

Anna Chromy and The Cloak of Conscience

We are pleased to introduce Anna Chromy, a world-class painter and sculptress. Anna was born in Cesky Krumlov, in a country then called Czechoslovakia, in 1940. Her mom, a native of Prague, introduced her to sculptures and paintings, both in her hometown and in Prague. After World War II, at the age of five, Anna and her family were forced to leave Krumlov and moved to Austria. Anna grew up in Vienna and Salzburg and the musical atmosphere of these cities became an inspiration for many of her artistic works.

In 1970, Anna moved with her husband near Paris, France, where she found herself surrounded by painters recreating the natural beauty of Fontainebleau Forrest in their artworks. So Anna began studying painting at the Academy de la Grande Chaumire in Paris, where she met the famous Spanish Surrealist painter, Salvador Dalí. He inspired Anna's imagination and creativity. No wonder, she infused Dali's Surrealism in her creations.

Beginning in the 1980s, Anna's work began to be included in many European art exhibits and events. In 1985, Anna created three pieces called the Faces of Peace for the U.N. Year of Peace. Her painting, "Man, Earth and Universe," her dream for a better world, was chosen for the EXPO '92, in Seville, Spain.

Creation of Anna's Cloak of Conscience

In 1980, when both her beloved mom and her elder sister died within a short period of time, Anna created the painting, "To Be, or Not To Be," paraphrasing life and death. It depicts the body of a beautiful young woman stretched out before a mysterious venetian setting, and an empty white Cloak in a sitting position, bent forward in mourning.

After an accidental fall in 1985, she was immobilized for a long while, and had ample time to study every detail of this painting. A doctor had told her she would likely be not able to walk without crutches, or paint. She also found out that she had lots of heavy metals in her blood, from the oil paints used in the painting process. So she decided to take up sculpting. And, it was only natural that she would try to create the Cloak as her first life-size sculpture.

Her close encounters with death had taught her what was really important in life; what survives our disappearance: it is our soul, our conscience, our creative energy, our empathy and love, all the things we cannot

see or touch. These are contained in the empty shell we leave behind when we die.

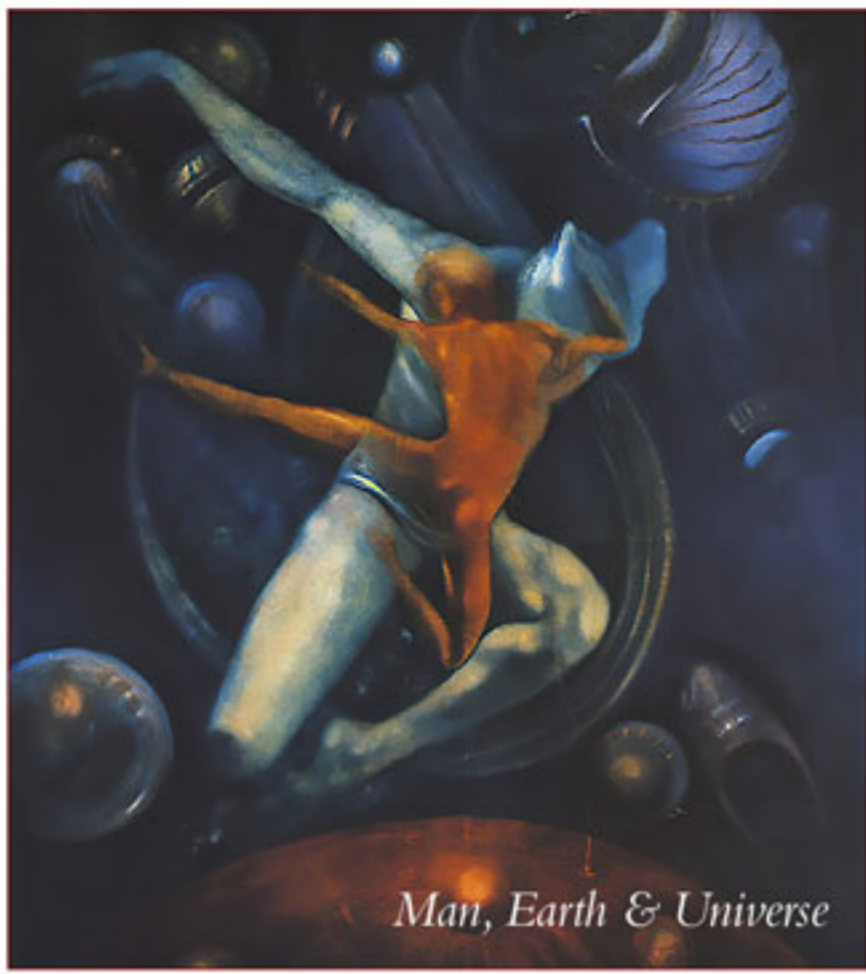
Anna's Cloak is a sculpture, made from the material used for Michelangelo's David and Bernini's Angels, the white Carrara marble from Michelangelo Cave, a crystalline rock of the highest quality. It is the largest sculpture ever to be sculpted into one single block of 250 tons, a giant gemstone. The Cloak is sculpted in its interior, to allow experiencing the energy and the purity of marble, inductive to meditation and healing of the soul. It is conceived as the universal symbol of conscience, tolerance and peace. She felt that the Cloak could become a symbol of her lifework.

