

GILBERT LEU



Rama IX Art Museum Foundation

Paintings by GILBERT LEU
Bangkok 1990

Cover :
Tantric Mysticism
65 x 65 cm.



BIOGRAPHY

Gilbert Leu was born in Lausanne, Switzerland on June 26, 1929. It was in his boyhood that he developed a voracious appetite for drawing and painting, subjects in which his teachers singled him out at school. But as with most children prone to distraction, Gilbert had many other hobbies, like photography and sports, for which he never seemed to find enough time.

However, life's greater priorities as viewed by the strict Swiss educational system necessitated more practical undertakings. Gilbert learned a profession, as duty called, obtaining a string of engineering degrees from universities in Switzerland and the United States. He found himself speaking more alien languages than his native tongue, and proceeded to work as a consultant in electronics research. Many years went by. Then, at one point amongst it all he arrived, inevitably or so he thought, at the decision to set himself "free" -- to do what he really wanted to do.

It was then, in Gilbert's late 40s, that he picked up the brush again, but this time in all seriousness. He had already settled down in Thailand with his wife, a former air hostess whom he had met in 1965 in Hong Kong during his world travels.

The mystic East fascinated Gilbert and set his Western impulses tingling. He thought he should have been born out here: felt incredibly attuned to this part of the world. All the artistic passion and aspirations of old that he had believed were gone, buried beneath jaded business jargon, came back in a consuming flood. He felt reborn, rediscovered. He would do everything he had dreamed of earlier in his life.

Gilbert's particular interest in Tankhas and in the representation of the cosmic universe was magnified with the encounter and study of the various Buddhist arts and disciplines, now readily accessible to him at his very doorstep. At the same time, the spiritual pursuit triggered memories of the serene mountain sceneries of his native land, which he had experienced in his youthful mountain-climbing days.

For the first five years, Gilbert participated in several art exhibitions in Bangkok with some of his first creations, which he was very hesitant to sell. After some success he got used to the fact of having to part from his elaborate paintings, each of many weeks of work.

As a completely self-trained and self-styled artist, Gilbert embarked in 1982 on his first one-man show. Now after six such shows he is filled with a mixture of deep relief and pride. It has taken quite some time, but of this Gilbert is convinced: one can be happiest only with what one truly enjoys, and if that happiness comes with success, then it is the reward of worthwhile toil.

EXHIBITIONS

- 1977 Viboon Art School at Siam Intercontinental Hotel
- 1977 3rd Bua-Luang Art Exhibition at Bhirasri I.M.A.
- 1979 25th National Exhibition of Arts at National Gallery
- 1982 1st One-Man Exhibition at Visual Dhamma Gallery
- 1982 2nd Thai-Art-80 Exhibition at Bhirasri I.M.A.
- 1982 Dhamma Symbols Exhibition at Visual Dhamma Gallery
- 1983 The Art of Dhamma Exhibition at Visual Dhamma Gallery
- 1983 First Light Exhibition at Visual Dhamma Gallery
- 1983 2nd One-Man Exhibition at Visual Dhamma Gallery
- 1985 Reflections of Buddhism Exhibition at Visual Dhamma Gallery
- 1986 4th Thai-Art-80 Exhibition at Bhirasri I.M.A.
- 1986 3rd One-Man Exhibition at The Regent Hotel
- 1987 4th One-Man Exhibition at the L.M. President Hotel
- 1988 5th One-Man Exhibition at the Landmark Plaza
- 1989 6th One-Man Exhibition at The Royal Cliff Beach Hotel
- 1990 7th One-Man Exhibition at The Royal Cliff Beach Hotel
- 1990 5th Thai-Art-80 Exhibition at the Siam Commercial Bank

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PRIVATE COLLECTIONS

Thailand :

- Paul Sitthi Amnuay (3)
- Chok Na Ranong
- Oranong Attakaiwanvatee
- Maitri Lersvidhaya
- Ernst E. Wagner
- Martin Maag (2)
- Hans P. Tuggener (2)
- Lutzi A. Matzig
- L.M. President Hotel
- Sabahat Mir
- Peter Hierzi
- Mimi Berlingeri
- Renato Petrucci
- Hermann Andres
- Urs V. Borner
- Santi Goldsbury
- Peter Indergand
- Adam Lisowski (7)
- Andreas Grenacher
- Kurt Mueller
- Albert Kappeler
- Chris Dettwiler

