Galerie
Deschler
Berlin

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Mariano Rinaldi Goñi — *30 Years Berlin*

30 October - 12 December, 2026

For Mariano Rinaldi Goñi (MAO), three decades in Berlin mark not only a personal milestone but also thirty years of artistic development, during which he has forged a distinctive visual language. Having moved from Buenos Aires to Berlin in 1996, Goñi has created his own artistic universe, in which mythological traditions, archetypal figures and existential themes converge in a powerful, expressive style of painting.

To mark this anniversary, Galerie Deschler presents a selection of new paintings and works by the artist, opening on 30 October 2026. The exhibition complements the presentation of the same title at Stiftung Starke, which offers a retrospective overview of earlier phases of Goñi's work until 8 November 2026. While the exhibition at Stiftung Starke traces the artist's development over three decades, the presentation at the gallery focuses on his current practice and the latest extensions of his thematic repertoire.

For many years, Goñi has explored Norse mythology, particularly the Norns – Urd, Verdandi and Skuld – the three figures of fate who embody the past, present and future. Rather than simply illustrating these inherited figures, his paintings transpose them into an independent visual world, where they emerge as embodiments of fundamental human experiences and existential forces.

In his new works, Goñi opens up this universe to other mythological traditions. An important source of inspiration was a visit to Tarquinia in Italy, where he explored the Etruscan tombs and their striking wall paintings. It was there that he discovered the goddess Vanth, an Etruscan figure associated with death and the underworld. His encounter with these ancient visual worlds prompted him to delve deeper into Etruscan mythology and incorporate it into his own artistic imagination.

Another source of inspiration is the Indian myth of *The Churning of the Ocean of Milk*. In this cosmic event, gods and demons work together to churn the ocean in their quest for the nectar of immortality. From the Ocean of Milk emerges Lakshmi, goddess of fortune, abundance and prosperity. Alongside her, Kali – associated with destruction, transformation and the dissolution of established orders – enters Goñi's expanded mythological universe.

The Norns, Vanth, Kali and Lakshmi embody different, at times opposing, forces. Their convergence in Goñi's works does not imply an equation of the respective belief systems, but rather reflects what religious studies scholar Ulrike Schlott describes as "amplification through interference:" archetypal qualities from different cultures overlap and intensify one another, resonate across traditions and open up new layers of meaning. Fate and death, destruction and

renewal, transience and abundance thus emerge as intertwined dimensions of human experience.

With *30 Years in Berlin*, Mariano Rinaldi Goñi brings together reflection and renewal. The two exhibitions celebrate three decades of artistic activity in Berlin while demonstrating the continuing openness of his painterly universe. His encounters with ancient myths and images give rise to a vibrant dialogue between cultural memory and personal imagination, between inherited symbols and a present in which these figures find new forms of expression.