

AQC0506

Nanopublication — Polystyrene Layering as Dimensional Substrate

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



MATERIAL EXPERIMENTATION FIRST PERSON DIRECT

OBSERVATION HANDS ON MATERIAL TESTING HIGH

Polystyrene Layering as Dimensional Substrate

I tested polystyrene as a sculptural substrate for painting, developing a layering sequence—polystyrene base, fabric, plaster and gesso, acrylic paint—to create dimensional surface quality that bridges sculptural and painterly approaches.

CONTEXT

This work represents a prospective material study within the [1] Mediterranean Echoes collection. The polystyrene substrate offered a rigid, lightweight base that could accept multiple layers without warping—crucial for the dimensional effects I was pursuing. The

fabric layer provided an intermediary surface that created texture and absorbed the plaster/gesso mixture differently than direct application to foam would allow. This multi-layer approach blurs the boundary between painting and low-relief sculpture, allowing painted surface to exist on dimensionally varied ground.

The technique emerged from practical curiosity about whether polystyrene—typically used for insulation or packaging—could serve as an archival substrate for fine art painting when properly sealed and prepared. The layering sequence proved successful in creating stable, textured surfaces that accept acrylic paint while maintaining structural integrity. This prospective work in the Mediterranean Echoes series served as a technical proof-of-concept for future explorations combining sculptural substrate with painterly surface.

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>
<https://arnaudquercy.art/fr/catalogue-raisonne/AQC0506.html>
- [2] Mediterranean Echoes Collection, Arnaud Quercy, 2024
- [3] Artwork Asset: AQC0506, "The Dance of the Siblings - The Dualism of Apollo and Artemis"

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