



JUDY
WOODBORNE
metamorphosis

04.07.21 - 03.08.21

Metamorphosis takes its name from the Roman poet Ovid's poem. Woodborne transformed images, symbols and mythical images of her recent print works into paper and paintings.

"The idea of transformation embodied in the human form is a relevant parable of change and evolution of a changing society and world around us. It embodies the notion that nothing is static, that ideas, forms and symbols that feed and inform our subconscious minds combine with the past and collide into the future."

There will be a selection of print constructions on paper playing with the fluidity of form – the classical Siren, Merman, Gryphon all have their roots in literary and mythological references.

Woodborne is a printmaker and painter. She obtained her B.A.F.A from Michaelis School of Fine Art in 1988; an advanced Diploma in Printmaking awarded with Distinction in 1989, and was awarded her Master of Fine Arts Degree with Distinction from UCT in 1993. She currently runs her own printmaking studio, Intaglio studio teaching classes, workshops and curating exhibitions and projects.

Woodborne completed residencies at the Grafische Werkstatt im Traklhaus, (Austria) as well as taking part in collaborative printmaking portfolios with artist/curator Jan Jordaan, working on the Break the Silence HIV Campaign, Art for Humanity, Woman Artists supporting Children's' Rights Campaign; Playing Card Portfolio curated by Veerle Rooms, Playing Card Museum, Belgium and Body Politic portfolio in collaboration with Prof. Teresa Cole, Tulane University, USA. Woodborne was selected as the ABSA Klein Karoo Kunsfees Festival Artist in 2007 and produced a body of paintings entitled The Garden of Eden. She curated and published a portfolio of 16 etchings, The Exquisite Corpse, selected for the Klein Karoo Kunsfees 2009. She has participated in many International Print Biennales and her work is represented in many International Public Collections and Museums. She was invited to present an exhibition titled "Alternative Histories" at the Salzburg Summer Festival in the Hohensalzburg Castle in 2015. Her recent series of paintings "The Elements" are inspired by her journeys and portray a concern regarding the environmental issues we face in this millennium. A recent print exhibition held at Lizamore and Associates showed a selection of experimental prints constructions - "The Anatomy of the World" series. She was awarded the prize of S.C. Bes Romania S.R.L. in the International Contemporary Engraving Biennial, Romania in 2020 for her engraving "The Weaver".

She was a guest curator for the Woodfees 2018 and 2019, and presented a print portfolio of 14 artists under the theme "Endless Horizon" for the Festival in 2018, and "Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow" for the 2019 Festival.



Arachne was the mortal, talented at weaving who challenged the goddess Athena to a competition. When Athena realized her rival was more talented than her, she flew into a rage and transformed Arachne into a spider, condemning her to weave for eternity. The spider is created from engraved lino, pins and strips of text from an encyclopedia. I thought it appropriate to create her legs from human fingers and give her human eyes. This is also a reference to Louis Bourgeois's large format sculpture "Maman".

Arachne

2021

Engraved lino, hand cut, assembled into a paper sculpture with pins and encyclopedia text

40cm x 30cm x 6.5cm (framed)

R 6 500-00



Cabinet of Curiosities: Harpie

2021
Engraved lino, hand cut, assembled into a paper
sculpture
40cm x 30cm 6.6cm (framed)

R 4 500-00



Imaginarium: Ship

2021
Engraved lino, hand cut, assembled into a paper
sculpture
40cm x 30cm x 6.5cm (framed)

R 6 500-00

metamorphosis





Cabinet of Curiosities: Merman/Titon

2021
Engraved lino, hand cut and assembled into a paper sculpture. Printed on pages from an atlas
42cm x 30cm (framed)

SOLD



Imaginarium: Siren

2021
Engraved lino, hand cut and assembled into a paper sculpture. Printed on pages from an atlas
42cm x 30cm (framed)

R 6 500-00



Dryad - woman/tree

2021

Paper sculpture with engraved lino, paper cut
and gold leaf
82.5cm x 63cm (framed)

R 16 000-00

This engraving with paper cut and gold leaf is the element of air in the series of four elements. The harpie from Ovid's "Metamorphoses" is a chimera - a mythical creature composed of disparate parts and perceived as wildly imaginative, implausible or dazzling. In my version, the torso and head of a woman and the tail, talons and wing of a bird. In all these works, the gold leaf is the link between the various metamorphoses - the gold that is the element of change in alchemy.

