Andrew Kreps Gallery
22 Cortlandt Alley, New York, NY 10013
Tue–Sat, 10 am–6 pm andrewkreps.com
Tel. (212)741-8849 Fax. (212)741-8163

Eileen Agar
Leaves of the World

22 Cortlandt Alley
April 24 - June 20, 2026

Andrew Kreps Gallery is pleased to announce *Leaves of the World*, an exhibition of works by Eileen Agar (b. 1899. Buenos Aires, Argentina, d. 1991, London, UK) spanning seven decades of the artist's career. A parallel exhibition of Agar's work will open at Alison Jacques, London, this June.

"*My life is a collage, with time cutting and arranging the materials and laying them down, overlapping and contrasting.*"

Throughout her career Eileen Agar maintained a tenuous relationship with Surrealism, taking cues from concurrent movements like Cubism, and abstraction, while simultaneously interjecting a consistent irreverence and wit. The result was a deeply personal artistic language that linked diverse forms and objects through both spiritual, and formal relationships, as well as her own autobiography. Including works made between 1927 and 1980, *Leaves of the World* underscores the enduring importance of collage to her work, not only as a technique, but a way of synthesizing the kaleidoscopic references, and ongoing conversations with artists and writers that informed her work. This includes Agar's relationship with the painter Paul Nash, whom she met in the coastal town of Swanage in the mid-1930s, which led to life-long fascination with the found object, as well as the ecology of the sea. Rich hues of blue would begin to dominate her palette, as evidenced by *Leaves of the World*, c. 1940, where an interplay of transparent layers and bold swaths of paint create a vortex-like form, revealing delicate branches at its center.

While the Second World War had a profound impact on Agar's practice, devoting her energy to the war effort in spite of her pacifist stance, she approached her work with a renewed vigor at the end of the 1940s. Paint became increasingly alchemical, as she experimented with poured enamel, and introduced geometric forms that both defined figurative elements and created windows into the complex architecture of her compositions, like the torqued silhouettes of *Personnage*, 1949. Her move to West London in 1958 enabled Agar to translate these visual strategies to a new scale. In both *Deus ex Machina*, 1963-1965, and *Medusa*, 1965, Agar creates an array of planes within the image, interjecting a vernacular of recurring motifs of flowers, curves, and shell-like forms, and abstract

references to her interest in Greek theater and mythology. This process of layering visual fields would be furthered with the introduction of acrylic paints to her practice in the late 1960s, like the zig-zagging lines, and bold swirls that comprise *La Fleur*, 1972. Agar would continue to experiment freely with material throughout her life, but it was this persistent curiosity and sense of artistic freedom that unites her work, stating, "to play is to yield oneself to a kind of magic. In play the mind is prepared to accept the unimagined and incredible, to enter a world where different laws apply, to be free, unfettered and divine."

Born in Buenos Aires to a Scottish father and American mother, Eileen Agar relocated to London as a child, first studying art at the Brook Green School, and later, the Slade School of Fine Art. Joining the London Group in 1934, Agar would rise to prominence as one of the few women to exhibit in *The International Surrealist Exhibition*, presented in 1936 at New Burlington Galleries, London. That same year, Agar's work would be included in the landmark exhibition *Fantastic Art, Dada, Surrealism*, at the Museum of Modern Art, New York, furthering her international reputation. In 2021, the Whitechapel Gallery, London presented *Angel of Anarchy*, the largest posthumous retrospective of Agar's work to date, comprising over 150 works, curated by Laura Smith, which later traveled to Mjellby Art Museum, Sweden, and Leeds Art Gallery. Other solo exhibitions include, *Eileen Agar: 1899-1991 A Centenary Exhibition*, Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, 1999, *Eileen Agar: An Eye for Collage*, Pallant House Gallery, Chichester, UK, 2008-2009, and *Eileen Agar - Bride of the Sea*, Jerwood Gallery, Hastings, UK, 2017. Her work has been included in the recent exhibitions *Fata Morgana: Memories of the Invisible*, curated by Massimiliano Gioni, Daniel Birnbaum and Marta Papini, Fondazione Nicola Trussardi, Milan, 2025, *Surrealism*, Centre Pompidou, Paris, 2024, *Judy Chicago: Herstory*, The New Museum, New York, 2023, *The Milk of Dreams*, curated by Cecelia Alemani, the international exhibition at 59th Venice Biennale, 2022, *Surrealism Beyond Borders*, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, 2021, traveled to the Tate Modern, London. Thames & Hudson re-published Eileen Agar's groundbreaking autobiography, *A Look at My Life* in 2024. Her work is included in the permanent collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, the Tate, London, the British Museum, London, National Portrait Gallery, London, Royal Academy of Arts, London, Courtauld Institute of Art, London, Victoria & Albert Museum, London, Centre Pompidou, Paris, National Galleries of Scotland, Edinburgh, The Hepworth Wakefield, Wakefield, UK, Museum Boijmans van Beuningen, Rotterdam, and Te Papa, Wellington, New Zealand, among others.