Switzerland :

- Hans R. Kiesinger
- Serge H. Gamp (2)
- Armin Siegfried (4)
- Rudolf Steiger
- Marcel B. Faeh
- Elvira Lersvidhaya
- Erika Zeller
- Beat Recher
- Dieter Gloor (2)
- Henry Moser
- Urs Hufschmid
- Rene Helbling
- Elisabeth Peter (2)
- Jolanda Arrigoni
- Peter Struss (2)
- Marcel Kuster

U.S.A. :

- M.L. Bhirapong Kasemsri
- Ken Meyer
- T.B. Coleman
- Lynne Campbell
- Glenn Campbell
- Robert Wyser (2)

U.K. :

- Ayman Sawaf (3)

Singapore :

- Roland Eggli
- Ho Chee Poey

Nepal :

- William L. Hallinan

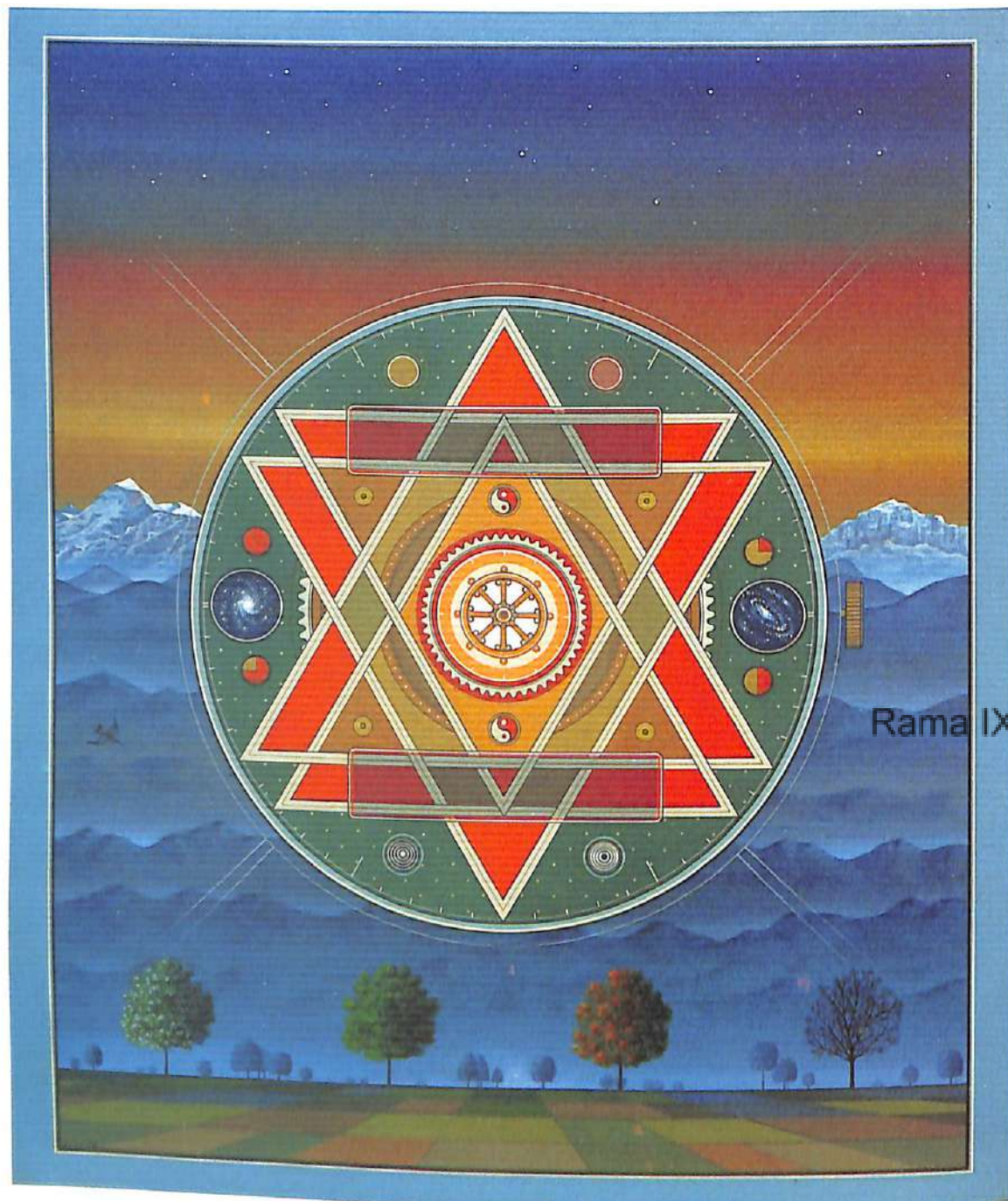




Mandala of Time
65 x 65 cm.



Mandala of Light
75 x 75 cm.



Mandala of Time
60 x 72 cm



Mandala of Origin
64 x 72 cm.



Spiral of Time
80 x 80 cm



Spiral of Time
65 x 65 cm.

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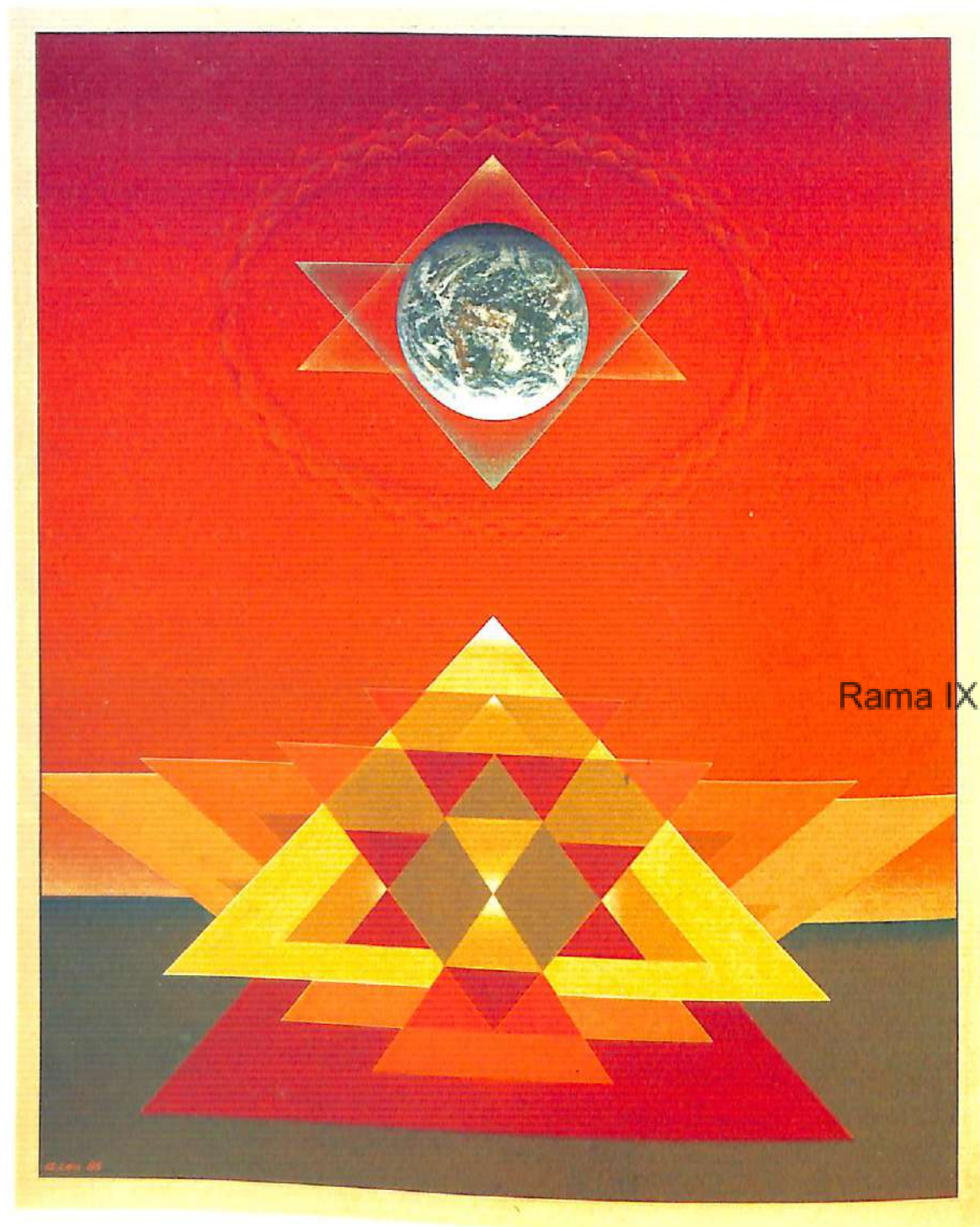




