



Title: Does This Spear Make My Butt Look Big?

Dimension: 15" x 11"

Medium: Stone Lithograph on Cream Paper with White Handcoloring

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Statement:

Within my work I explore contemporary issues through historic techniques. In 'Does This Spear Make My Butt Look Big?' a phrase that has been utilized in past years to belittle and limit how women see themselves, is instead transmogrified into a declaration of strength. The image of the centaur calls back to my childhood years, spent working on a horse farm where larger buttocks on a horse meant greater strength and speed. Horses are also regarded throughout history as symbols of wealth and power ranging from nobility to warlords. Besides drawing inspiration from the Greek myth of the centaur, I was also influenced by the horse

sculptures and paintings of the Chinese Tang Dynasty (618-907), which feature prominent rear ends and shoulders found in the heavily sought-after 'blood-sweating' Ferghana steeds.

The medium of stone lithography allows me to achieve the subtlety of a graphite drawing while also being able to create multiple copies. Stone lithography has existed since the late 1700's and newer methods of reproducing artworks have mostly replaced it. However, I felt that my image was better suited for a more visceral process whereby I labored over each print and produced a varied edition in which every print had a distinct personality while still possessing the essence of the original drawing I made on the stone.

Gazing both daringly and casually over her shoulder at the viewer, as if she cannot be bothered, the protagonist of my piece stands strong in her muscled and large glory. Spear in hand; she emits an aura of both beauty and control. Her hair and the ties of her spear blow gently in an invisible wind while her tail flows around her legs like a river snaking through a forest. A marble like stare was used on the eyes to convey a sense of solidity and conviction- she will not be bent by any man.