Plath Profiles

Volume 11

From Modern to Mythos

This piece was inspired by Sylvia Plath's poem entitled *"The Munich Mannequins",* which was subsequently inspired by Plath's time in Munich, Germany. The poem details how the culture there seemed vapid and dull; fake and ultra-conservative. Plath is famous in this poem for referring to Munich as being as such: "In Munich, morgue between Paris and Rome," (Plath, line 12). When I read that - I nearly fell out of my chair in amazement and decided that this would be the impetus for my work.

The mannequins have been superimposed into the piece as well as a famous image of Sylvia Plath herself. I decided to project her image though an old television set, as I find the juxtaposition of these images rather striking and even existential in nature, because Plath herself has been debated as an existentialist. After all, she did seem to be well aware of the absurdities of the world and suffered from depression, which led to a rather bleak philosophical outlook which can now be seen as social commentary. The piece exudes decay with a little darkness added to give the feeling of entropy. The statue of the girl on a horse is meant to reference Plath's "Ariel" poem, as a snapshot of two of her works which inspired me in this piece's creation.

- Shawn Gillick