

TALES OF
METAMORPHOSES



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Tales of Metamorphoses, catalogue for the exhibition
A Banquet of Metamorphoses
10 April -7 May 2017

Galleria di Storia Naturale – Casalina (PG)
CAMS-Centro di Ateneo per i Musei Scientifici
University of Perugia

Franklin University Switzerland
Sorengo (Lugano), Switzerland

La Fratta Art House
Marsciano (PG)



FOREWORD

A Banquet of Metamorphoses

The diversity of life is one of Nature's greatest gifts to us, but have you ever wondered how or why animals, birds, fish and insects have so many different forms? In the days before modern science, people invented stories of changelings, shape-shifters and transformations to explain their world or to teach a moral lesson, and they illustrated their world with these stories by decorating their homes, the objects needed for daily life, and public and religious buildings.

A wall in the Galleria di Storia Naturale in Casalina (PG) has been set up with a selection of works from A Banquet of Metamorphoses, an installation created by the students of Franklin University Switzerland enrolled in Professor Clarice Zdanski's Studies in Ceramics 2017 during a workshop under the guidance of ceramicist and sculptor Luca Leandri at La Fratta Art House (Marsciano). Freely inspired by the ancient mythology and literature of the Mediterranean and the legends and tales of all world cultures, the students visited the Galleria di Storia Naturale for further inspiration for these vessels and containers, which started out as basic shapes – cylinder, sphere or cone – to assume the shapes of birds, fish or animals. In the same manner as the ancients, they tell their creatures' tales in this little booklet, Tales of Metamorphoses.

*Clarice Zdanski
March 2017*

Toucan

The great dark toucan with shiny colors lived in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Since he was the biggest toucan of the flock, he was the peace-maker whenever there was a dispute. He could communicate with any type of animal in the Amazon, even with jaguars and monkeys. Moreover, he was respected by the whole Amazon animal community.

He lived for a hundred years until his time came to die. His legacy was continued by his eldest daughter. But there was always a mystery, and it was never talked about. He had come out of nowhere. The myth says that he used to be human and at a certain point in his life he met an evil witch who turned him into a toucan because he would not join the dark side of witchcraft.



Daniela Baiardi
From Canton Ticino, CH

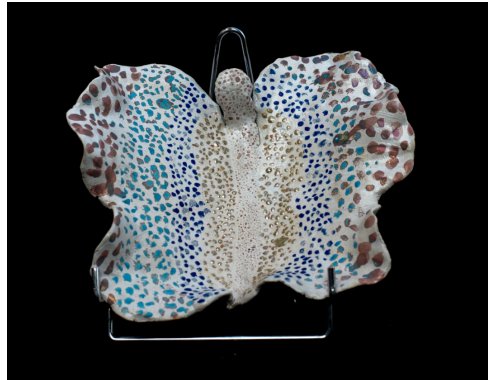
Studies VCA at Franklin University
Switzerland



Butterfly

The Dotty butterfly was born in Giverny, in the French countryside. When she came out of her chrysalis, she had strange dots all over her body. Her family was shocked, and so decided to call her Dotty. When the other members of the village saw her they were disgusted with her strange appearance. A week later the whole village gave Dotty's family a ultimatum: Dotty had to leave. Otherwise her family would be ousted forever from the village. When Dotty heard the news she decided to leave with no goodbyes; she wanted the best for her family. So she flew away on a long journey to the city of Paris, and stumbled upon the studio of Seurat, who was working in his studio. When he saw this beautiful creature, he decided to study her. Dotty didn't fly away because she loved Seurat's colorful studio.

And that is why Seurat started to experiment with pointillism.



Jack Espy
From Santa Barbara, CA

Attends the University of San Diego; at
Franklin University for study abroad



BULL

There once was a bull that was born with black horns. Because of these black horns all of the other fellow bulls were terrified of him. Since he frightened all the other bulls, he was the ruler of the farm. He led with an iron hoof. He took all the cows he wanted and he struck down any bull that tried to go against him. He was a tyrant and he needed to be stopped. Beneath the farm in the fiery pits of Bull Hell, the mighty Satan Bull was coming up with ideas for punishment, and struck fear into the bull with the black horns by making one of his eyes disappear. This showed the bull with the black horns that nothing lasts forever, and that his fellow bulls should be treated with respect - or else more terrible things would happen to him.

