

Prospectus 2026

The Golden Hair of Medusa

A Contemporary Illumination

featuring: *The Gorgon's Head* by Nathaniel Hawthorne



Award winning Book: *The Golden Hair of Medusa* received a Fine Press Book Association Judge's Choice Award considered among the **Best in Show** Oxford Fine Press Fair, 2025

A Companion Book to *A Golden Thread: The Minotaur*, award winning volume, New York, 2020

parenthesis journal Review Autumn 2025: Michael Ryan described *The Golden Hair of Medusa*

as "a remarkable work which exists on several different levels. It provokes and challenges....

Above all it demonstrates what a mature artists' book can be, utilizing text and artifact to create a complex integrated whole....In its sheer beauty, its drama, its subtleties, and its powerful creativity, it completely reframes the myth as a magnificent piece of art to behold..."



From Intima Press Fine Letterpress Editions, New York City



The GOLDEN HAIR

Art, design, printing, & publishing by Mindy Belloff

The Golden Hair of Medusa is a dynamic new edition from Intima Press. The Greek tragedy recounts the story of Perseus, son of Danaë (visited by Zeus in a shower of gold), who is commanded by the evil King Polydectes to bring him the head of the Gorgon Medusa as a wedding gift for his betrothed. Perseus is aided by Quicksilver (Hermes/Mercury) and his sister (Athena/Minerva), as they seek the 3 Gray Women (the Graeae sisters) and the Nymphs for guidance.

Narratives: The reader is taken on a visually stunning adventure. Although, it is not only the journey of Perseus as Hawthorne retells it in *The Gorgon's Head*. It is Medusa's story as well, as the artist reminds us in the title and throughout the book, with additions to the origins of the myth from Ovid's *Metamorphoses* along with jolting images, "at once beautiful and savage." It is Medusa, the young woman, raped by Poseidon and punished by Athena, the goddess who changes Medusa's golden hair into hissing snakes, who is the forgotten character in the retold mythological tale. Medusa, banished to a life secluded, is trapped in turmoil, only to be hunted and violated again—a decapitated trophy, feared by men. Medusa transformed, possesses the power of her own gaze now turned upon the male gaze, and the reader, engaged in the seductive beauty of each page—it's color, texture, composition, typography, and images—cannot look away.

The narratives are realized through the Artist's deep understanding of color and composition. Mediterranean aqua blues, purples, burnt oranges, and golds are printed on a variety of colored sheets taking us from daylight to deep night and back again. The Artist leads the eyes of the viewer in and out of each page, traveling from light into darkness, as paper, ink, typography and sequencing builds drama and intrigue.

The volume is beautifully composed with more than 100 original drawings and exceptional typography, meticulously printed letterpress in multiple press runs, with an exquisite color palette. *The Golden Hair of Medusa* unfolds throughout four colors of gorgeous, textured handmade papers. Beginning with the white of daylight, it transitions to silver grey as dusk falls and Perseus meets the Three Gray Women and the Nymphs. The paper and mood shifts to the darker grey of evening as Perseus approaches the island of the Gorgons. A haze of translucent paper segues into blackness as the attack on Medusa begins by moonlight.

of MEDUSA

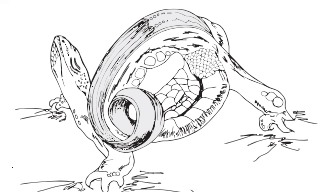
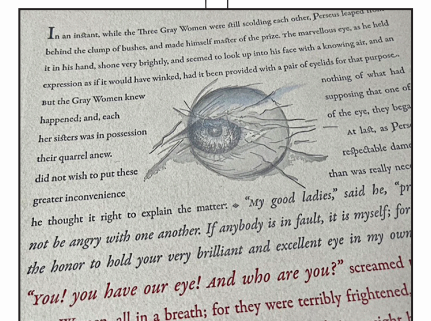
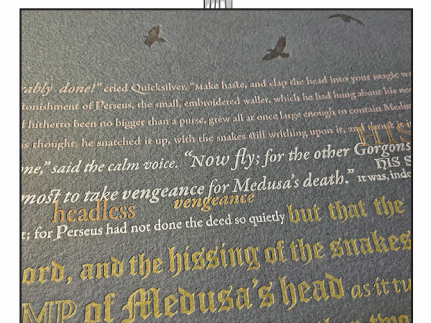
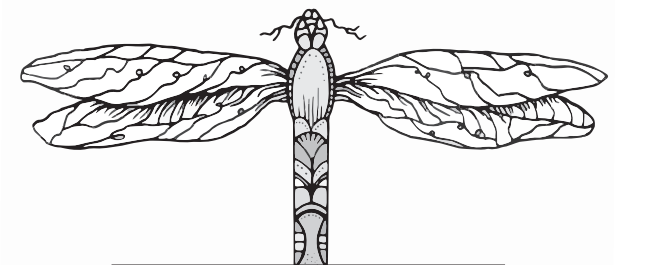
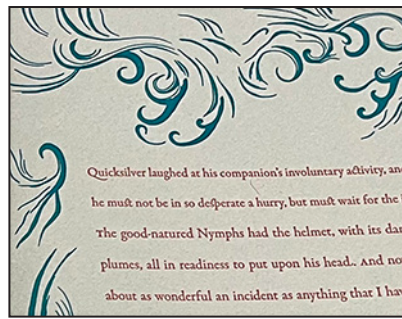
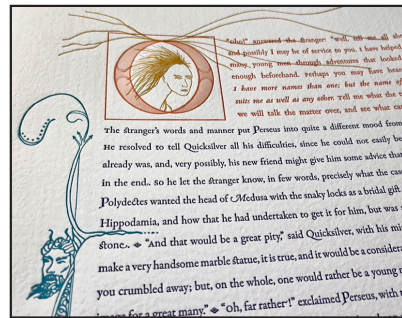
Intima Press Editions, NYC

