



Ryan's Featured Artist

Eugene Huffman

Eugene Huffman's *Khrisos* series uses abstract expression in acrylic media to explore the emotional confluence between the personal and mythic. 'Hades' and 'Persephone' reflect upon the artist's upbringing, elevating his individualized tumult to a conversation with the gods. The paintings are accompanied by smaller works, 'Erebos,' 'Aither,' and 'Ananke.'

"'Hades' and 'Persephone' are representative of my father and mother, respectively," the artist explains. "'Hades' name means 'the unseen one' and he was known to be cold, stern, and unforgiving. Persephone was the embodiment of the spring. Abducted by Hades, she became queen of the underworld, laying the curses of men upon the souls of the dead."

The paintings, and much of Eugene's creative practice, are an exorcism of sorts, helping the artist to consign the emotional context of his life to the permanence of canvas. "The works show that you can take your broken past and embrace it, learn from it, and be more valuable as a person because of those experiences."

Eugene Huffman is an activist, curator and artist. His work often tackles personal themes, responding to his out HIV positive status, ADHD, and childhood. He has served as a celebrity artist and art director for the Art Hearts Fashion Gallery for LA Fashion Week, was one of HIV Plus Magazine's "Most Amazing HIV-Positive People of 2016," and his work often benefits LGBT and HIV/AIDS organizations.

Hades (2019), 40x40, acrylic, India ink and spray paint on canvas, \$1350

Persephone (2019), 40x40, acrylic, metallic and India ink on Canvas, \$1350

Erebos, Aither, and Ananke (2019), 12x12, acrylic and metallic on canvas, 150 each

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