

Even if Surrounded by walls, I am Free

Early drawings and paintings completed in prison by Marlis Jermutus



Marlis at the exhibition where she was given a one evening furlough from prison. Pictured with Marlis is Buddy Elias (and friend), Swiss actor, cousin of Anne Frank, and president of the Anne Frank Fonds (foundation). This photograph was published in the Bild Zeitung Berlin, 1984, one of Germany's major newspapers.

As a guest of the German government, and a victim of the War on Some Drugs, Marlis Jermutus spent three years in prison from 1982 to 1985. A friendly prison priest and a prison warden who appreciated Marlis' unique and engaging manner together managed to give Marlis art supplies so she could paint in her cell.

At this time, Marlis was reading the work of Fritjof Capra and others who were finding ways to blend Eastern and Western thought. One of the ideas that impressed her was the concept of photons speeding across space. For her, this was an expression of the freedom that the state took away, but was nonetheless retained within her good-natured spirit. While in prison, she wrote in her journal, "Auch wenn Mauern mich umgeben, Ich bin frei. – Even when surrounded by walls, I am free."

While in prison, Marlis proved to be a friend and mediator for both guards and other prisoners. Because of her good behavior, the warden allowed her to leave prison for an evening and attend an exhibition of her art in a Berlin art gallery. Visitors at the exhibition were more than a little surprised to see a prison guard at the exhibition, discretely keeping an eye on the prisoner.

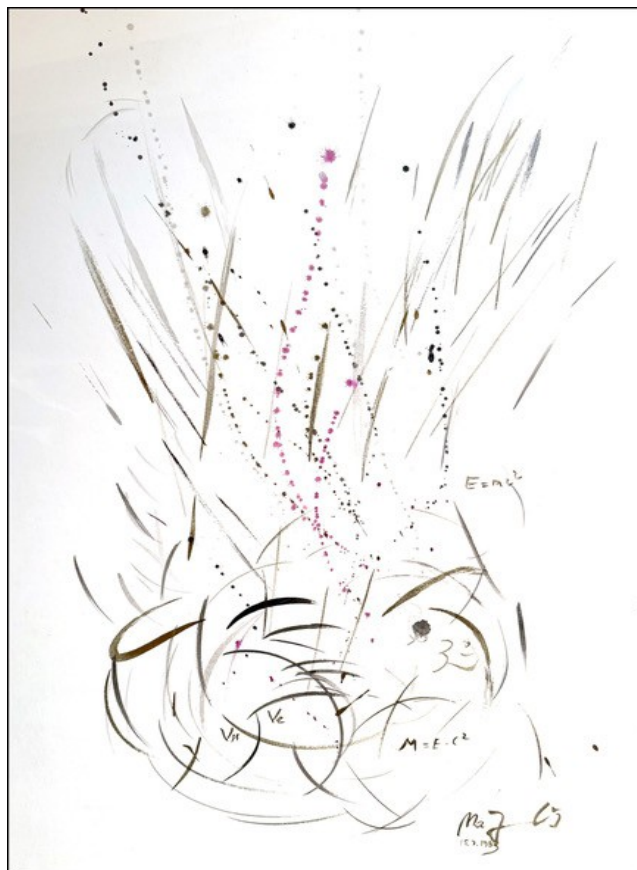
Marlis' eventful and colorful life is vividly described in her autobiography, titled, "From From Now To Now: Born into World War II, Liberated Decades Later.

Her autobiography is available at Amazon:

<https://www.amazon.com/Now-World-Liberated-Decades-Later/dp/1952746132>

Visit her online gallery here:

<http://www.starseedgallery.net>



Cosmic Dance #1
watercolor on aquarelle paper
28" x 20"



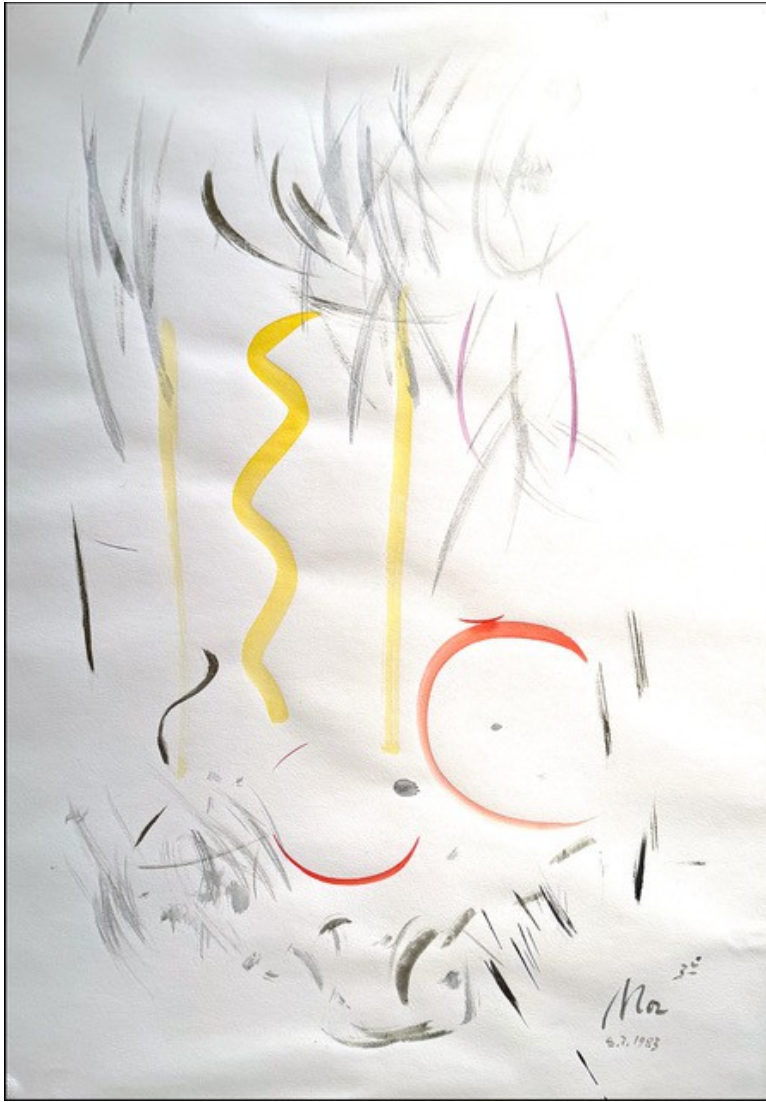
Cosmic Dance #2
watercolor on aquarelle paper
16" x 21"



Cosmic Dance #3
watercolor on aquarelle paper
22" x 16"



Cosmic Dance #4
watercolor on aquarelle paper
19" x 14"



Cosmic Dance #5
watercolor on aquarelle paper
28"x 20"



Cosmic Dance #6
watercolor on aquarelle paper
16" x 22"