

Nanopublication – Polystyrene as Prospective Sculptural Substrate

by Arnaud Quercy · The Dance of the Siblings – The Dualism of Apollo and Artemis · 2024



CLAIM 1: POLYSTYRENE AS PROSPECTIVE SCULPTURAL SUBSTRATE

I use polystyrene as the [1] structural core of this work, layering fabric, plaster, gesso, and acrylic paint to test whether the material can serve as an archival substrate that bridges painting and low-relief sculpture.

CONTEXT

The polystyrene core offers a rigid, light-weight base that accepts multiple layers without warping, which is essential for the dimensional surface I am pursuing. The fabric layer acts as an intermediary skin that grips the plaster and gesso mixture differently than direct application to foam would allow. The result is a textured ground capable of holding acrylic paint while preserving the low-relief topography of the underlying forms. This multi-layered sequence blurs the boundary between painting and sculpture: the painted surface exists on a dimensionally varied ground rather than on a flat plane.

The technique emerges from practical curiosity. Polystyrene is typically used for insulation and packaging, not for fine art substrates. I want to test whether, properly sealed and prepared, it can carry acrylic painting with structural integrity over time. The three geometric forms on the right half of the composition – a semi-circle, a partial circle, and a triangle – give me direct test cases for low-relief modeling on this sub-

strate. The left half, left without geometric incident, serves as a calmer surface that lets me observe how the layered ground behaves on its own across an undifferentiated field.

This is a prospective work. I do not treat it as a finished statement on the technique. It is a proof of concept whose findings feed into future explorations combining sculptural substrate with painterly surface, both within the Spells and Magic collection and in adjacent series.

REFERENCES

- [1] Arnaud Quercy (2024). The Dance of the Siblings – The Dualism of Apollo and Artemis – Catalog raisonné. <https://arnaudquercy.art/en/catalogue-raisonne/AQC0506.html>
- [2] Spells and Magic Collection – Myths and Legends series, Arnaud Quercy, 2024.
- [3] Artwork Asset: AQC0506, "The Dance of the Siblings – The Dualism of Apollo and Artemis."

WHERE THIS WORK LIVES

Series: Myths & Legends
Collection: Spells and Magic
Technique: Acrylic

EXHIBITIONS

- Art Quam Anima – Pre-opening (2026-01-31 → 2026-02-28, Art Quam Anima, Paris)
- Salon d'art contemporain – Metamorphose 2025-2026, Paris (2025-12-26 → 2026-01-04, Halle des Blancs Manteaux, Paris)
- Marché d'Art Contemporain – Seine Port (2025-05-17 → 2025-05-17, MAC Seine-Port, Seine-Port)
- Salon d'art contemporain – Metamorphose, Paris (2024-12-26 → 2025-01-05, Halle des Blancs Manteaux, Paris)

OTHER WORKS IN THIS SERIES

- Noppera – bo – The Mujina of the Akasaka Road
- The Alchemist
- The Alchemist – Variations on Zosimos of panopolis theme
- The myth of Kynos
- The Centaur of Pompeii
- Psyche Unveiled
- The alchemist
- Archimedes, the owl
- GRIMOIRE

DOCUMENTED AT

- Catalogue Raisonné – The Dance of the Siblings – The Dualism of Apollo and Artemis – The Dance of the Siblings

— Geometric Relief on Polystyrene Substrate — Arnaud Quercy (2024)

Gallery — The Dance of the Siblings - The Dualism of Apollo and Artemis

Nanopublication — The Dance of the Siblings - The Dualism of Apollo and Artemis — Digital Image Documentation - aqc0506_img_full_2500x2500_webp

Nanopublication — The Dance of the Siblings - The Dualism of Apollo and Artemis — Physical Specifications

Nanopublication — The Dance of the Siblings - The Dualism of Apollo and Artemis — Apollo and Artemis as Twin Material Presence Against the Apeiron

THEMATIC ELEMENTS

geometric abstraction

polystyrene substrate

Anaximander apeiron

Myths and Legends

contemporary painting

philosophical geometry

mixed media relief

pre-Socratic philosophy

Apollo and Artemis

Spells and Magic

low relief

Arnaud Quercy

EPISTEMIC PROFILE

Claim type	artistic statement
Voice	first person
Epistemic status	prospective practice
Methodology	studio experimentation
Certainty	high

CHECKSUM (SHA-256)

2b6a63871186e8c9a892d8fc6822402cc6c2552ffe578c16f4573375a17e0650

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