Mandala of Octave
70 x 70 cm

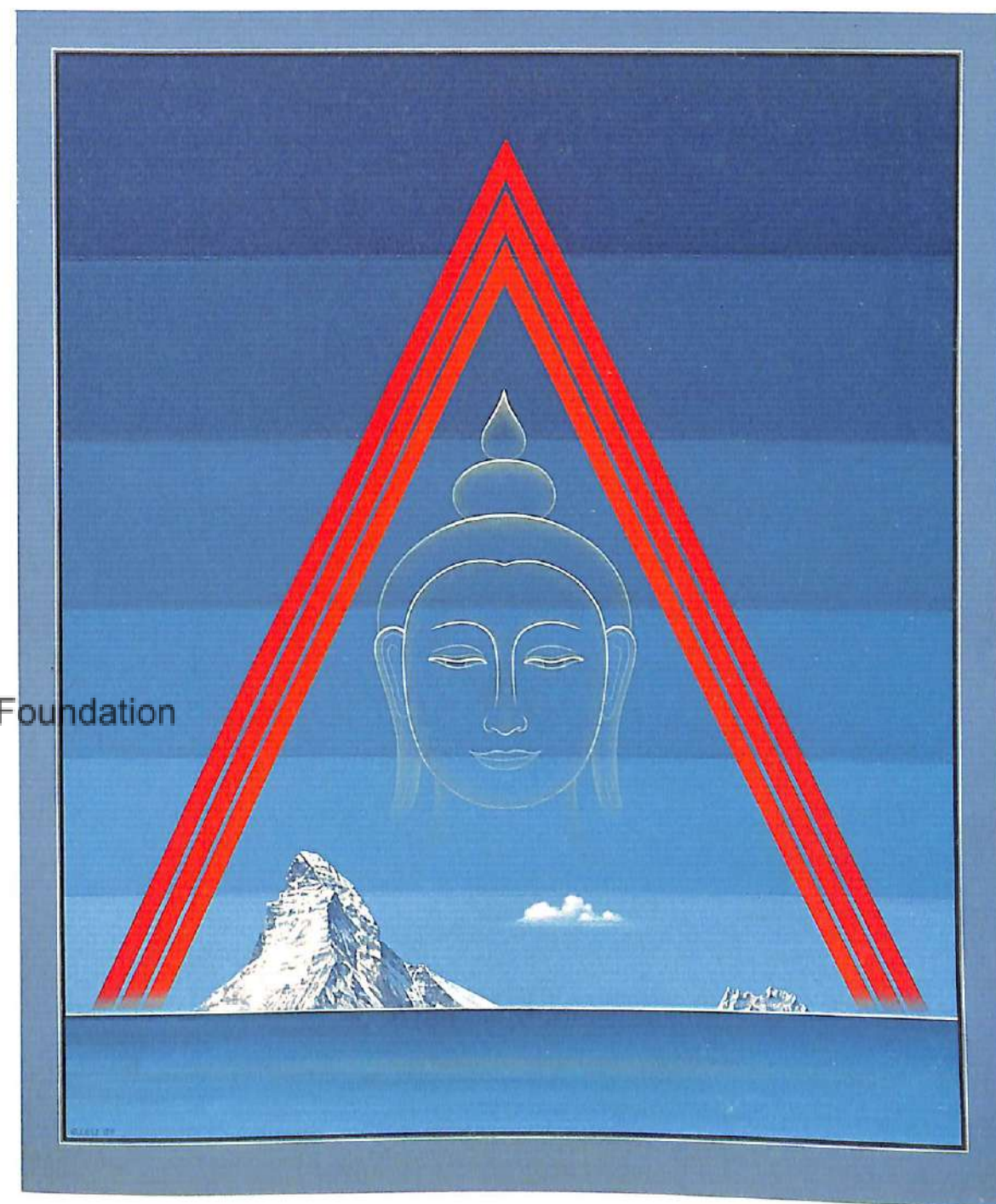


Shri Yantra