While Anna was raised as a Catholic, and has had an audience with Pope John Paul II at the Vatican, she believes, "There is only one God. We are all children of the same Father. We have to advance all together hand in hand." She believes that one of the places from where this message can be most effectively spread is Jerusalem, the Holy City of the three monotheistic religions—Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Anna dreamt of the Cloak in this Holy City, where St. Francis of Assisi went to teach peace and tolerance among the religions.

She decided that the Hadassah Medical Center at Ein Kerem, which for over a hundred years has served all people, regardless of race, religion, or gender, would be the ideal place for the installation of a Cloak of Conscience. In March 2019, Hadassah organized an international seminar, "Wrestling with my Conscience," together with the inauguration of the Cloak, and to bestow the 2019 Chromy Award to Judge Rubinstein. In September 2018, a Gold Cloak was installed in the beautiful Sculpture Garden near the Mark Twain Library in Redding, Connecticut. You can find Cloaks and other permanently installed artworks of Anna around the world on Google Maps at annachromy.com/public-sculptures.

Anna is a highly acclaimed artist—a laureate of the Michelangelo, Dalí and Kafka Prizes, and an Honorary Professor of the National Sculpture Academy of China. She lives with her husband, Wolfgang, on the beautiful Mediterranean Sea. In 1999, they created the Anna Chromy Foundation to perpetuate the art and philosophy of Anna. *Visit:* www.annachromy.com/about-us/

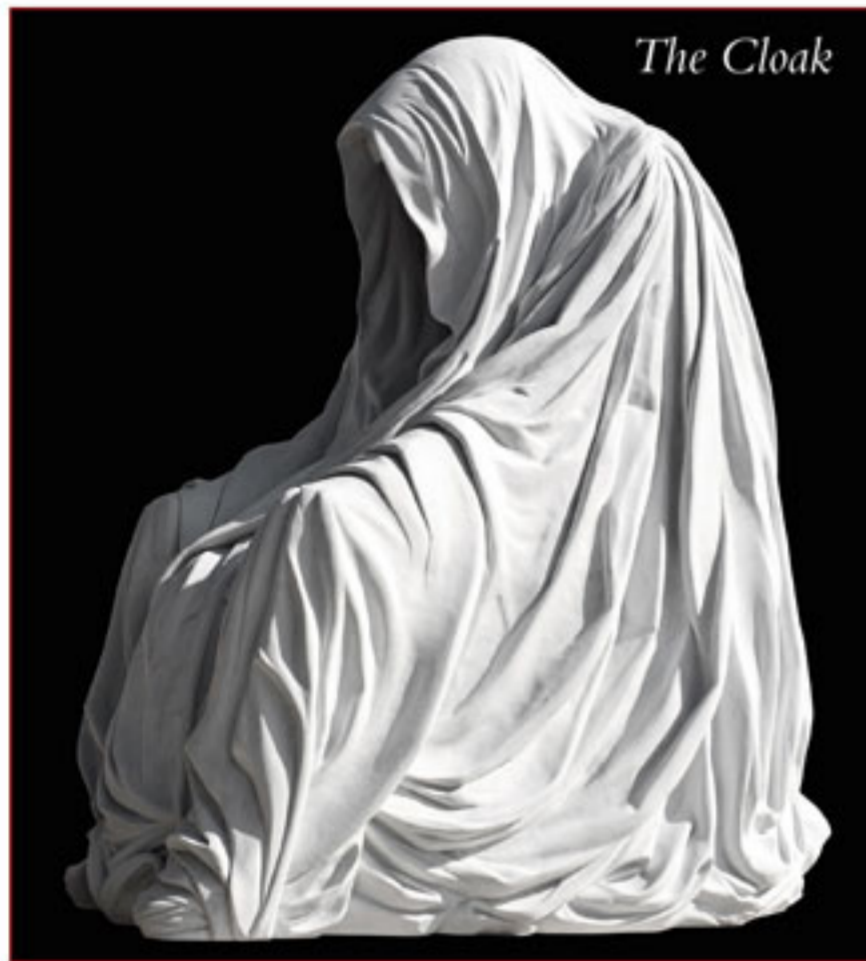
On page 11, we share some of her oil paintings and sculptures, © *courtesy of the Anna Chromy Foundation.*



