



ann shostrom

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the rising

may 18 - july 26, 2019

"The Rising" is a symposium of 17 fabric sculptures, conjuring personages from herstory and mythology that I would like to know better. Made of old clothes and scraps, they suggest marble, the 'stone of light.' I have created a legion of patched together warriors, constructed out of remnants, a stitched together society.

These works reference caryatids, columns, helmets, and shields. The title comes from The Easter Rising in Dublin, in April 1916, and "The Rising of the Moon" – a popular Irish song about the 1798 Rebellion. The sculptures refer to the Spartoi (sown men), warriors who rose fully armed from dragon's teeth sown by Cadmus on instructions from Athena. They also evoke terracotta warriors found buried at Xian, China, and the white costumes of the suffragette movement. These white outfits were reprised recently by our largest group of congresswomen ever, at the state of the union address, a century after the Congress passed the Constitutional amendment giving women the right to vote.

– AS



Andromeda was the daughter of Cepheus and Cassiopeia, king and queen of Ethiopia. Her mother Cassiopeia had boasted that her daughter was more beautiful than the Nereids, the nymph-daughters of the sea god Nereus who accompany Poseidon. He sent the sea monster Cetus to ravage Andromeda as divine punishment. Andromeda was chained to a rock as a sacrifice to sate the monster, but was saved from death by the hero Perseus. The goddess Athena placed her constellation in the northern sky, near the constellations of Perseus and Cassiopeia.

H 72" W 29" D 21"
Fabrics

Annie Arniel (May 8, 1873 – February 9, 1924), a member of the Silent Sentinels, was among the first six suffragists arrested and jailed on June 27, 1917, at the White House. She served eight jail terms for suffrage protesting. Arniel was a factory worker when she was recruited by Mabel Vernon and Alice Paul for membership in the National Woman's Party (NWP).

H 72" W 22" D 17"
Fabrics





Astarte was a pre-Hellenic goddess of both the sun and the moon. When she was in her aspect as a sun goddess, the Queen of the Morning Star, she became a goddess of war, and when she took on her role as a moon goddess, the Queen of the Evening Star, she became a goddess of love.

H 83" W 28" D 41"
Fabrics

Countess Constance Markievicz

(née Gore-Booth) (February 4, 1868 – July 15, 1927), an artist, was an Irish revolutionary, suffragette and socialist who served as Minister for Labour from 1919 to 1922 in the first Dáil. She founded Fianna Éireann, a military youth movement in 1909. She joined the Irish Citizens Army in 1913 and sold her jewelry to feed the poor. In the Easter 1916 Rising, she was second in command of the rebels' Stephen's Green garrison. In 1918 she became the first female British MP, while serving a life sentence.

H 74" W 19" D 20"
Fabrics





Daphne, a dryad in Greek mythology, was daughter of the river god Peneus. After Apollo insulted Eros, he shot a golden arrow at Apollo, causing him to fall in love with Daphne. Eros then shot Daphne with a leaden arrow so she could never return Apollo's love. Her father turned her into a laurel tree so she would be safe from the lovesick god.

H 92" W 24" D 22"
Fabrics

Diana was the Roman goddess of the moon, the hunt, the forest, and all wild animals. She was also a protector of children and childbirth, fertility, and chastity. Her devotees believed she had the power to talk to woodland animals, and control their movements and behavior. Cypress trees were sacred to her. She was the daughter of Jupiter and the Titan Leto.

H 75" W 20" D 21"
Fabrics





Dido was a princess of Tyre. Upon her father's death, Dido's brother Pygmalion killed her wealthy husband, Acherbas. His ghost told her of a hidden fortune. She fled with this treasure, and founded the city of Carthage, in modern Tunisia. Prince Aeneas, fleeing a smoldering Troy, seduced the reluctant Dido. Upon his departure, she leapt into flaming pyre.

H 72" W 22" D 20"
Fabrics

Durga, the invincible one, is a Hindu goddess of strength and justice who brings us compassion, peace, and order. She appears on her tiger, carrying weapons and tools in her eight to eighteen arms. "Devi Mahatmya," the epic tale of the triumph of wisdom over ignorance, describes her battles to bring harmony between humans and nature.

