

Nanopublication – Playful Cubist Appropriation of Archimedes Character

by Arnaud Quercy · Archimedes, the owl · 2024



CLAIM 1: PLAYFUL CUBIST APPROPRIATION OF ARCHIMEDES CHARACTER

I chose Disney's Archimedes [1]—the scholarly owl from "The Sword in the Stone"—as the departure point for this sculpture, translating the character into cubist geometric language through decomposition of recognizable forms into intersecting planes and volumes.

CONTEXT

I chose Disney's Archimedes—the scholarly owl from "The Sword in the Stone"—as the departure point for this sculpture, translating the character into cubist geometric language. The decomposition follows classic cubist methodology: breaking the recognizable form into intersecting planes and volumes that suggest rather than illustrate the subject. Two large circular apertures function as eyes, long leaf-like planes evoke wings or feathers, and paired ear forms establish the owl's silhouette.

The choice of Archimedes specifically carries associations with wisdom and knowledge (both the Greek mathematician and the Disney character who tutors young Arthur), but I approached this iconography playfully rather than symbolically. This is not serious portraiture or mythological study—it's a formal exercise using familiar pop-culture material as scaffolding for geometric exploration. The sculpture belongs to my "Spells and Magic" collection,

where mythological and fantastical references provide thematic coherence without dictating formal outcomes.

The cubist approach allows the owl to remain recognizable while existing primarily as an arrangement of curvilinear planes in space. The viewer can identify "Archimedes the owl" while simultaneously experiencing pure sculptural form—volumes, voids, surfaces, and their spatial relationships.

REFERENCES

[1] Arnaud Quercy (2024). Archimedes, the owl – Catalog raisonné. <https://arnaudquercy.art/en/catalogue-raisonne/AQC0514.html>

[2] "The Sword in the Stone" (1963), Walt Disney Productions. Archimedes character design by Milt Kahl.

[3] Reference to Archimedes of Syracuse (c. 287–212 BCE), Greek mathematician and inventor, whose name Disney appropriated for the wise owl character.

[4] Quercy, Arnaud. "Spells and Magic" collection (2021–present), ceramic and mixed-media sculptures exploring mythological and fantastical themes.

WHERE THIS WORK LIVES

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

EXHIBITIONS

Rencontres au Marché de la Création (2024-04-23 → 2024-12-31, Marché de la Création – Paris Montparnasse, Paris)

Salon d'art contemporain – Metamorphose, Paris (2024-12-26 → 2025-01-05, Halle des Blancs Manteaux, Paris)

Permanent Collection 2025 – Resonance in Form (2025-01-01 → 2025-12-31, arnaudquercy.art, Paris)

Paris Studio Visit (2025-02-18 → 2025-02-18, Artist's Studio, Paris)

Marché d'Art Contemporain – Seine Port (2025-05-17 → 2025-05-17, MAC Seine-Port, Seine-Port)

Nuit des Artistes, St Germain-en-Laye, France (2025-05-24 → 2025-05-24, La Nuit des Artistes, Saint-Germain-en-Laye)

Marché de l'Art de Saint-Germain-en-Laye, 17ème édition – France (2025-06-14 → 2025-06-14, Marché de l'Art, Saint-Germain-en-Laye)

Salon d'art contemporain – Metamorphose 2025-2026, Paris (2025-12-26 → 2026-01-04, Halle des Blancs Manteaux, Paris)

Art Quam Anima – Pre-opening (2026-01-31 → 2026-02-28, Art Quam Anima, Paris)

Through the Aperture – Research on Harmony (2026-03-09 → 2026-04-30, Art Quam Anima, Paris)

« The Owl », Exposition Magie et Sortilèges (2024-09-14 – 2024-09-15, Atelier d'Arts de la Butte aux Cailles – Profils et Reliefs, 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 Kyrnos
The Centaur of Pompeii
Psyche Unveiled
The alchemist
The Dance of the Siblings - The Dualism of Apollo and Artemis
GRIMOIRE

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Gallery — Archimedes, the owl
Nanopublication — Archimedes, the owl — Digital Image Documentation - aqc0514_img_full_1638x2048_webp
Nanopublication — Archimedes, the owl — Physical Specifications
Nanopublication — Archimedes, the owl — Computational Image Analysis - AQC0514
Nanopublication — Archimedes, the owl — Ceramic Structural and Surface Methodology for Complex Forms

THEMATIC ELEMENTS

cubist ceramic sculptureowl sculpture

Spells and Magic collectioncurvilinear forms

yellow-green patinacurrent sculpture

wisdom symbolismArnaud Quercy

EPISTEMIC PROFILE

Claim type	artistic statement
Voice	first person
Epistemic status	direct practitioner knowledge
Methodology	reflective practice
Certainty	high

CHECKSUM (SHA-256)

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