



ECSTASY

and

ESCAPE

at the

Swan Song

MOTEL

ECSTASY
and
ESCAPE
at the
Swan Song
MOTEL

Meg Lionel Murphy

January 19 through April 7, 2024

Organized by the Museum of Wisconsin Art

MOWA/DTN

Located at the St. Kate Arts Hotel
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

PORTRAIT SOCIETY

GALLERY OF CONTEMPORARY ART

207 E. Buffalo Street, Suite 526

Milwaukee, WI 53202

portraitsocietygallery@gmail.com

Debra Brehmer, Owner/Director

Paul Salsieder, Gallery Manager

A Monsterous Size

As a girl, all fairytales ended with a marriage. But as an adult, marriage was the most dangerous thing I ever did to myself. Picasso said women are either doormats or goddesses. My work plots the path of the doormat to the goddess.

The exhibition *Ecstasy and Escape* explores the passage back and forth between pain and healing. In the world of my paintings, bodies magically grow into giants. Once taken, held tight, held down, punched, and kicked, women and femmes morph into impenetrable fortresses. But memories of violence—symbolized by tiny armies of soldiers at their feet—threaten to take them back to where they started.

Within this series of paintings, the story starts at the Swan Song Motel. The first place a person might flee violence is to a motel. I have. Those borrowed rooms are gateways. They are portals to transformation, fantasy, disappearance, and denial.

I try to paint the moment when leaving an old life behind is possible.

What happens when the motel door closes? She might fall to the motel's mint-tiled bathroom floor in despair. But as she takes in the motel's glorious decay, hope might grow from the tip of her skull through her hair, eyes, mouth, tongue, teeth, and nostrils, trickling over her neck, breast, side, and limbs.

She would feel it in her joints, fat, and two hands.

She would start to grow.



You are no longer the
little you
the separate you
the small you
the doormat you
You are monstrous
You move galactical



Meg Lionel Murphy

Swan Song

2023

Acrylic, acrylic gouache, water soluble oil on
Arches 300 lb. hot-press paper, silver frame
24 x 24 inches (framed)

\$2500

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Meg Lionel Murphy

*Ecstasy and Escape
at the Swan Song Motel*

2023
Acrylic, acrylic gouache, water soluble oil,
pumice gel on canvas
48 x 60 x 2 inches

\$6000

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Meg Lionel Murphy

Incantation for Scorpions & Snakes
(After Leonor Fini)

2023

Acrylic, acrylic gouache, on Arches 300 lb.
hot-press paper, framed
36 x 42 inches

\$4000

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Meg Lionel Murphy

Vacancy

2023

Acrylic, acrylic gouache, water soluble oil on
Arches 300 lb. hotpress paper, silver frame
24 x 24 inches (framed)

\$3000

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Meg Lionel Murphy

Make Room

2023

Acrylic, acrylic gouache, water soluble oil on
canvas

24 x 36 inches

\$2500

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Meg Lionel Murphy

*You Are No Longer the Little You,
the Separate You, the Doormat You.
You are Monstrous. You Move
Galactical.*

2023

Acrylic, acrylic gouache, water soluble oil
Pumice gel on canvas
60 x 72 inches

\$7000

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Meg Lionel Murphy

Let Me Pull Myself Out of These Waters

2023

Acrylic, acrylic gouache, water soluble oil on
canvas

48 x 36 x 2 inches

\$5000

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Meg Lionel Murphy

*You Will Know the Right Time has
Come for you to Leave Small Things
Behind*

2023

Acrylic, acrylic gouache, on Arches 150 lb,
hot-press paper
56 x 46 inches

\$5000

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Meg Lionel Murphy

*Deliver My Neck, Breast,
Side and Limbs*

2023

Acrylic, acrylic gouache, on Arches 150 lb.
hotpress paper, vintage painted frame
30 x 20 inches (framed)

\$2,200

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Meg Lionel Murphy

*Deliver My Skull, Hair Covered Head
And Eye*

2023

Acrylic, acrylic gouache, on Arches 150 lb. hot-
press paper, framed
30 x 20 inches (framed)

