

CLAUDIA STONE GALLERY

Sue Miller

(b. 1939, New York City)

Persephone, 2012-13

Persephone is a metaphor for one's awakening after a long period of hibernation and standstill. The painting depicts the moment when Persephone, the goddess queen of the underworld, is returned to the earth's surface and the meadows are starting to bloom again.

Persephone was seized by god Hades and carried off to the underworld as his bride. Her mother Demeter despaired at her disappearance and searched for her throughout the world. When she learned that Zeus had conspired in her daughter's abduction she was furious, and refused to let the earth fruit until Persephone was returned. Zeus consented, but because Persephone had tasted of the food of Hades - a handful of pomegranate seeds - she was forced to forever spend a part of the year with her husband in the underworld. Her annual return to the earth in spring was marked by the flowering of the meadows and the sudden growth of the new grain. Her return to the underworld in winter, conversely, saw the dying down of plants and the halting of growth.

For more information about the artist, please contact us at info@claudiastonegallery.com.