In mythology and legends, a woman turning into a bird is found in the tale of Lilith, the biblical first consort of Adam who reputedly refused to be anything other than his equal. She claimed her independence and was transformed into a bird woman with the wings and claws of a bird. Ancient descriptions are found in the Burney Relief in Babylon and this bird creature features in the epic tales of Gilgamesh and is the subject of a narrative poem written by the American poet, Ada Langworthy Collier published in 1885. The "Little Mermaid" of Hans Christian Andersen's fairy story is transformed after a complex story of love, metamorphosis and pain. The loss of the love of a mortal for which she sacrificed her immortality condemns her to die an earthly death, yet when dawn breaks and her body dissolves into foam, she is once more transformed into a spirit, a daughter of the air. Her final metamorphosis is due to her selflessness and in my interpretation, she is given the freedom of a bird to skim, glide and sail the tides of air.

Harpy - bird/woman

2021

Paper sculpture with engraved lino, gold leaf, pins and paper cut
82.5cm x 63cm (framed)

R 16 000-00







Imaginarium: Bride

2021
Engraved lino, hand cut and assembled into a paper sculpture
40cm x 30cm (framed)

R 7 000-00



Imaginarium: Olympia

2021
Paper sculpture with engraved lino, etching, pages of encyclopedia, paper cut and pins
40cm x 30cm (framed)

R 7 000-00



Imaginarium: Bride stripped bare - Speak no Evil

2021
Paper sculpture with engraved lino, text, gold leaf and paper cut
40cm x 30cm (framed)

R 7 000-00



Imaginarium: Bride stripped bare - Hear no Evil

2021
Paper sculpture with engraved lino, etching, text, gold leaf and paper cut
40cm x 30cm (framed)

R 7 000-00

This is the Fire element in the series of 4 elements. The Fire bird also known as the phoenix is a symbol of renewal and restoration through the element of fire. It is described as a red and gold feathered bird who's appearance was so bright it shone with pure sunlight.

According to Ovid, the phoenix is reborn every 500 years and thus remains immortal. In mythology, the fire bird is also a magical creature described in Stravinsky's ballet as a powerful female spirit bird with magical feathers that provide beauty and protection and glitter like the tongues of flames. My version of this magical creature is created with engravings hand cut and layered to show the rising of the phoenix from it's ashes.

The artist used gold-leaf to reflect the orange red color lining the backs of the engravings to give the illusion of flames. The skeleton and flame shaped paper cuts also refer to the notion of rebirth and resurrection. The single feathers on the side refer to the magical feather plucked from the fire-bird's plumage and given to the Prince Ivan in the Russian folk story immortalized in Stravinsky's ballet. This magical feather protected Ivan from the evil magician and allowed Ivan to destroy the magical egg, the key to the sorcerer's immortality. Each of these works is layered with symbols and references to these various allegories, myths and legends.

Fire-Bird

2021

Paper sculpture with engraved lino, pages of encyclopedia, etching, gold leaf and paper cut
82.5cm x 63cm (framed)

R 18 000-00





Queen of the Night

2021

Paper sculpture with gold leaf, engraved lino, pins and paper cut
103.5cm x 83cm (framed)

SOLD





Wonderland Series: Alice

2021
Paper sculpture with engraved lino, drypoint and
coloured paper
46.5cm x 34.5cm (framed)

R 7 000-00



Wonderland Series: The Gryphon

2021
Paper sculpture with engraved lino, watercolour and
papercut
46.5cm x 34.5cm (framed)

R 7 000-00



Wonderland Series: Ace of Hearts

2021
Paper sculpture with engraved lino
46.5cm x 34.5cm (framed)

R 7 000-00



Wonderland Series: Two of Hearts

2021
Paper sculpture with engraved lino
46.5cm x 34.5cm (framed)

R 7 000-00





This work on paper is the water element of the series of 4 elements. The Hydra, drawn from classical mythology is the hybrid creature with many heads and one immortal head.

According to Hesiod's Theogony, if a head was cut off, two more would grow in its place. This creature lived in Lake Lerna and was finally destroyed by Hercules who managed to find the immortal head and kill the creature as the second of his 12 labors or tasks. The many headed hydra may indeed be an allegory for our own mortal troubles where as one problem is resolved, another two appear in quick succession.

Lake of Dreams - Hydra

2021

Paper sculpture with engraved lino, gold leaf, pins and paper cut
82.5cm x 63cm (framed)

R 18 000-00



This series of works is taken from the Roman Poet, Ovid's epic poem: "Metamorphoses". In this work, Ovid described the many metamorphoses or changes undergone by mortals and gods alike, to overcome obstacles or danger. This image is the story of Daphne, a nymph who became the object of the god, Apollo's desire. In order to escape his unwanted advances, she implored her father for help.