Andrew Kreps
Gallery

22 Cortlandt Alley,
New York, NY 10013

Tue–Sat, 10 am–6 pm
andrewkreps.com

Tel. (212)741-8849
Fax. (212)741-8163

MAIN GALLERY



EILEEN AGAR
Personnage, 1949

Gouache and pencil on cardstock
12 1/8 x 8 5/8 inches (30.8 x 21.8 cm.)
(EA26-016)



EILEEN AGAR
Silvanus, 1966

Oil on canvas
32 x 24 inches (81.3 x 61 cm.); 39 3/4 x 31 1/2 inches (101 x 80 cm.) framed
(EA23-015)



EILEEN AGAR
Self-Portrait, 1929

Gouache on paper
13 7/8 x 9 7/8 inches (35.3 x 25 cm.)
(EA26-011)



EILEEN AGAR
Two Figures, 1964

Oil and enamel on board
24 x 20 inches (61 x 50.8 cm.)
(EA26-025)



EILEEN AGAR
The Awakening, 1976

Gouache, pastel, wax crayon, pencil and collage on cardstock
10 x 8 1/8 inches (25.5 x 20.5 cm.)
(EA26-013)



EILEEN AGAR
Tenerife, 1952

Frottage, gouache, pen and ink on cardstock
16 x 11 inches (40.6 x 27.9 cm.)
(EA26-027)



EILEEN AGAR
Surreal Landscape, 1952

Frottage, gouache, pen and ink on cardstock
13 1/2 x 10 1/4 inches (34.3 x 26 cm.); 17 1/2 x 21 1/8 inches (44.5 x 53.8 cm.) framed
(EA26-047)



EILEEN AGAR
Leaves of the World, c. 1940

Oil and enamel on cardstock
21 x 28 inches (53.3 x 71.1 cm.); 32 3/8 x 25 1/4 x 2 inches (82.2 x 64.1 x 5.1 cm.) framed
(EA25-001)

Andrew Kreps
Gallery

22 Cortlandt Alley,
New York, NY 10013

Tue–Sat, 10 am–6 pm
andrewkreps.com

Tel. (212)741-8849
Fax. (212)741-8163



EILEEN AGAR
Untitled (Profile Collage), 1974

Ink, gouache, pencil and collage on paper
10 1/8 x 13 inches (25.8 x 33.1 cm.)
(EA26-009)



EILEEN AGAR
Untitled, 1937

Oil and enamel on brass
8 5/8 x 12 1/4 inches (22 x 31 cm.)
(EA26-044)



EILEEN AGAR
Deus ex Machina, 1963/1965

Oil on canvas
50 x 36 inches (127 x 91.4 cm.)
(EA26-002)



EILEEN AGAR
La Fleur, 1972

Acrylic on canvas
30 x 25 inches (76.2 x 63.5 cm.)
(EA23-020)