SHARK

There once was a great white shark named Tony. Tony was a relatively small shark. He had trouble hunting and mating because of his size. Other sharks in the sea would always make fun of him because of his size. Tony was always depressed. He had no friends; he had no mate; he had no one. One day he went to a marina not too far away from where he lived to have an easy meal. Since Tony was so small and it was very hard for him to hunt he would feed on the scraps the fisherman's threw back into the sea after the day's catch. While he was swimming around, he didn't notice a fishing boat that was passing by. The vessel passed over Tony and the propeller cut off the top of Tony's nose. Tony fell to the bottom of sea, and lay there for days, unconscious. Fellow sharks swam over him, but they thought he was dead. When Tony finally woke up he noticed his nose was fully healed. He also discovered that the blunted nose made his mouth massive, which allowed him to capture any prey in sight. Tony grew bigger and bigger from all the fish he ate. Legends say he became one of the biggest great white sharks ever.





Cosmic Turtle

The turtle carries the universe for many cultures in the myth of creation.

First there was nothing, then suddenly a turtle came forth and lit the fires of creation. The Turtle is as steady as time, and as beautiful as space. Upon its shell is all of creation, earth, sun, and the heavens. The Turtle is indifferent to the passing eons, or the flow of time. It never tires from swimming through the fabric of reality, because it is reality. Trillions of galaxies, each with hundreds of millions of stars - they are all part of the Turtle. Its power is only rivaled by its docility. When you have seen eons of war and peace, on countless worlds, the small stirrings of mortals are nothing more than specks of sand compared to the vastness of the eternal.



Charlie Kellogg
From Bedminster, New Jersey

First semester student at
Franklin University Switzerland

Avian King

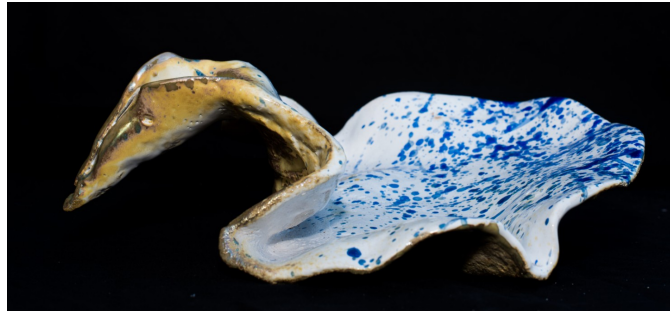
There once was a bird king. He lived deep in the jungle and had the most wonderful feathers all over his body. They glowed and shone in all of the colors of the rainbow. He would tell everyone else that he was better than them because of his vibrant, radiant plumage. One day he boasted that he was even more beautiful than the trees of the forest. This angered the Tree Spirit, who sought to rein in the king's ego. The next morning, the King awoke to find that almost all of his feathers had fallen off. He was so distraught by his loss of beauty that he stayed in his nest all day and night. The Tree Spirit came to him and told him why he had lost his feathers. The king pleaded with the Tree Spirit, begging her to return his feathers, so she took pity on him. However, instead of returning the whole of his proud former glory, only a ring around his neck was restored. But the king had learned his lesson, and humbly displayed the beautiful feathers that remained.