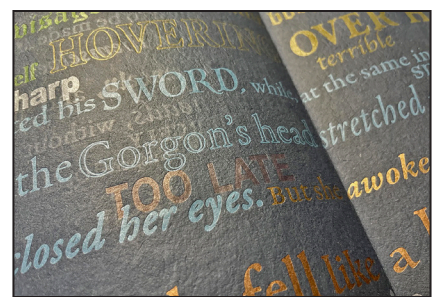
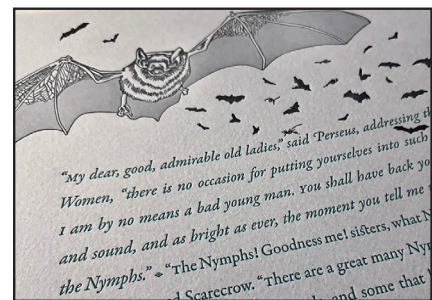
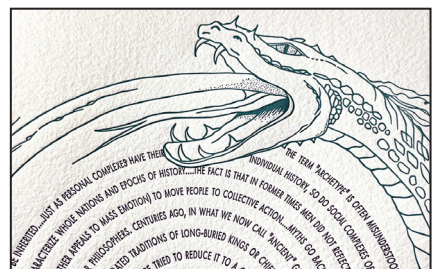
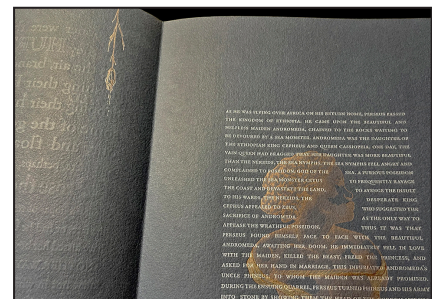
As the text comes alive, and gradually becomes larger throughout the first three sections, on the black pages, the dynamic typography becomes more frenzied and chaotic as Perseus approaches his victim. The viewer strains to see in the darkness of deep night through muted greens, pinks, blues, metallic golds, silvers, and coppers. We meet Pegasus and the Ethiopian Princess Andromeda. The section concludes with the regal head of Medusa revealed. In the final paper change, we emerge again in a blinding light of bright white, as Medusa's gaze turns men to stone and contemporary commentary shifts the focus.

The edition: Inspired by medieval manuscripts and Japanese printmaking, pages are adorned with hand drawn initial caps, ornate borders, whimsical bas-de-page images, and lively calligrams. A selection of the exquisite illustrations are hand painted with watercolor, gouache, and liquid acrylic, with finer details on the head of Medusa, printed in gold on black paper. The main text is elegantly typeset in Adobe Garamond with additional type faces highlighting passages: Adobe Academy Engraved, Alegreya, Annabelle, Apple Chancery, Arial, Cabazon, Didot, Futura, Goudy Old Style, Jenson Pro, Luminari, and Old English. The text becomes larger and more animated, with larger and more chaotic typography in the black section, as Perseus approaches the island of the Gorgon sisters and decapitates Medusa.

As in other uniquely conceptual and highly artistic editions from Intima Press, mini-narratives take the reader through darker dialogues of the human condition and mirror the maker's personal mythology. *The Golden Hair*, told through classic Greek mythology, Roman poetry, and modern psychological theories features stories from antiquity of the woman Medusa and the weavings of Arachne and Athena through Ovid's poetic *Metamorphoses*, quotes from Sigmund Freud's essay on Medusa and the castration complex, writings on archetypes by Carl G. Jung, and song lyrics from *Athena* by the rock group "The Who."

Paper: The papers for *The Golden Hair* are a gorgeous, textured handmade cotton with deckled fore edge. There were over 1,300 sheets in various stages of printing at the Studio throughout a year, as the press was run over 10,000 times, from more than 160 press set-ups. The translucent folios in the black paper section are Chartham Satin Vellum.





Drawings: There are over a hundred original drawings throughout the volume, including inspiration from Cellini's statute of Perseus with the head of Medusa, and a small drawing of Michelangelo's *David*. Calligrams include text from Sigmund Freud's essay *Medusa's Head* paired with Magritte's *This is not a pipe*, and an Athena owl composed of the poetry of Ovid. The drawing of the Ethiopian Princess Andromeda is inspired by a marble bust of a slave woman on exhibit at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. The Ouroboros, an ancient circular symbol of a snake or dragon consuming its tail, is paired with writings of Carl G. Jung on archetypes from *Man and His Symbols*.