60 x 60 cm.

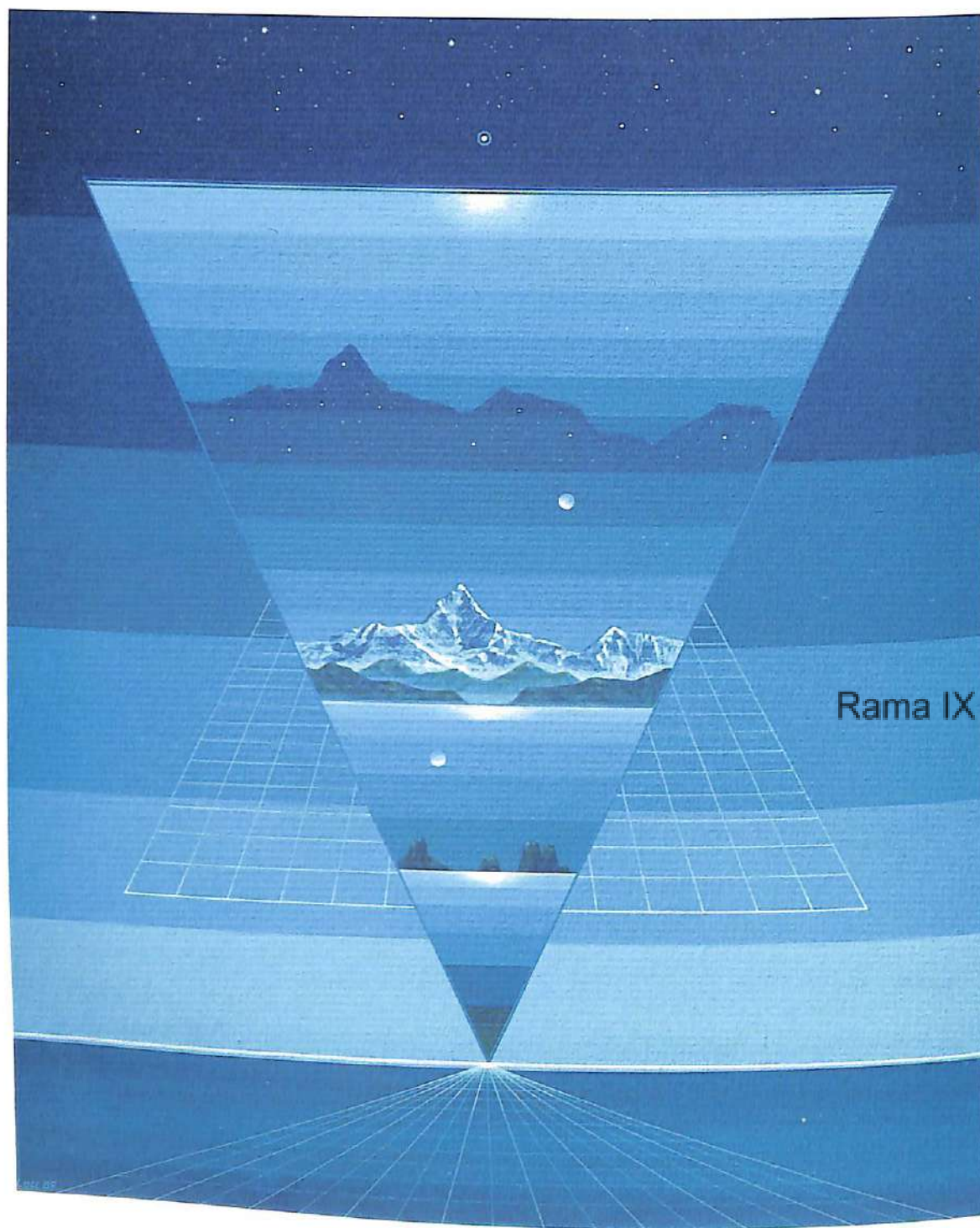


Tantric Evolution
55 x 67 cm.