GUANCHEN LIU
From China

Studies International Management at
Franklin University

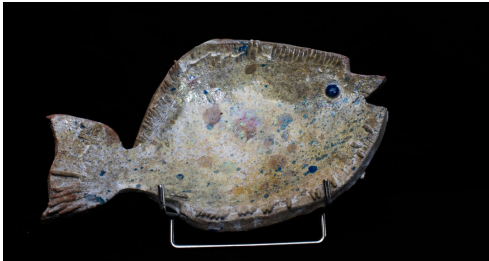


古代有一个拳击手，他热衷于与人搏斗以此来证明他的力量。于是，不少人也因此死在了他的铁拳之下。城里的人们都十分的惧怕他。有一天，宙斯因听闻了这位生性暴虐的男人事迹决定下界一探究竟。拳击手对于乔装而来的宙斯不屑一顾，可最终却败在了他的手下。宙斯为惩罚这个目中无人又残忍的拳击手，将他变作一只袋鼠。于是拥有一身肌肉的袋鼠们每天只能与同伴进行搏斗，却在无法伤人。

很久很久以前，有一位优雅的公主与她的侍女们一同被恶毒的巫师变作天鹅，只有在黄昏之后才有恢复原型的可能。一日，在湖边玩耍的公主被王子看见，王子深深地被公主优雅的舞姿所吸引。于是公主将自己的诅咒告知了王子，并在王子的帮助下破除了诅咒，从此和他一起过上了幸福的生活。



GEORGIA MILLER
From Long Island, New York
Studies Nursing at Nassau College; at FUS for Study Abroad



Fossil Flounder

Thousands of years ago there was a baby flounder named Spot swimming in the Great South Bay. A hurricane rolled through the South Shore of Long Island and buried Spot the flounder under ten feet of sand and mud. A few weeks ago a fisherman's line got stuck in the muck under the bay. After hours of reeling something in, he realized he had a fossil flounder on his line. What appeared to be just an ugly old fish actually happened to be Spot. A baby flounder who was taken away from his mother and father flounder far too soon.



Perry the Peacock

There was once a peacock named Perry. Perry was unlike any of the other peacocks because he was born without fancy feathers like most males. When Perry was ten, all he wished for were colorful feathers so that he could fit in with all of his other peacock friends.

Perry's parents had noticed that he was born with holes for feathers, but they just never grew. Perry now has flowers as feathers, and is more beautiful than all of his peacock friends.



MARINA MOORE
From the USA

Studies at Franklin University Switzerland



SNAKE

The snake used to terrorize all the other animals, because no one could hear him sneaking up on them. He did not stomp on the ground or flap his wings. His slither was so silent that none of the animals had a chance of getting away. This was a serious problem, and was brought up at the meeting of all the animals. The snake was too good a predator. The snake, too, although he enjoyed his feasting, wished there was more thrill in the hunt. It was then decided that the snake needed to make a sound a sound as a warning to its prey, and that is how the snake got his hiss.

TURTLE

Once upon a time there was a green lizard who had lived in a forest all of his life. However, he became restless and wanted to see the world. He was sad very that he had to leave his home, so he took it with him on his back. He wanted to see absolutely everything — every tree, every rock and every sunset the world had to offer. His journey took more than 100 years, and he moved very slowly in order to study everything he saw. This slow, curious traveler later became known as the turtle.





KAAN OZTURK
From Istanbul, Turkey

First year student at Franklin
University Switzerland



If man's desire to conquer and deform nature is cruel and stoic...

This Beast's gluttony was abysmal and callous, for it did not consume its kin for subsistence, but rather cast and molded them into vassals that obey its will regardless of form.





ALEXANDER PAIGE
Portland, Maine, USA

Studies Environmental Science and Political
Science at Franklin University

Owl
A brilliant creature
born of peace and stoicism, as he moves amongst the wispy
clouds
A field of white
Wisdom flows through his feathers like wind through the trees
A hoot
Hark, a rider in the night below.
The sage owl approaches the worn wooded path. The rider
adorned in black, moves swiftly under the watchful eye of the si-
lent avian observer
The moon wanes, its milky luminescence draining from the night
sky
But with this new moon comes renewed energy
rejuvenating the owl
garrison of the night
A lunar molt, a transformation





Heron

The Heron waded in the shallows, staring through his reflection at the small fish swimming between his legs. "Am I justified in eating these fish?" thought the heron. "Nay, these fish have as much a claim to life as I do. Why feed on these small creatures when there are plentiful alternatives?" And so thenceforth, the heron grazed only on the grasses and weeds, contentedly living in harmony with the fish around his feet.

