

Leonard Greco
Statement

My work has been an attempt to re-contextualize the artistic narratives of Western Christendom through a personal prism, frequently employing personally meaningful symbolic language. This visual language, with its inherent theatricality, evokes the Baroque and frequently borders on camp in its visual excess. Camp, having been described as the lie that tells the truth, is an innate language I have been reticent to explore until recently. Perhaps internalized homophobia has left me hesitant to make work so boldly queer-in every sense of the word- and so openly flamboyant. Purposely stamped with informed wit and a wry knowing humor, this new work is first and foremost intended to visually delight and to be taken seriously. My inspiration is born from a wide range of themes including the weighty tableau of the Temptations of St. Anthony, the perilous trials of Herakles and recently the Holy Fool. My aesthetic expression is influenced by my instinctive inclination to lighten somber and somewhat ponderous existential themes with a gay touch (consciously using this word in both its current fraught identity-laden understanding and the anachronistic yet more delightful sense). While the work possesses decidedly camp sensibilities it is never ironic as is so often the current fashion. I find irony frequently cynical; my work is never cynical for any other reason than the inherent affection I hold for my motley crew of heroes and fools, saints and sinners.