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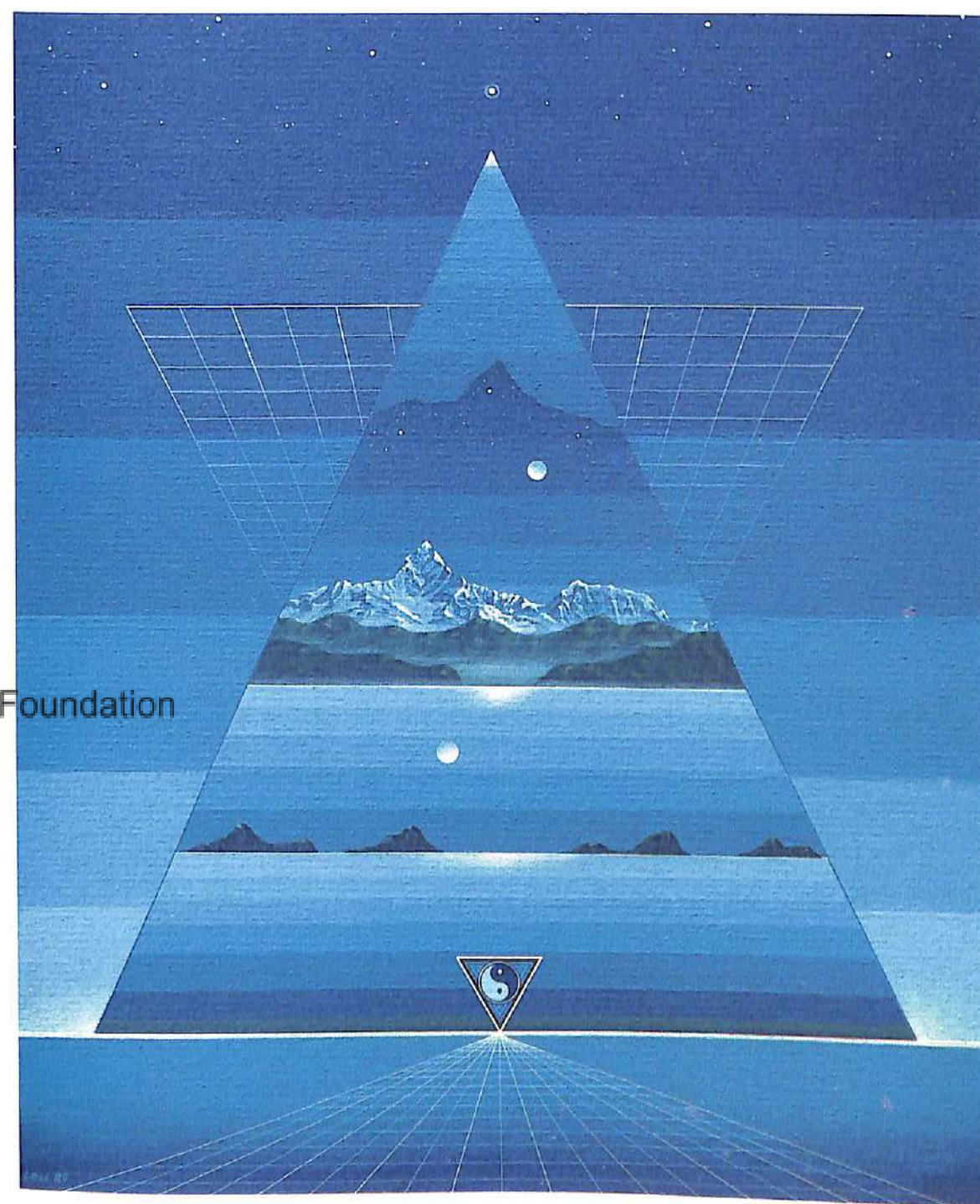


God of Fire
60 x 72 cm.

