

# Damon Arhos

## Artist Statement

My artworks present portraits of identity as they reflect both queer experiences and cultural dichotomies. I derive narrative and visual content from my status as a gay American of Greek descent. I employ ancient Greek art and mythology, anthropomorphism, and LGBTQIA+ references to reveal conflicting circumstances and therefore question normative frames of reference.

My practice is interdisciplinary and its subject matter is socially motivated. I leverage repetition, appropriation, and everyday situations to explore multifaceted concepts. I often incorporate images and objects that have distinct connections to my personal history and that reference the complexities of queer physical and emotional relationships. My process pairs historic investigation with intense physical labor.

As I design and produce each series, I seek to present a visible, understandable narrative alongside one that is more complicated and indistinct. In this way, I mirror lengthy, elaborate interactions among many and summon the limitations of our own values and assumptions. The artworks I create inherently advocate for dignity and equality on behalf of the communities I belong to and serve.