

## O'Malley, Sharon

Sharon O'Malley The seed of O'Malley's fascination with the world of myth was first planted in a cruise she took, aged 12, which visited the famous sites of Delphi, Athens, Ephesus, and Knossos.

When she grew older, she revisited these and other ancient sites, in both Europe and Asia, and immersed herself in the literature of the subject. As she began to make her way as an artist she found that the rich source material of mythology enabled her, as she said in one interview, "to follow Orpheus in seeking harmony and perfection of form". Delving into the world of mythology, O'Malley reveals connections and resonances between images derived from classical, Greek, pagan, and religious sources. She also finds parallels between mythic subjects and the issues of our own time.

Themes and motifs recur and echo each other between the worlds of West and East, pagan and Christian, old and new. O'Malley does not make literal portrayals of mythological subjects but uses them as a source material and springboard for her painting.

Mythology is elastic and flexible with several interpretations often being possible for any one myth. In many ways mythology is like art, there are many layers through which it can be interpreted.