H 89" W 26" D 33"
Fabrics









Hathor, an Egyptian sky deity, was the mother or consort of Horus and the sun god Ra, and the symbolic mother of the pharaohs. Her joyful and ecstatic nature indicates her feminine, procreative power. She was mistress of music, dance, garlands, and drunkenness. Hathor crossed boundaries between worlds, helping deceased souls in the transition to the afterlife. In some creation myths she helped produce the world itself.

H 83" W 26" D 21"
Fabrics

Hippolyta had a magical girdle, given to her by the god of war Ares. This belt signified her authority as queen of the Amazons, a tribe of women warriors related to Scythians and Sarmatians who dwelt in the region of modern-day Ukraine. Her lover Heracles, fulfilling his Twelve Labors, killed her and took the girdle.

H 93" W 28" D 27"
Fabrics





Kitty Marion (12 March 1871 – 9 October 1944) was a music-hall star and England's most dangerous suffragette. She had orchestrated a nationwide arson and bombing campaign in the fight for women's rights. After immigrating to America, she became a cornerstone of Margaret Sanger's birth control movement.

H 69" W 16" D 17"
Fabrics

Louise Michel (May 29, 1830 – January 9, 1905), French anarchist 'vierge rouge (red virgin)' played a key role in the Paris Commune. She was a revolutionary, poet, teacher, and medic. Michel was among the most influential French political figures in the second half of the 19th century. She was also one of the most powerful political theorists of her day. Michel is regarded as a founder of anarcho-feminism. Michel became a national heroine in France and was revered as the "great citizen."

H 72" W 21" D 29"
Fabrics





Nyx was the daughter of Chaos, out of which all creation originated. The Greek goddess of the night, she is a primordial deity of such exceptional power and beauty that she is feared by Zeus himself. A shadowy figure, Nyx stood at the beginning of creation and mothered Hypnos (Sleep) and Thanatos (Death) with Erebus (Darkness).

H 91" W 23" D 22"
Fabrics

Persephone (Kore), the daughter of Zeus and Demeter, became queen of the underworld through her abduction by and marriage to Hades. She was permitted to return to her grieving mother at the end of each winter, heralding the beginning of spring.

H 67" W 20" D 15"
Fabrics





Rhea is the Titaness daughter of the earth goddess Gaia and the sky god Uranus. She married her brother Cronus, who, warned that one of his children would overthrow him, swallowed them soon after they were born. Rhea concealed the birth of Zeus in a cave on Mount Dicte in Crete, and gave Cronus a stone wrapped in swaddling clothes. He swallowed the object, believing it to be Zeus. Subsequently, Cronus was vanquished by Zeus, colluding with Rhea, and disgorged the swallowed children.

H 79" W 20" D 21"
Fabrics

Semele was a princess of Thebes, the daughter of Cadmus and Harmonia. She was the only mortal to parent a god. Zeus fell in love with Semele while watching her sacrifice a bull on his altar. Hera, jealous of her husband's affair, set out to punish Semele, who was pregnant, making her doubt the father's identity. Zeus took an oath on the river Styx that he would give her anything. She asked that he appear to her in all his glory. She looked upon Zeus and burst into flames. He saved his unborn baby by sewing it inside his thigh. A few months later, Dionysus was born.

H 85" W 26" D 21"
Fabrics





Yūrei are shapeshifting female demons and ghosts in Japanese folklore, who return to seek retribution. In art, the earliest-known work depicting yūrei emerged in the mid-18th century, during the height of the Edo period. Maruyama Okyo's ink painting, *The Ghost of Oyuki* (1750) set an aesthetic precedent. It shows an ethereal, floating being wrapped in a white dress with a head of wild hair.

H 77" W 18" D 29"
Fabrics

Ann Shostrom was born in Chicago. She received her BFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and her MFA from Syracuse University. Shostrom lives and works in New York City and is an Associate Professor at Penn State University. She is a co-founder and director of First Street Green Art Park in the East Village.

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Dedicated to Mary Reay

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