

ARTIST STATEMENT

Julia Randolph-Flagg

As a Design major with studio arts and poetry minors, I have learned that multiple forms of creative expression are vital for me in developing my own style. I am inspired by my course material as well as my environment and personal interests such as history and fashion that drive me to create.

For a senior project I wanted to do something that shows my progress as a person and an artist. I decided early on that an illustrated poetry book would be an interesting way to display my skills in design, art, and writing. Originally, I was going to write a series of poems pertaining to my learning process as a young adult that would be relatable to other twenty-somethings figuring out the world. While home for winter break, I began researching the history of religions that came before Judeo-Christian hegemony, religions that were polytheistic and inspired the favorite epic stories and legends I read as a child. Something that drew me to this subject was the inclusion and autonomy that women had in these stories as well as the shockingly human flaws and experiences. I found this backdrop of magic and myth to be an exciting way to retell these stories in a fresh way. I felt compelled to give a voice to so many incredible women who have been largely forgotten. These poems illustrate how ancient stories still relate to our experiences of love and loss today.

Growing up surrounded by books provided by my two English teacher parents and spending after school hours in my school's elementary library, books have always held a significance to me. They transport readers into carefully crafted new worlds. I hope to do that for the readers and viewers of the exhibit.