

“Mythologies,” at Steven Harvey Fine Art Projects (through July 28):

This month at the Lower East Side’s Steven Harvey Fine Art Projects, an exhibition brings together a small group of artists who have labored to convey individual voices through the stories shared by us all. Among the motley crew represented in “Mythologies,” which runs through July 28, are Rosemarie Beck, Sandro Chia, Susanna Coffey, Angela Dufresne, Lester Johnson, June Leaf, Malcolm Morley, Jan Müller, Stuart Shils, Kyle Staver, Clintel Steed, and Bob Thompson. Earlier pieces in the exhibition, made in an era that was hostile to painters who infused their works with literary elements, are a 1956 altarpiece-like oil pentaptych by Müller titled *Faust* and Thompson’s 1966 pen and pencil study for a reinterpretation of Titian’s *Venus and Adonis*—the last painting that he worked on before his untimely death. But works painted just this year also approach these timeless myths with hopes of transcending the fleeting present. In Staver’s *Ascension* (2018), for instance, the celestial magic of the painting’s subject is matched only by the ethereal glow of its internal, backlit color. On Tuesday at 6 p.m., Staver, Steed, and Coffey will discuss the exhibition’s theme as it relates to the more strictly aesthetic pursuits of their own painting. —AS