Edition Limited to 40

This Fine Letterpress Edition is limited to 40 copies: 32 standard + up to 8 unique deluxe design bindings + AP. 108-pages [33 blank] in format of folios, printed on a Vandercook Universal III Automatic Adjustable Bed press, with over 160 press runs. There are more than 100 original drawings, a selection of which are hand painted. Front and back end papers are letterpress printed and uniquely illustrated with an ancient map and mythological portraits.

Lush cotton rag, handmade papers in white, silver grey, dark grey, and black with deckled fore edge was commissioned from Papeterie Saint-Armand, Montreal, CN (100% cotton archival paper fibers from offcuts of the clothing industry and flax straw sourced from farms). Letterpress printed from photopolymer plates produced at Boxcar Press, NY. Two gilt edges on the head and tail in 23-karat gold, with spine design in gold on leather, gilded by Peter Geraty, Praxis Bindery, MA. Hand sewn on linen tapes with cover in quarter leather aqua blue Pergamena calf skin, with handmade white paper covering, housed inside a yellow-gold cloth clamshell box with gold titling on leather labels, sewn and bound by Celine Lombardi, ME. Height 14.5 x width 11.5 inches, © 2025. Numbered and signed by the artist, M. Belloff, Intima Press, New York, NY.

Standard Edition Price \$6,800

The companion edition: *The Golden Hair of Medusa* is a companion book to the award winning volume, *A Golden Thread: The Minotaur*.

Design Bindings: Unique design bindings will be announced when available. Please inquire about a special order commission binding.

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The Texts: The writings of **Nathaniel Hawthorne** (1804-1864), belong to the literary genre of Dark Romanticism. The text reproduced in *The Golden Hair of Medusa* is Hawthorne's short story, *The Gorgon's Head*, a retelling of the myth of Medusa in *A Wonder Book for Girls and Boys: Heroes & Monsters of Greek Mythology*, published in 1852. In the Preface, Hawthorne writes, "it will be observed by every one who attempts to render these legends malleable in his intellectual furnace, that they are marvellously independent of all temporary modes and circumstances. They remain essentially the same, after changes that would affect the identity of almost anything else. . . .No epoch of time can claim a copyright in these immortal fables. . . .they are legitimate subjects of every age to clothe with its own garniture of manners and sentiment, and to imbue with its own morality." Mythology and the myth of Medusa, remains a spirited read for contemporary audiences, as the stories come to life through the inventive page compositions, playful drawings, and unique designs employed in this fine press edition.

Additional text includes **Sigmund Freud's** (1856-1939) theories of the castration complex and the decapitation of the head of Medusa from the essay *Medusa's Head*, 1922. It is presented as a calligram in the shape of René Magritte's painting of a pipe. Writings by the Roman poet **P. Ovidius Naso (Ovid)**, 43 BCE-17) include excerpts from *The Metamorphoses* on the story of Medusa, the myth of Arachne, and the Graea Sisters (Books IV, V, and VI). The theories of universal archetypes of **Carl G. Jung** (1875-1961) from *Man and His Symbols*, is also referenced in circular type with the ouroboros symbol.



About The Artist Mindy Belloff, artist and master printer, produces fine letterpress printed editions under the imprint Intima Press, the only private press in Manhattan, New York. She has been creating art for over four decades in painting, photography, printmaking, mixed media installations, and the art of the book. She holds a Master of Arts from New York University and wears the hats of educator, gallerist, curator, lecturer, and independent scholar. She has taught at numerous book centers and universities, including the New School's Writing and Poetry Program and the Rare Book and Special Collections program through the Palmer School of Library Science, and has shared the traditions of printing and the book at her New York *Studio on the Square*. Ms. Belloff's editions are widely exhibited and collected. Early in her career, Belloff's mixed media installation at the Bronx Museum of the Arts was favorably reviewed by Holland Cotter in *The New York Times*, and her edition titled *W2LZX* received a Herzog Honorable Mention for Excellence in Book Design. She opened Intima Gallery in upstate New York (2013-14), showcasing photographs, artist's books, and fine prints on paper. Her volume, *A Golden Thread: The Minotaur, A Contemporary Illumination*, was described in a *Parenthesis Journal* review as, "a genuine masterpiece of art and design." The edition received a Fine Press Book Association Award (2020), and was prominently exhibited at the Peabody Essex Museum. Her meticulous, hand-set contemporary printing of the *Unanimous Declaration of Independence* (2009) as originally printed by Mary Katharine Goddard in January 1777, is paired with her own re-written version of the broadside proclaiming, "all *People* are created equal," which received a Puffin Foundation Grant supporting "creative and innovative initiatives that advance progressive social change." Belloff's teaching archive of over 1,000 pieces of ephemera, broadsides and small books, may be accessed at Columbia University's Butler Library. Intima Press, established in 1996, is the only Private Press in Manhattan, located on Union Square since 2004, and may be visited by appointment.

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