\$2200

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Meg Lionel Murphy

*Let Your Brokenness Surprise You As It
Knits You New Bones, Brighter Blood*

2023

Acrylic, acrylic gouache, water soluble oil on
Arches 150 lb. hot-press paper, framed
38 x 30 inches

\$3000

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Meg Lionel Murphy

*Protect My Belly, Loins, and Genitals,
Paunch and the Vital Parts of My Heart*

2023

Acrylic, acrylic gouache, water soluble oil on
Arches 300 lb. hot-press paper, framed, beads
and silver chain
21 x 7.5 inches

\$600

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207 E. Buffalo Street, Suite 526

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Meg Lionel Murphy

Fantasy Suite

2023

Acrylic, acrylic gouache, water soluble oil on
Arches 300 lb. hot-press paper, silver frame
24 x 24 inches

\$2500

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Meg Lionel Murphy

Incantation for Bedtime Ritual

2023

Acrylic, acrylic gouache, water soluble oil on
linen

16 x 12 inches

\$900

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Meg Lionel Murphy

Long Waves, Endless Paths

2023

Acrylic, acrylic gouache, on canvas
12 x 8 inches

\$800

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Meg Lionel Murphy

New Bones, Brighter Blood

2023

Acrylic, acrylic gouache, water soluble oil on
Arches 300 lb. hot-press paper, framed, beads
and silver chain
26 x 22 inches

\$2500

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Meg Lionel Murphy

Incantation for Afterbirth

2023

Acrylic, acrylic gouache, water soluble oil on
linen

16 x 12 inches

\$900

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Meg Lionel Murphy

Incantation for Sacrifice

2023

Acrylic, acrylic gouache, water soluble oil on
Arches 300 lb. hot-press paper, framed
16 x 12 inches

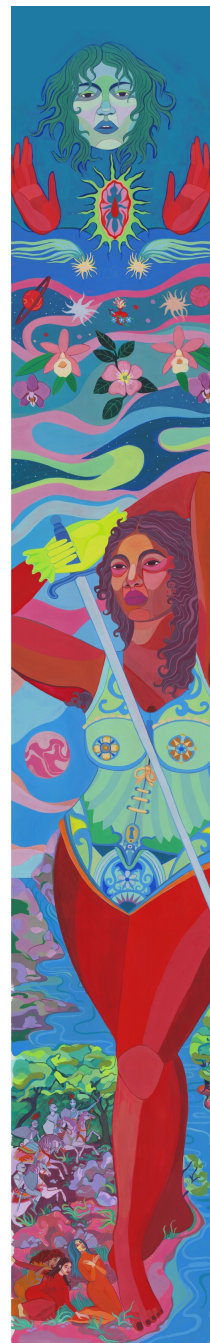
\$900

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Meg Lionel Murphy

*Deliver all the Limbs of Me a Moral,
with your Protective Shield Guarding
Every Member*

2023

Acrylic, acrylic gouache, on Arches 150 lb.
hot-press paper, antique stained glass window
frame from catholic Church in Waupun

Wisconsin

96 x 30 inches

\$5000



Meg Lionel Murphy

Tumbled, Tumbled, Stretched

2023

Acrylic, acrylic gouache, water soluble oil on
maple cradled panel
30 x 72 x 1.75 inches

\$6500



Meg Lionel Murphy

Print edition

2023

*Incantation for Scorpions & Snakes
(After Leonor Fini)*

Giclee Fine Art Print

36 x 24 in
Archival Matte paper

Limited Run of 100 (Signed and numbered)
\$300
Shipping: \$30

*Incantation for Scorpions & Snakes
(After Leonor Fini)*

Giclee Fine Art Print

24 x 18 in
Archival Matte paper

Limited Run of 100 (Signed and numbered)
\$150
Shipping: \$20



Meg Lionel Murphy

Study for Ecstasy and Escape (1)

2022

Gouache on 150 lb. Arches paper

|

6 x 10 inches

\$250



Meg Lionel Murphy

Study for Ecstasy and Escape (2)

2022

Gouache on 150 lb. Arches paper

6 x 10 inches

\$250



Meg Lionel Murphy (3)

Study for Ecstasy and Escape
2022

Gouache on 150 lb. Arches paper

6 x 10 inches

\$250