Peneus, the river god turned her into a tree and she achieved everlasting youth where her leaves would never turn brown, or fall. This kind of myth telling and creation is a form of "curanderisma", a Mexican tradition where a story or fable can perform the same function as traditional medicine and heal an afflicted soul. This story is very relevant in the current climate of #metoo movement and high levels of gender based violence.

'Noli me Tangere' - Daphne, the woman who turned into a tree

2021
Oil on canvas on gold leafed board
97.5cm x 67.5cm

SOLD



This painting is oil on canvas, glued to gold leafed board. The subject of this work is the arrival or personification of spring and is rooted in many allegorical and mythological stories.

The painting references the myth of Persephone, daughter of Demeter who was banished to live in Hades for 6 months of the year and her annual return promulgates spring time, and the renewal of the earth. Flora (Chloris), the Roman goddess of flowers and the season of spring is also a symbol for nature and flowers. The artist's interpretation is an allegory of both myths and expresses the moment of becoming - the flowers, leaves not yet formed but deliberately left "unfinished" to convey the passage of growth and renewal.

Prima Vera - Flora/Chloris

2021
Oil on canvas on gold leafed board
97.5cm x 67.5cm

SOLD





Cabinet of Curiosities: Sylph

2021
Paper sculpture with engraved lino, gold-leaf and paper cut
30cm x 30cm (framed)

R 3200-00



Cabinet of Curiosities: Butterfly

2021
Paper sculpture with engraved lino, printed pages of atlas and
paper cut
30cm x 30cm (framed)

R 3 200-00



Cabinet of Curiosities: Fishy Tale

2021
Paper sculpture with engraved lino, pins, gold leaf
and cut paper
30cm x 30cm (framed)

R 3 500-00



Cabinet of Curiosities: Phishing

2021
Paper sculpture with engraved lino, gold leaf, pins and cut
paper
30cm x 20cm (framed)

R 3 500-00

Venus is the goddess of love, beauty and desire and has been immortalized by Botticelli in his "Birth of Venus". She had the ability to transform herself into different forms and myth describes her metamorphosing into a fish with her son, Cupid to avoid the pursuits of Typhon. While throwing herself into the sea, she tied a rope joining her and Cupid, so they would not be separated from each other. This story has given rise to the constellation of Pisces image of two fish joined by a rope.

Venus

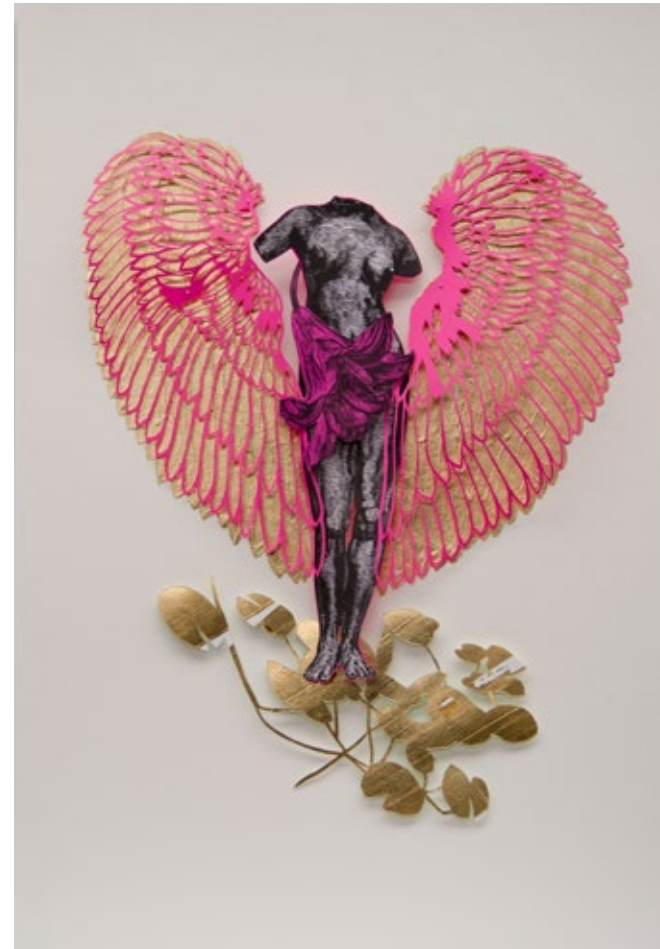
2021

Paper sculpture with engraved lino, gold leaf and paper cut

65cm x 45.5cm (framed)