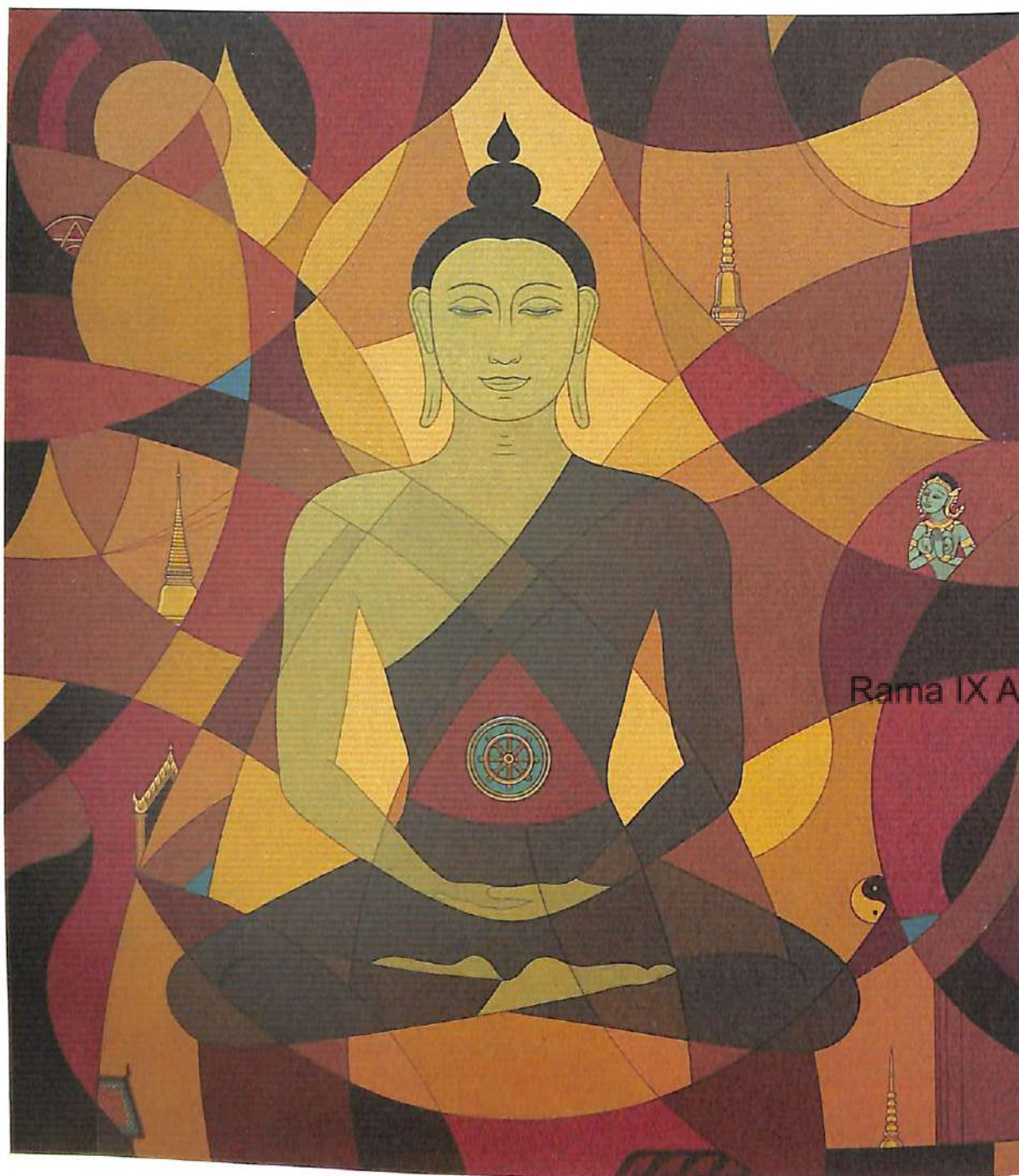


Yin
50 x 60 cm

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Yang
50 x 60 cm.



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Cosmographic Buddha
70 x 80 cm.