EILEEN AGAR
Medusa, 1965

Oil on board
45 x 44 inches (114.3 x 111.8 cm.)
(EA26-001)



EILEEN AGAR
Sea Nymph, 1950

Oil on board
13 3/8 x 9 7/8 inches (34 x 25 cm.)
(EA23-057)



EILEEN AGAR
Girl in a Looking Glass, 1965

Oil and ink collaged paper on board
19 7/8 x 15 7/8 inches (50.5 x 40.3 cm.)
(EA25-004)



EILEEN AGAR
Moving House, 1952 - 1962

Oil on board with collaged paper and textile
23 1/4 x 18 1/2 inches (59.2 x 47 cm.)
(EA26-030)

Andrew Kreps
Gallery

22 Cortlandt Alley,
New York, NY 10013

Tue–Sat, 10 am–6 pm
andrewkreps.com

Tel. (212)741-8849
Fax. (212)741-8163



EILEEN AGAR
Shellflower, 1968

Acrylic on board
21 1/2 x 31 1/2 inches (54.6 x 80 cm.); 28 1/8 x 38 x 1 inches (71.4 x 96.5 x 2.5 cm.) framed
(EA24-020)



EILEEN AGAR
Eileen's Fish, c. 1950

Mixed media and collage on cardstock
14 x 18 inches (35.6 x 45.7 cm.); 15 3/8 x 20 3/8 x 1 1/4 inches (39.1 x 51.8 x 3.2 cm.) framed
(EA24-010)



EILEEN AGAR
Musical Figure, 1983

Acrylic on canvas
30 x 24 inches (76.2 x 61 cm.); 31 x 24 7/8 x 1 5/8 inches (78.7 x 63.2 x 4.1 cm.) framed
(EA23-013)



EILEEN AGAR
Tribal Figures, 1938

Oil on canvas board
18 x 21 1/2 inches (45.7 x 54.6 cm.); 24 1/2 x 28 x 2 1/2 inches (62.3 x 71.2 x 6.3 cm.) framed
(EA26-045)

22 CORTLANDT ALLEY ENTRANCE



EILEEN AGAR
Beneath the Surface, c. 1940s

Mixed media on paper mounted to glass
12 7/8 x 16 3/8 inches (32.7 x 41.6 cm.); 19 1/2 x 22 7/8 x 1 inches (49.5 x 58.1 x 2.5 cm.) framed
(EA24-012)



EILEEN AGAR
Untitled, 1935-1936

Watercolor on paper
9 7/8 x 6 7/8 inches (25.2 x 17.5 cm.); 14 1/8 x 11 x 1 3/4 inches (36 x 28 x 4.5 cm.) framed
(EA24-025)

Andrew Kreps Gallery
22 Cortlandt Alley, New York, NY 10013
Tue–Sat, 10 am–6 pm
andrewkreps.com
Tel. (212)741-8849
Fax. (212)741-8163

Eileen Agar

Born 1899 in Buenos Aires, Argentina
Died 1991, London, UK

EDUCATION

1921–2024	Slade School of Fine Art, University College London, UK
1920–2022	Studied under Leon Underwood at Brook Green School of Art, London, UK
1919	Byam Shaw School of Art, London, UK

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2024	*Flowering of a Wing, Works; 1936-1989*, Andrew Kreps Gallery, New York, NY
2022	*Eileen Agar: Angel of Anarchy,* Leeds Art Gallery, Leeds, UK
2021	*Eileen Agar: Angel of Anarchy,* Mjellby Art Museum, Halmstad Sweden
	Eileen Agar: Angel of Anarchy, Whitechapel Gallery, London, UK
2018	Farley's House & Gallery, Chiddingly, UK
	Redfern Gallery, London, UK
2017	*Eileen Agar: Bride of the Sea*, Jerwood Gallery, Hastings, UK
2015	Eileen Agar: Natural Ready-mades, Henry Moore Institute, Leeds, UK
2009	*Eileen Agar: An Eye for Collage*, Pallant House Gallery, Chichester, UK
2000	*Centenary Exhibition*, Redfern Gallery, London, UK
1999	Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, Edinburgh and Leeds City Arts Gallery
1990	Birch and Conran Fine Art, London, UK (Retrospective)
1987	Birch and Conran Fine Art, London, UK (Retrospective)
1984	New Art Centre, London, UK
1975	New Art Centre, London, UK
1971	Commonwealth Art Gallery, London, UK (Retrospective)
1964	Brook Street Gallery, London, UK (Retrospective)
1963	Galleria Billico, Rome, Italy
1962	Brook Street Gallery, London, UK

