

AQC0485

# Nanopublication — Sculptural Integration of Alchemical Symbolism

by Arnaud Quercy · The alchemist · 2023



COMPOSITIONAL INTENTION FIRST PERSON ARTIST

STATEMENT SYMBOLIC COMPOSITION HIGH

## Sculptural Integration of Alchemical Symbolism

I embody the [1] four classical elements through distinct geometric forms mounted on metal rods—cube (earth), two spheres (water/air), and star (fire)—radiating from a central hooded figure whose complex facial treatment represents the alchemist's mind interrogating the impossible.

### CONTEXT

The sculpture translates classical alchemical symbolism into three-dimensional form through a carefully orchestrated composition. The four elements—fundamental to alchemical cosmology—manifest as distinct geometric solids, each suspended on its own metal rod radiating from the central figure. The cube represents earth (solid, stable, material); the two spheres embody air and water (fluid, transformative states); and the star symbolizes fire (radiant, energetic principle).

The hooded figure at the center serves as both anchor and protagonist—the alchemist as seeker. Rather than a smooth, idealized face, I developed a complex, faceted surface treatment for the head that

suggests a mind in active interrogation, grappling with questions rather than possessing answers. This formal complexity mirrors the alchemist's traditional role: not master of elements, but perpetual student of transformation, forever pursuing the impossible transmutation.

The armature structure creates a dynamic spatial relationship where the elements orbit the figure without touching it, suggesting both connection and separation—the alchemist contemplates these forces but cannot fully possess them. This compositional choice reflects the central tension in alchemical practice: the pursuit of mastery over nature that remains perpetually just beyond reach.

Within the "Spells and Magic" collection, this piece operates alongside works like *Grimoire* (2024), which similarly engages themes of forbidden or unattainable knowledge. Where *Grimoire* addresses the allure of esoteric texts, *The alchemist* embodies the figure who seeks to read nature's deeper grammar through elemental symbols.

### REFERENCES

- [1] Arnaud Quercy (2023). *The alchemist* — Catalogue raisonné. <https://arnaudquercy.art/en/catalogue-raisonne/AQC0485.html>  
<https://arnaudquercy.art/fr/catalogue-raisonne/AQC0485.html>
- [2] "Spells and Magic" collection statement, Arnaud Quercy, 2024. Multimodal Institute collection documentation.
- [3] Traditional alchemical element correspondences: earth/cube, air/sphere, fire/tetrahedron (star), water/icosaedron, as documented in Renaissance alchemical treatises.

### CHECKSUM (SHA-256)

ee6f135a74272767ceb74c8e7bf3f0de6f4edfb08add3ec-beee4962e16b63d42

Artist	Arnaud Quercy
Date	2023
Collection	Spells and Magic
Certificate	20231231-0072
Asset code	AQC0485
Version	1
Generated	2026-02-22

© 2026 Multimodal Institute

Published by: Art Quam Anima New York LLC — [publishing.artquamanima.com](http://publishing.artquamanima.com)

Date of publication: 2026-02-22

Persistent URI: <https://multimodal.institute/en/nanopubs/2026/02/AQC0485-sculptural-integration-of-alchemical-symbolism.pdf>

Content available under Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 License (CC BY-NC 4.0)