

Artist Statement

Judith Pratt

The Greek Muses teach us wisdom about life through the arts. The Festival of the Muses gives us an opportunity to explore how art has an uncanny ability to reveal truths that might otherwise seem impossible to comprehend or explain. The Festival also allows us the opportunity to tackle these truths by exploring their mysterious qualities. Ultimately, the Greek gods and goddesses act as metaphors to assist us with this process.

In a personal way, my work parallels the Greek mythological lessons of how beauty and tragedy coexist and effect our lives in unanticipated ways. My installation work, *Point of Origin*, combines tightly-composed drawings with wall-hung sculptural forms. The drawings reference topographical maps that communicate information about place —specifically the Piedmont region of Central Virginia where I was born and raised. The wall-hung sculptural forms are made of Lenox 100 paper, a material made entirely of 100% domestic cotton paper that alludes to the historical and ongoing socio-political transgressions of the American South.

The installation components continually evolve, which parallels the Sisyphean cycles of life, culture, and history. In this instance, Apollo and the Muses continue to give relevance to the process of what artists do with their subject, genre, and materials. In the end, art communicates universal truths, as Greek mythology does, to a universal audience.