

Miette S.

Jackson, Wyoming

Medusa's Avenging

Gouache and acrylic on wood

My installation is about vengeance. Medusa was said to have been a beautiful woman who was very desirable and sought after. However, she was a priestess to Athena and had taken a vow of celibacy. Poseidon, the Greek God of the sea, ignored this and raped Medusa in Athena's temple. Athena was so angry she turned Medusa into a hideous monster who could turn a man to stone just by looking at him. Medusa was grotesquely punished for being violated, disrespected, and raped. She also was then represented for thousands of years as an evil, dirty woman who chose to have relations with the sea god and then became a murderous monster for no reason. This story is what my piece is meant to depict. An image of female rage, revenge, power, and womanhood. This piece shows Medusa holding the stone decapitated head of Poseidon. She holds the head up like a trophy but there is not any joy on her face. I depicted her in this way to show that no amount of revenge will ever be enough to heal Medusa. There is vengeance but there is no justice, nothing will ever make up for what happened to Medusa but at the very least Poseidon has now been punished for his evil.

Medusa's Avenging



Miette S.

The Oxbow School OS45

The woman is always a sight of violence

Woman leaks blood, woman oozes, woman cries.

She shows her bleeding heart on the outside of her supple chest and then woman is too sensitive,
too soft.

He was born out of his mother but he rapes your daughter and woman bleeds and woman oozes
and woman cries. Woman is killed in the moonlight walking home from the party.

And now I wish I was medusa.

I wish to be feared by the male heroes of Greek mythology.

Born of the Goddess of Earth, The Mother of all life.

Born from the flesh of the dirt and the sand.

I would make Poseidon apologize.

He will sit on his knees and beg for forgiveness.

He will say he is sorry there is so much pain in this story.

Athena will laugh hearing this, head tossed back with her hands cradling the snakes I have for
hair.

She will spit at Poseidon's stone toes.

"I am immortal, I am ageless, I will never die." she whispers.

Oh, to be feared by the male heroes of Greek mythology.

My final project explores Medusa, a divine figure of Greek mythology and the Evil eye, a quasi universal symbol of protection against a curse said to be cast by a malevolent glare. The two are connected in my project as they are both used as emblems meant to ward off evil. My artwork is focused more on the story of Medusa. She was said to have been a beautiful woman who was very desirable and sought after. However, she was a priestess to Athena and had taken a vow of celibacy. Poseidon, the Greek God of the sea ignored this and raped Medusa in Athena's temple. Athena was so angry she turned Medusa into a hideous monster who could turn a man to stone just by looking at him. Medusa was grotesquely punished for being violated, disrespected, and raped. She also was then represented for thousands of years as an evil, dirty woman who chose to break her vow and chose to have relations with the sea god. This story is what my piece is meant to depict. An image of female rage, revenge, power and womanhood. I want to explore the question of how a powerful woman is viewed by society. I have put together a collection of poems that similarly explore this topic and are meant to be the narrator's thoughts intertwined with Medusa's.

--

Self harm and salt water

A few days in and it's like I'm losing my mind.

I like it.

The insanity.

The sickness.

It hurts to look at things.

To look at you.

I like it.

I'm not good with people anymore.

Bath water.

Bathed.

--

bruised shins on cold floors and cheeks coated with saliva,

Split lips and hot tubs

I wanted to be the moon but instead I am nothing

My skin itches and oozes

It peels and bleeds

--

I am trying to be a real girl again.

Of red blood and warmth and normal pulse.

One who gets out of bed everyday and has friends not made of stone

I am learning that just because you promise doesn't mean you will.

And just because you say you love me doesn't mean you do.

--

you all want to stare until you realize that dying isn't beautiful.

It smells.

And it bleeds.

The body begins to decompose.

Legs purple and green.

Broken nails and chapped lips.

Bald spots and rashes.

Acidic breath and stained teeth.

Even the snakes can't look at me.

The killing of my body but I look pretty don't I?

--

Porcelain baby dolls

Lavender and ecstasy

Let me paint your nails yellow and hold your hand by the graves.

Can you light my bike on fire and ride to it the stream

Can I sit in the basket with a jar of gasoline

Lovers in the summer baby

Let's drink red wine until our intestines are stained

Pink bathtubs and scarred legs

My mom says I'm going to chew a hole through my cheek

Can you fill it with peach pits and salvation?

Tongue to tongue

Teeth to teeth

Lovers in the summer

--

You were not made to be subtle.

You are sitting bare legged by the open window.

You are drinking white wine out of clear mason jars.

You are the lavender dusk settling in.

You are the pink glow in the night in your room.

You are a step closer to heaven.

You are pieces of quotes from my favorite books.

You are green tea and honey.

You are beautifully made, you were not made to be subtle.

--

This is me waking up in the middle of the night because my chest aches like a rotting tooth.

Don't romanticize the pain.

You are carved into my bones, you have made a home under my skin.

I scrub until I bleed but I can still feel your hands. I am sure I can feel death.

I am sure I can feel death.

--

I dream of rejecting apologies that will never come and looking at your face.

I never want to see you again.

I never want to hear your voice because I only just got it out of my brain last Saturday and it

hurts too much when it plays on repeat in my head.

The boy walks home drunk from the party in the moonlight.

The boy survives.

The boys in the corridor can't stop whispering.

She feels their eyes on the back of their skulls and covers her cup with a shaky hand.

Give a boy your mouth and he'll want to die for you

give a boy your hand and he will follow you to hell.

Still, the woman is always a sight of violence

Woman leaks blood, woman oozes, woman cries.

She shows her bleeding heart on the outside of her supple chest and then woman is too sensitive,

too soft.

You came out of your mother but you raped her daughter and woman bleeds and woman oozes

and woman cries. Woman is killed in the moonlight walking home from the party.

she feels the dark floors on the bar and pours out her cup.

I came out of my mother with my fists clenched and my hand up to my chin

Resist.

She kissed my forehead and told me there was a fire growing inside my lungs
Athena laughs, head tossed back with her hands cradling the snakes I have for hair

“We are immortal, we are ageless, we will never die.”

Works Cited

- Chaliakopoulos, Antonis. "The Ancient Gorgon Medusa: 9 Terrifying Facts." *The Collector*, 21 September 2021, <https://www.thecollector.com/gorgon-medusa-facts/>. Accessed 19 November 2021.
- The Editors of Encyclopedia Britannica. "Themis Greek Goddess." *Britannica*, 2007, <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Themis-Greek-goddess>. Accessed 20 November 2021.
- The Editors of Encyclopedia Britannica. "Gorgon Greek Mythology." *Britannica*, Encyclopedia Britannica, 8 November 2007, <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Gorgon>. Accessed 20 November 2021.
- Glennon, Madeleine. "Medusa In Ancient Greek Art." *The Met*, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, March 2017, https://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/medu/hd_medu.htm. Accessed 20 November 2021.
- "Phorkys." *Theoi*, 2017, <https://www.theoi.com/Pontios/Phorkys.html>. Accessed 19 November 2021.
- Regula, deTraci. "The Curse of Medusa from Greek Mythology." *ThoughtCo.*, 1 July 2019, <https://www.thoughtco.com/greek-mythology-medusa-1524415>. Accessed 20 November 2021.
- Stanton, Kristen M. "Gaia Goddess: Power, Symbolism, and Worship." *UniGuide*, 21 September 2021, <https://www.uniguide.com/gaia-goddess/>. Accessed 20 November 2021.
- Wikipedia. "Stheno." *Wikipedia*, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stheno>. Accessed 20 November 2021.