1957	Obelisk Gallery, London, UK
1951	Hanover Gallery, London, UK
1949	Hanover Gallery, London, UK
1947	Leger Galleries, London, UK
1944	The Redfern Gallery, London, UK
1942	The Redfern Gallery, London, UK
1933	Bloomsbury Gallery, London, UK

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2025	*Looking Back / The 15th White Columns Annual,* White Columns, New York
2023	*Judy Chicago: Herstory*, New Museum, New York, NY
2021	*Surrealism Beyond Borders*, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY
	A Surreal Shock: Masterpieces from Museum Boijmans van Beuningen, Seoul Arts Centre, Seoul, South Korea
	A Surreal Shock: Masterpieces from Museum Boijmans van Beuningen, Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa, Wellington, New Zealand
	Seaside Modern: Art and Life on the Beach, Hastings Contemporary, Hastings, UK
2020	*British Surrealism: 1783-1952*, Dulwich Picture Gallery, London, UK
2018	*Lee Miller and Surrealism in Britain*, The Hepworth, Wakefield, UK
2017	*Dreamers Awake*, White Cube, Bermondsey, London, UK
	Paul Nash, Tate Britain, London, UK
2008	*British Surrealism & Other Realities: The Sherwin Collection*, Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art, Middlesbrough, UK
2007	*Surreal Things - Surrealism and Design*, V&A Museum, London, UK
2005	*Aspects of Modern British Art*, Austin Desmond Fine Art, London, UK
2004	*Collage*, Bloomberg Space, London, UK
2000	*Inaugural Exhibition*, Tate Modern, London, UK
1997	*El Objeto Surrealista*, IVAM Centre Julio Gonzalez, Valencia, Spain
1996	*In the Mind's Eye: Surrealist Works on Paper*, Whitworth Art Gallery, Manchester, UK
1992	*Ten Decades: Careers of Ten Women Artists Born 1897-1906*, Norwich Gallery, Norfolk Institute of Art and Design, UK
1990	*Collages Surréalistes*, Galerie Zabriskie, Paris, France
1989	*British Surrealism*, Blond Fine Art, London
1988	*The Surrealist Spirit in England*, Whitford and Hughes, London, UK
1987	*La Femme et le Surréalisme*, Musée Cantonal des Beaux-Arts, Lausanne, Switzerland
1986	*Surrealism: Objects, Photographs, Collages, Documents*, Zabriskie Gallery, New York, NY
	50th Anniversary of the London 'International Surrealist Exhibition' of 1936, Canterbury, Newcastle, Leeds, Bristol, UK

Contrariwise: Surrealism and Britain 1930-1986, Swansea Festival Exhibition, Swansea, UK
British Surrealism: Fifty Years On, The Mayor Gallery, London, UK

1984 *In the Spirit of Surrealism*, Oliver Bradbury and James Birch Fine Art, London, UK

1982 *The Women's Art Show 1950-1970*, Nottingham City Museum and Art Gallery, Nottingham, UK
Les enfants d'Alice. La peinture surréaliste en Angleterre 1930-1960, Galerie 1900-2000, Paris, France

1981 *Image and Form: British Sculpture in the 20th Century, 1901-1950*, Whitechapel Art Gallery, London, UK

1980 *The Other Face of the Avant-Garde 1910-1940*, Palazzo Reale, Milan, Italy
The Other Face of the Avant-Garde 1910-1940, Stockholm, Sweden

