

## **Madonna Medusa: The Snake Weavers its Way through Dust and Legend**

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### **Advisors**

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My artwork is inspired by the interchange between ideas, materials, and process. I have questioned and experimented with the boundaries between painting and drawing for the bulk of my undergraduate career. I believe that the material an artist chooses to work with should be in the service of concepts, and despite its entrenched history, painting/drawing is no exception. One exploratory path that I have committed myself to for the last two years has been my work with lemon juice. The lemon juice paintings/drawings appropriate the Greek myth of Pegasus' birth, and Christian artistic traditions, with connotations springing from an aesthetic that is reminiscent of the untamed Western United States. Think of it as a story in which the plot is the Greek myth, the clergy is the cast of characters, and it is in the archetypical West plains setting. A few starting points that are helpful as a way into these spaces are that Medusa was defeated through the use of a mirror and that Pegasus was born from a drop of Medusa's blood when it hit the ocean.

To speak more specifically about the processes, I would like to add that the lemon juice is pressed with a hot iron to give it a singed color. This searing of the paper hints at branding and damning, since the stain is being locked into the material. Also, the juice is difficult to see when it is applied, which also speaks truth to the methodology of abuse. It is a sort of gentle washing, with a soothing and aromatic food acid, in preparation for the shock of pressure and heat.



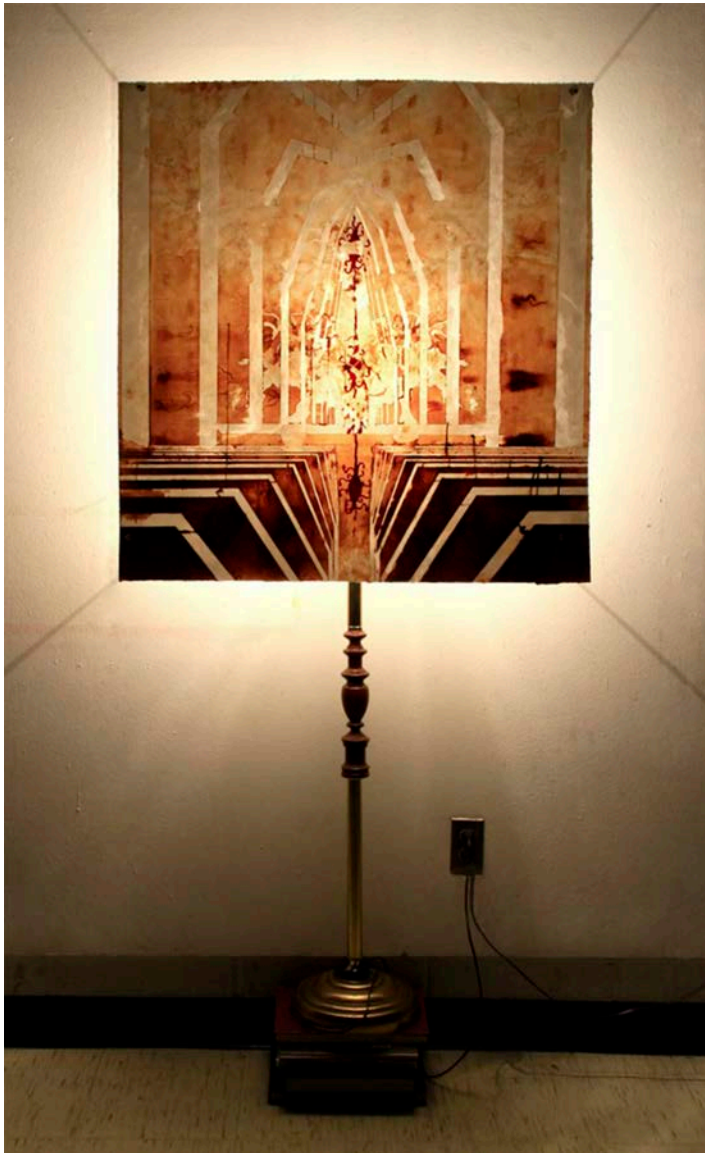
Anvil Top, Lemon juice, graphite and nail polish on paper,  
24" X 10", 2011



PM Nest, Lemon Juice, graphite and oil paint on paper,  
100" X 50", 2010



Nostalgia, Lemon juice, graphite and house paint on paper,  
24" X 10", 2011



New and Improved! Maxi Pegasus With Wings! Mixed media installation, 7' X 5' X 1', 2011