

# Simon Toparovsky

## *a conversation between artist friends*

*~ excerpted from an Interview between artists Ariel Soulé and Simon Toparovsky for Toparovsky's solo exhibition **Vasi e Corsi** Franco Rossi Gallery, Palazzolo sull'Oglio, Italy  
7 February - 6 March 2015*

**AS** From the start of your work with the narrative, you have pulled from the depths of where history and mythology are interwoven. Is your work different now?

**ST** I think as humans, seeking comfort and to experience joy, we find stories that repeat through history--compelling stories that portray courage and vulnerability. These stories are told and retold in various art forms with subtle and personal variations. I have a personal vocabulary from what I have experienced, from what I have seen, which continues to appear through my works in different forms. I think this is about portraying the common unconscious in my own voice.

**AS** You are known, perhaps first, as a sculptor. Why in your most recent exhibitions, here in Italy and in Los Angeles, have you included works on paper?

**ST** There are many reasons, but I like to think of my mixed media works on paper as "captured tableaux vivants." These manipulated images of my sculptures may offer a way to see my work with more immediacy, and greater depth through more specific, orchestrated portrayals. And then, there is a substantial difference between seeing the sculpture alone and seeing installations with both media together.

**AS** Do these works on paper change the message?



Venus Crypt. S. Simpliciano. Simon Toparovsky. 2015. Unique, mixed media on paper. 20 x 17.9"

**ST** I have imagined there are hidden messages to be discovered in the three dimensionality of my cast and fabricated bronze sculptures. These works on paper are another form of expression for me, as they have the evocative power to address the mysteries. They can be simple reflections of the original 3-D work. And then, transformed, staged, and manipulated, the images seen together with the sculpture begin to resonate. Combining the two and three-dimensional works with one another creates a deeper story.

Making my work continues to be a wonderful experiment. For an artist to experiment with new techniques becomes essential, as adventure is for every human being.

*Simon Toparovsky and Ariel Soulé have been friends for more than 15 years. They have also worked together to create six major international collaborative projects. The most recent installations debuted at the new Museum of Contemporary Art in St. Petersburg, Russia. The exhibition has been shown in five museums there and continues to travel.*