Man, Earth & Universe



The Morning Dawn



The Cloak



Anna & Cloak

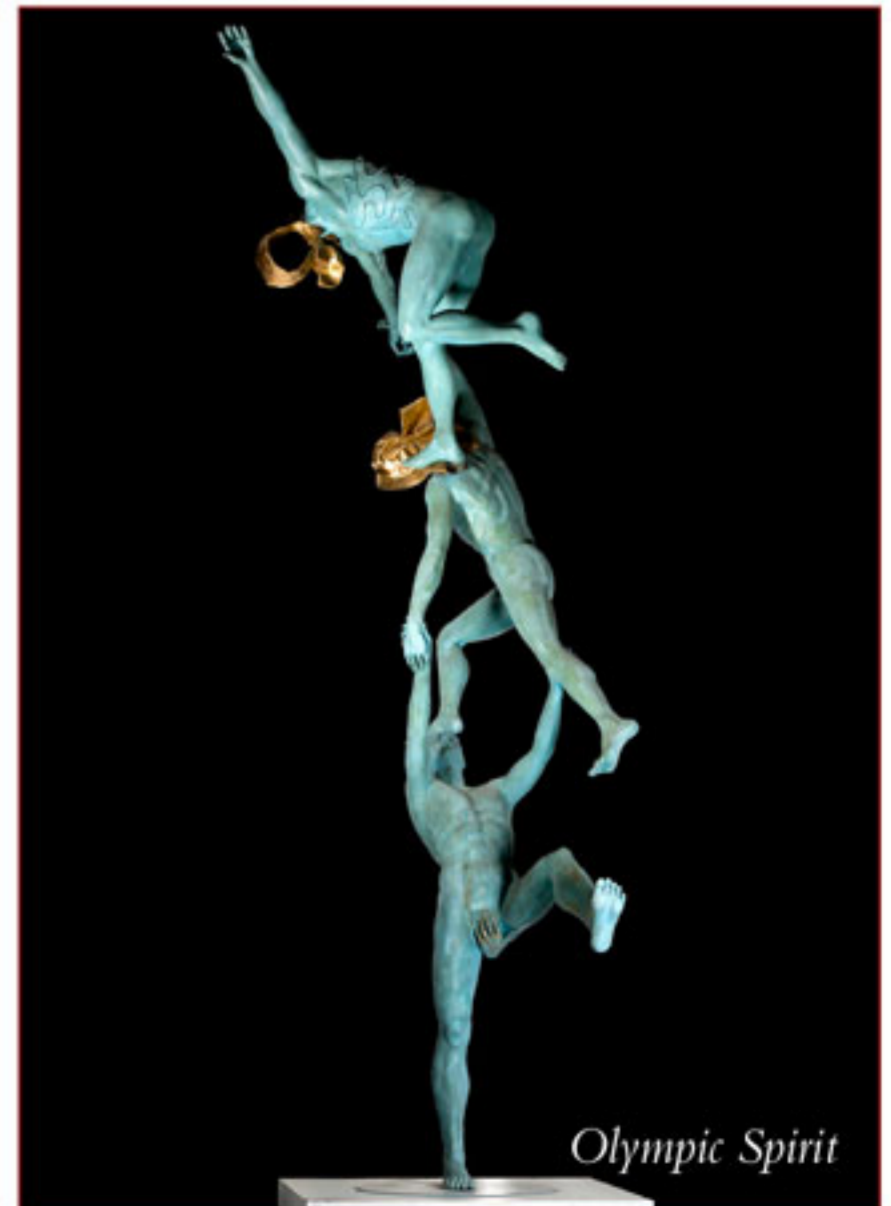


The Concept

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The Tree



Olympic Spirit