EMILY RICHARDS
From Oklahoma City, USA

Studies International Relations at Franklin University



The Ladybug

Queen Ladybug walked around her home grounds, making her daily rounds to ensure the colony was in order. However, order was interrupted when a large human scooped her up and began playing with her. In an attempt to escape the human's grasp, she fell onto her back. Unbeknownst to her, she landed back first onto four circular rocks that left a design imprinted onto her back. Because she was the queen of the colony, all the other ladybugs began to follow suit and threw themselves onto the same rocks to imprint themselves with the same design.

The Puffer fish

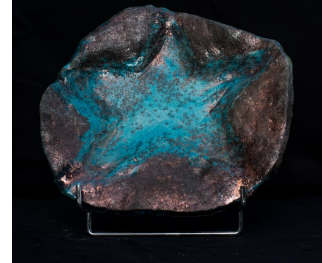
There once was a skinny little blowfish living in the Pacific Ocean. He was notorious for his elaborate lies amongst his fellow sea creatures, in hopes of impressing them, Poseidon especially. One day Poseidon decided to teach the blowfish a lesson, and his once thin body began to expand rapidly. Soon he was filled with all of the lies he had told in his entire lifetime. Minutes later spikes began to protrude from his body, keeping all the other sea creatures away from. And so the blowfish was never able to tell another lie again and life in the sea carried on in peace.





KARINA SATO
From the USA

Studies at Franklin
University

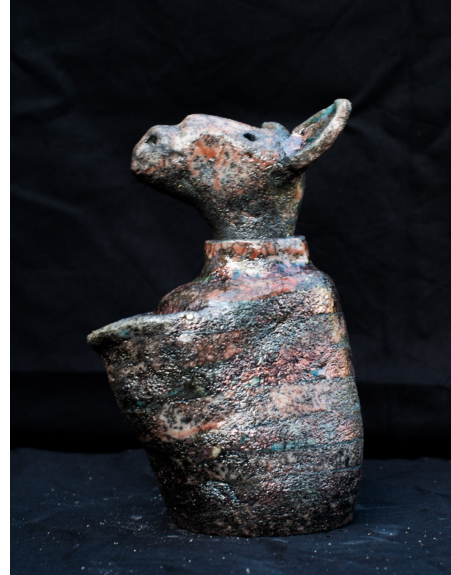


Starfish

There once was a starfish that lived at the bottom of the ocean. He was loved and known by all, and he loved to spend his days scooting all around the vast sea. He loved to please others. One day, he accidentally ran into a large shark whilst making his way to his friend's place. He apologized to the shark, and followed it by asking if he wanted to hear a joke. By that time, the shark had already begun to swim away, so the fish began to follow him, telling jokes, and trying to have a good time. The shark then turned and began to yell at him saying that he was annoying and that no one would like him with this behavior. After that, the starfish barely left his home until one day a small goldfish came and told him to never change for anyone and that he was loved. From then on, the Starfish never let anyone bring him down.

The Kangaroo

Once upon a time there was a small family of kangaroos that lived in Western Australia. The youngest of the family, Kita, was unique because she had a hole in her pouch. Kids would tease her, telling her that she was ugly and that she would never be able to take care of her children correctly. Kita cried and cried until one day her father told her that her differences and idiosyncrasies were what made her beautiful. Her story inspired people all over Australia, where she is remembered by everyone.



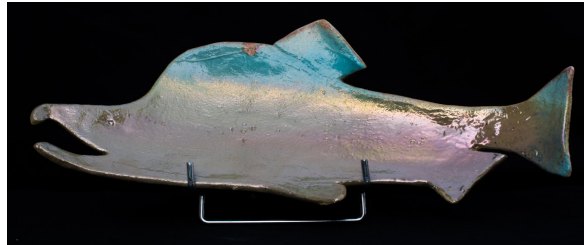


YANA SMITH
From Alaska.

