



## **Medusa in the Mirror**

**Student:** Montana Lovins

**District:** Central Valley School District

**School:** Central Valley High School

**Instructor:** Rebekah

**Medium:** Acrylic, glass

### **Artist Statement**

The Greek myth surrounding Medusa is familiar to most people, but the explanation for how she became the "monster" she is has varied through the ages. The commonplace story tells a tale of Medusa and Poseidon sleeping together in a temple to Athena, and Athena cursing Medusa with hideous snake hair and the ability to turn people to stone. This story is actually derived from an original telling in which Poseidon forces Medusa into the temple and then blames her when Athena gets mad.

Victims of sexual assault are constantly blamed for a horror that has happened to them; "what were you wearing?" "you were probably asking for it." "you could have stopped them." Medusa was punished in the same way other SA survivors are; though she has to live with a new terrible scar (or in her case, snake hair) she takes the consequence and wears it defiantly. We can't control the things that happen to us, but we can choose to wear the horror with pride and to try and take back the power stolen.

**Status:** Exhibit only