1979 *Thirties: British Art and Design Before the War*, Hayward Gallery, London, UK
International Exhibition of Soft Art, Kunsthaus, Zurich, Switzerland

1978 *Dada and Surrealism Reviewed*, Hayward Gallery, London, UK

1976 *British Painting 1900-1960*, Sheffield City Art Gallery, Sheffield, UK
Leon Underwood and 12 Girdler's Road, New Arts Centre, London, UK

1974 *British Painting 1974*, Hayward Gallery, London, UK

1973 *The Illustration of Reality and the Reality of Illusion*, McRobert Centre, Stirling University, UK

1971 *Britain's Contribution to Surrealism of the '30s and '40s*, Hamet Gallery, London, UK

1969 *John Moores Exhibition*, Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool, UK

1966 *Paintings by Eileen Agar, John Bolam, Rama Rao*, Ashgate Gallery, Farnham, UK

1965 *Art in Britain 1930-40*, Marlborough Gallery, London, UK

1964 *Fifty Years of British Art 1914-64*, London Group Jubilee Exhibition, Tate Gallery, London, UK

1961 *The Art of Assemblage*, MoMA, New York, NY
/69 John Moores' Exhibition, Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool, UK

1956 *Modern Trends in Watercolour Painting*, Cumberland House, Museum and Art Gallery, Portsmouth, UK

1952 *The Mirror and The Square*, New Burlington Galleries, London, UK

1951 *London Group*, New Burlington Galleries, London, UK

1947 *Exposition Internationale du Surréalisme*, Galerie Maeght, Paris, France

1945 *Works, by Eminent British Artists*, Russell-Cotes Gallery, Bournemouth, UK

1942 *New Movements in Contemporary Art. Contemporary Work in England*, London Museum, London, UK

1940 *Surrealism Today*, Zwemmer Gallery, London, UK
Surrealist Work: Artists International Association, Whitechapel Art Gallery, London, UK

1939 *Living Art in England*, London Gallery, London, UK

British Surrealist and Abstract Paintings, Northampton Art Gallery, Northampton, UK

1938 *International Surrealist Exhibition*, Gallerie Robert, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Galerie des Beaux-Arts, Paris, France
Surrealist Objects and Poems, London Gallery, London, UK
Pictures on the Staircase, London Gallery, London, UK

1937 *Surrealist Objects and Poems*, London Gallery, London, UK
Exposition Internationale du Surréalisme, Nippon Salon, Tokyo, Japan
Fantastic Art, Dada and Surrealism, MoMA, New York, NY
Unity of Artists for Peace, Democracy And Cultural Development, Artists' International Association, Whitechapel Art Gallery, London, UK

1936 *Fantastic Art, Dada and Surrealism*, Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY
International Surrealist Exhibition, New Burlington Galleries, London, UK

SELECTED COLLECTIONS

Arts Council Collection, Southbank Centre, London
Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki, New Zealand
Bradford Museums & Galleries
British Museum, London
Christchurch Art Gallery Te Puna O Waiwhetu, New Zealand
Courtauld Institute of Art, London
Derby Museums and Art Gallery
Ferens Art Gallery, Hull
Government Art Collection, London
The Hepworth, Wakefield
The Ingram Collection of Modern British & Contemporary Art
Imperial War Museums
Jerwood Collection
Mercer Art Gallery, Harrogate
Museum Boijmans van Beuningen, Rotterdam
National Galleries of Scotland
National Museum of Wales
National Portrait Gallery, London
National Trust
Plymouth City Council
The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent
Reiff Collection
Royal Academy of Arts, London
Salford Museum and Art Gallery
Southampton City Art Gallery
Tate
Victoria & Albert Museum, London

Andrew Kreps
Gallery

22 Cortlandt Alley,
New York, NY 10013

Tue–Sat, 10 am–6 pm
andrewkreps.com

Tel. (212)741-8849
Fax. (212)741-8163

Whitworth Art Gallery, University of Manchester