In Environmental Studies at
Franklin University Switzerland

Humpback Salmon

Once upon a time there was a silver salmon named Sully. Sully loved to swim. He would frolic in the water all day with his friends. His favorite place to play was the warm shallow edges of the stream. As siding season approached, Sully's mother warned him not to swim near the edges of the banks of the stream, where fishermen could easily catch him. At first he stayed in the center of the stream, close to his mother, but over time Sully grew bored. One day he ventured to the edge of the stream. How much trouble could one quick trip cause? Suddenly he felt the sharp poke of a hook in his back. He pulled and struggled. He could feel his back being stretched and changing shape. Sully finally broke free, but he and his descendants would forever live as humpback salmon.





Moose/Cow

There was a young moose named Steve. As most young moose do, every day he hoped and wished for his antlers to come in. He wanted to be just like his dad and the other bulls. When the day his antlers came in, Steve was ecstatic. He couldn't wait to fight the other young moose with his new headgear on.

"Do not fight unnecessarily. You are still young and could get hurt," his father warned, but Steve couldn't wait to try fighting with his new antlers. Sure enough, he picked a fight with a bull a few years older. He was decimated during the flight and both of his antlers broke off. Too ashamed to face his father, Steve went to live among some cows a few towns over. Slowly over time, he grew spots and started to shrink until he turned into a cow.





ELSA THOMPSON
From Chicago, USA

Studies Psychology at
Franklin University

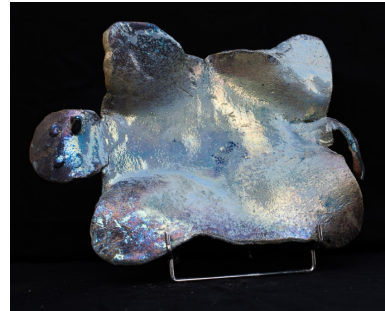
Tyrannosaurus Rex

Once upon a time there was a handsome prince named Rex. He had beautiful golden locks and elegant robes, but he was not kind or considerate. All the girls throughout the land wanted to be his wife, and they all competed for his affections. One girl, Ann, sought an audience with the prince to ask for his hand in marriage. The prince scoffed at her common clothes and callused hands and told her she would never be fit to marry a prince. Ann became enraged at his hurtful words and decided to seek revenge. She sought out a witch and explained to her how the prince had treated her. The witch cursed the prince and he became a large, terrifying lizard for the rest of his life. And so the T. Rex was created.



Flying Squirrel

Deep in the forests of Wisconsin there was a young squirrel named Sam. Sam's dream was to join the circus. He learned to juggle, unicycle, and do flips on the trampoline. He was very skilled, but the ring-master told him that in order to join the circus he would need to learn one more skill: the flying trapeze. Sam was utterly afraid of heights, having fallen and damaged one of his ears as a young squirrel. He knew he would have to find a way to conquer his fear in order to achieve his dream. He asked his friends for help, and together they decided to stretch cloth from his back legs to his front. That way, if he fell he could glide safely to the ground. With his newfound abilities, Sam mastered the trapeze and became famous throughout the forest.



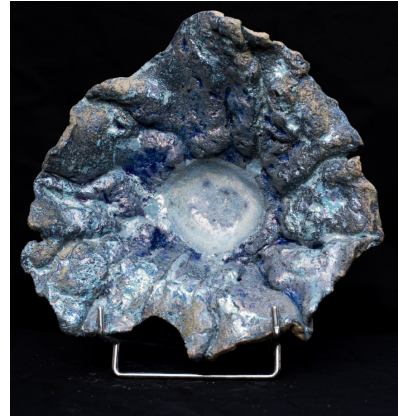


DEMETRIA WREN
From Dallas, TX

Studies International Management
at Franklin University Switzerland

Goldfish to Octopus

There once was a goldfish who wanted to be bigger. He swam across the sea to beg Poseidon to help him. After swimming for days he finally reached the underwater castle and asked Poseidon to make him a giant squid. He was granted his wish. But the goldfish did not like how he looked. Poseidon was insulted and cursed him to be a deformed octopus forever.





