




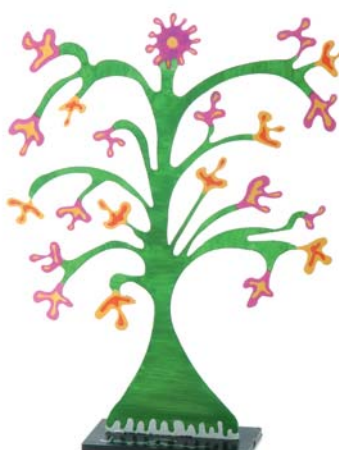


Mythical Whimsies

by Jay M. Rotberg

 <p>Lore of the Bull M-001 7½" x 8"</p>	 <p>Big Beautiful Bear M-002 7½" x 9½"</p>	 <p>Awesome Pig M-003 7" x 9"</p>	 <p>The Great Butterfly M-004 5¼" x 8¼"</p>
 <p>Crocodile Delight M-005 6¼" x 10¾"</p>	 <p>Spirited Antelope M-006 5¾" x 10½"</p>	 <p>Not Brer Rabbit M-007 7¾" x 10"</p>	 <p>Tree of Life M-008 7½" x 9½"</p>

Mythical Animals

Once, in a far different age, animals occupied a distinct, and often mysterious, place in the lives of those who believed in mythical creatures. Certain animals were revered; others were dangerous and invested with demonic powers. Many animals appear in myth as helpers of man and of the gods. Birds, for example, function as celestial messengers and as molders of men's souls. Other animals embody human or heroic qualities such as the brave lion or the wise owl. Lesser-known animals became in man's imagination fabulous creatures incorporating all that were strange, wonderful, and mysterious.

Mythology 101

A myth is a story. So what's special about a myth? Myths are stories about gods, goddesses, supernatural entities, and their relationships to humans. Myths help validate a special order, such as hereditary kingships or social class structures. They also can provide a history. People say something "is just a myth," but myths do have their own truths. They provide people with a view of the world and a set of values that can be as important as any scientifically verifiable fact. Mythology is another way of understanding the world.

 <p>Lovable Uni M-009 7" x 8½"</p>	 <p>Eagle Supreme M-010 8" x 9½"</p>	 <p>Soaring Sunbird M-011 5" x 10¾"</p>	 <p>Birds of Love M-012 7½" x 12½"</p>
 <p>Dance of the Rainbird M-013 9¼" x 7¾"</p>	 <p>Divine Owl M-014 9½" x 9½"</p>	 <p>Go Horse M-015 8" x 9¾"</p>	 <p>Prancing Lion and Friend M-016 9½" x 7¼"</p>

*Ask about our Santa M-017 (not pictured) for festive holiday gifts.

Artist Jay Rotberg

In addition to my longstanding interest in carving, sculpting, and the arts in general, I have been "doodling" forever! Mythical Whimsies combines my doodling with my interest in mythology. The animals depicted are all based on various mythical creatures found in numerous ancient cultures. The underlying premise of each piece of work is that it is mythologically factual. On the tag of each sculpture is the animal's "story" — a totally fabricated and fun interpretation of the design.

Each Mythical Whimsies animal has a "soul," depicted by two interlocking infinity signs designed in the shape of a flower. This soul represents the eternal in us, that which flies with the wind without hindrance or destruction and brings one's spirit to others forever more. The myths of many cultures contain the idea of the soul being transformed into a bird as a non-corporeal being flying through the air.

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