

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, lightweight 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

THEMATIC ELEMENTS

geometric abstraction mixed media relief
 polystyrene substrate pre-Socratic philosophy
 Anaximander apeiron Apollo and Artemis
 Myths and Legends Spells and Magic Arnaud Quercy
 contemporary painting low relief
 philosophical geometry

EPISTEMIC PROFILE

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

CHECKSUM (SHA-256)

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