Bird or fish?

Once upon a time there was a bird. But he was no ordinary bird. Unlike his friends who were learning to fly, he was dreaming of the ocean. He had weird wings and was not comfortable flying. One day he went to the beach and saw all the fish swimming. He thought to himself, "If only I could do that..." After a while he jumped in the water, and did not want to leave. He wished that he could stay forever. By this time, evening had fallen, and there happened to be a shooting star. He magically became a fish.



CLARICE ZDANSKI
From the USA.
Home is Milan
Teaches studio art, art history and
VCA at Franklin University Swit-
zerland

Tiger shark jaws

Solitary.
Mostly nocturnal.
Voracious - will even eat garbage.
But preyed upon in turn...

A fossil of greed - all that remains are his vast gaping jaws...



Fish (form inspired by a piranha in
the museum collection)

Darwin said fish became man.
Fins became limbs -
Gene change?
Sea change?
This one wants to stay in the water.



The photo taken at sunset represents the cycle of metamorphosis, and helps add dimension to our artwork. Like our animals, the sun transforms everyday, by rising and setting which can include a similar message that our pieces represent. Also, the backdrop of the sun setting with the grass field was the perfect backdrop for the pieces because of how beautiful it was. It was done by setting up two picnic tables and arranging the pieces on top like how a dinner table is set.

The picture we took of our works was done at sunset in a field behind the La Fratta Art House where they were created. We organized the pieces on two tables almost as though we were about to have a meal, with one plate and one pitcher at each place. We paired the plates and the pitchers based on the compatibility of both the colors and glazes, and the animals they portrayed. The two glazing methods that we used, Raku glazing and luster glazing, produced many different combinations of colors, so we did our best to match pitchers with plates of similar color schemes. In addition, we had a few different categories of animals. We had mainly birds and sea creatures, but also a few bugs, mammals, snakes, and prehistoric animals. We used the coloring as the primary factor in our organization and the types of animals secondarily.

We felt that the field was a good setting for our picture because it was an accurate representation of the setting in which our zoomorphic vessels were created. While we spent some time in the studio, much of our work was done outside in the yard with a view overlooking the fields and rolling hills of Umbria. We thought that taking the picture in the field might allow our audience to understand the views that may have had some influence in our creative processes.

The idea to take the picture at sunset came originally simply because of the beauty of that time of day, but the meaning behind it can go deeper than that. The picture was taken at the end of our time at the Art House when all of our works had been completed. The sun was setting on our trip, just as it was setting on our works in the picture.

Elsa Thompson and Emily Richards



STUDIES IN CERAMICS 2017
FRANKLIN UNIVERSITY ACADEMIC TRAVEL
NORTHERN AND CENTRAL ITALY

Group photo at La Fratta Art House (left to right):
Daniela Baiardi (seated), Demetria Wren, Elsa Thompson,
Yana Smith, Marina Moore, Karina Sato, Guanchen Liu,
Georgia Miller, Clarice Zdanski, Alexander Paige,
Elisabetta Corrao, John Espy, Charlie Kellogg,
Eugenio Leandri, Luca Leandri, Kaan Öztürk



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Infinite thanks to everyone who made this exhibition possible: to Luca Leandri for inspiration and all the work that goes into making things; to Prof. Cristina Galassi, Director of CAMS of the University of Perugia Museums, for permission to use the collections and hold the exhibition at the Galleria di Storia Naturale; to Sergio Gentili and Angelo Barili of the museum staff for their passionate involvement in their work of raising awareness of our need to love our Earth and its myriad creatures; to Gianni Cascianelli for help in setting up the installation. Last but not least, thanks to Elisabetta Corrao, for her invaluable contribution of so much loving care during our stay at La Fratta Art House and help with a million details afterwards.

PHOTO CREDITS

Charlie Kellogg, Clarice Zdanski

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Clarice Zdanski, editor-in-chief
Kaan Ozturk, layout consulting
Alexander Paige, proofreader



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