

## Monster to Maiden: Medusa's Reception in the #MeToo Movement

Medusa's complex transformation from monster to maiden throughout history reflects evolving perceptions of female sexuality and power. In Greco-Roman antiquity, Medusa's visage is the source of both beauty and terror, but her story has been reshaped and reimagined over time, resonating with different cultural and intellectual currents. This paper briefly surveys key moments in her reception, from her earliest appearances in Greek literature as an apotropaic device to feminist interpretations of the 1970s, which paved the way for her emergence as a figurehead for feminine rage and retribution. The central focus of the project is Luciano Garbati's 2008 statue, "Medusa with the Head of Perseus," which was displayed outside the New York City courthouse during the height of the #MeToo movement. The statue generated a mixed reception, with some viewing it as a symbol of female empowerment and others critiquing it for its perceived inaccuracies and appropriation of the movement's ideals. The paper critically examines Garbati's interpretation, questioning whether it aligns with the #MeToo movement's goals. It highlights the importance of considering the implications of classical reception in contemporary art and culture, emphasizing the need for creators to engage in honest self-inquiry and solicit diverse perspectives when reimagining ancient myths. In conclusion, the paper underscores the dynamic and evolving nature of classical reception, emphasizing the importance of understanding how myths and stories can shape and be shaped by contemporary discourse. It calls for ethical and thoughtful engagement with classical imagery and mythology, recognizing their power to both reinforce and challenge societal norms and values.