARIKO MORI'S "CYCLICSCAPE" OPENS AT SEAN KELLY



Ekpyrotic String IV, 2014, Mariko Mori.

Photo: © Mariko Mori, courtesy of Sean Kelly, NY

Mariko Mori's mystical show at Sean Kelly opened last Friday—the vernal equinox—just hours after a solar eclipse and before a dark super moon reached perigee. Inspired by a recent theory in astrophysics that posits an alternative to the Big Bang, suggesting instead a cyclic model of the universe, the Japanese artist's recent work aligns science with Eastern philosophy—specifically the idea of reincarnation. The show, titled "Cyclicscape," was conceived as a "landscape of multiuniverses," in Mori's words, and considers a universe that could be born again.



Installation view of Mori's sculptures in "Cyclicscape" at New York's Sean Kelly.
Photo: Jason Wyche, courtesy of Sean Kelly, NY

Her sculptures are enormous Möbius forms, infinity symbols elaborated into spacious tangles of smooth, interconnecting strands. Simultaneously delicate, like the inside of a nautilus shell or the folds of an ear, and heftily material, made from steel or aluminum, the pieces ripple with reflective energy, even as they conform to gravity and sit heavy on the stark concrete floors.



Installation view of Mori's digital drawings.
Photo: Jason Wyche, courtesy of Sean Kelly, NY

Downstairs at the gallery, digital drawings on photo C-print are hung in thick, bulbous Lucite frames. For these works, Mori sat and drew beside the sea in Okinawa every morning for a month. The results are not

seascapes or nature scenes but compositions of illusionistic droplets of water set among concentric radiating circles. “I was actually trying to draw the invisible energy of the ocean,” she explained. Translated into digital form—which Mori said offers more depth—they seem to glow, almost emitting light and moisture into the surrounding space. “It’s like a fluid kind of energy motion between the sea and me.”

Indeed, energy seems to reverberate off every surface and every curve of Mori’s works. There is a feeling that in these rooms, as Mori says, “Big Bangs could happen anywhere.”

Through May 2 at Sean Kelly, 475 10th Avenue, New York; skny.com