Variable edition of 5

R 7 000-00





Cabinet of Curiosities: Little Mermaid

2021
Paper sculpture with engraved lino
30cm x 20cm x 6.5cm (framed)

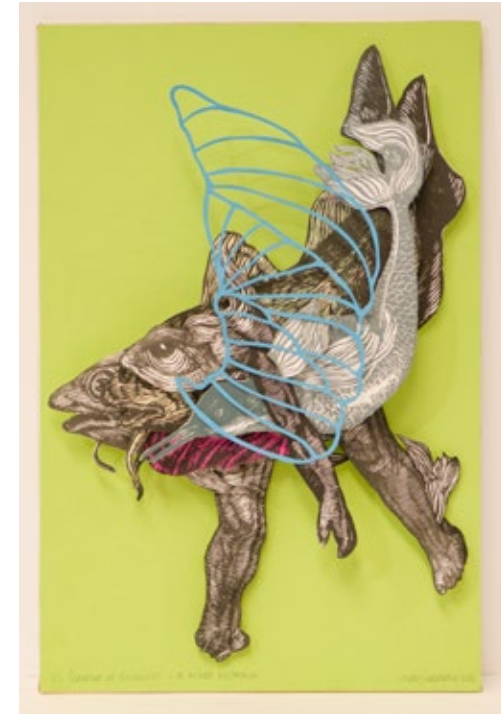
R 3 500-00



Cabinet of Curiosities: Merman

2021
Paper sculpture with engraved lino,
ink and paper cut
30cm x 20cm x 6.5cm (framed)

R 2 950-00

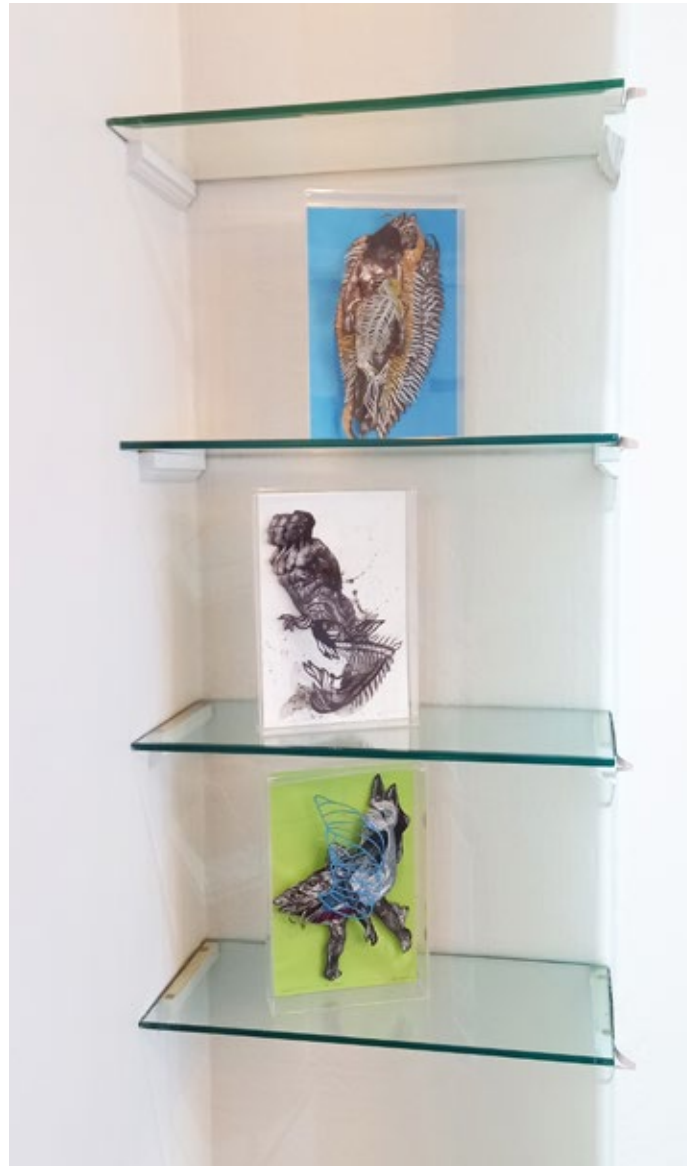


Cabinet of Curiosities: Mixed Metaphor

2021
Paper sculpture with engraved lino
30cm x 20cm x 6.5cm (framed)

R 2 950-00

metamorphosis





This large format work is oil painting on gold-leaf on board. The subject of the garden is a popular one in classical mythology and is a reference to Prima Vera and the advent of spring.

Enchanted Garden

2021

Oil on gold-leaf panel

120cm x 169cm (120cm 40cm per panel x 4 panel)

R 45 000-00





Imaginarium - "Landscape of my mind"

2021

Paper sculpture with engraved lino and paper cut
47cm x 104.5cm x 30cm

R 23 000-00



Detail of *Imaginarium* - "Landscape of my mind"



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