



Hera's  
jealousy

transformation

the hunt

mother  
and son

Circling the North  
Reconstrucuring Callisto's Sky  
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For my final project, I wanted to create a piece of art that connected the Greek myth of Callisto to real astronomy. I chose this myth because it is dramatic and emotional, but it also explains something in the night sky. The story says that Callisto and her son Arcas were turned into the constellations Ursa Major and Ursa Minor. These constellations never fall below the horizon, and the Greeks believed this happened because Hera cursed them to circle the North Star forever. I liked how this story mixed feelings like fear and jealousy with actual science, so I wanted my artwork to show that combination.

My idea for the project was to make a mixed media collage that looked both like a myth and a star chart. I planned to start with a real printed map of the northern sky that showed the stars in their correct locations. On top of that, I wanted to draw a silhouette of Callisto as she changed from a woman into a bear. I wanted the silhouette to be simple and bold so it would look symbolic instead of realistic. I also wanted to glue small pieces of paper around the artwork with short phrases from the myth. These little fragments would help tell the story and guide the viewer. The whole piece was supposed to feel like a mix of old storytelling and ancient skywatching.

Even though I knew exactly what I wanted, I struggled a lot when I tried to make it by hand with paper and markers. I tried several times to draw the silhouette the way I imagined it, but I could not get it right. The shape always came out uneven or awkward, and it did not look powerful enough. I also had trouble placing the stars correctly. When I tried to draw the star map myself, it became messy and confusing. The more I worked on it, the more I realized that I did not have the drawing skills to reach the level of detail and accuracy the project needed. I knew how I wanted everything to look in my mind, but I could not get my hands to produce it on paper.

Because of this, I decided to use AI as a tool to help me complete the artwork. I want to be clear that the ideas were my own. The story choice, the design, the arrangement, and the meaning all came from me. What AI helped with was creating the clean and accurate visual version I could not achieve by myself. I treated it like another art tool. Most artists use tools to help them, whether it is a camera, a projector, or software. In my case, AI helped me solve the technical problems I could not overcome.

It definitely was not easy. It took me twelve different AI attempts to get the artwork to match my idea. The first versions were too realistic. Some did not look mythological enough. Others placed the stars incorrectly. A few had strange lighting or made Callisto look too human or too animal. Each time, I changed my description a little and tried again. I kept adjusting the colors, the shape of the silhouette, the placement of the constellations, and the mood of the artwork. After many tries, I finally got a version that looked the way I originally imagined it.

The finished artwork shows the northern sky with Ursa Major and Ursa Minor accurately placed on a dark blue background. The silhouette of Callisto stretches across the center in a half human and half bear form. Her body lines up with some of the constellations to show her transformation. Around her, there are short pieces of text on torn paper that represent important moments in the myth. These include phrases like Hera's jealousy and the hunt and mother and son. The whole piece feels like a myth turning into a scientific explanation, which is exactly what the Greeks did long ago.

The scientific connection is an important part of my project. Ursa Major and Ursa Minor are circumpolar constellations for people who live in the northern hemisphere. This means they never set beneath the horizon. Greek storytellers used the myth of Callisto to explain this motion. In my artwork, the circular pattern of the star lines hints at this endless movement around Polaris. The combination of myth and astronomy helps show how ancient cultures understood the sky before scientific tools existed.

In the end, I learned that art is not only about talent but also about finding the right method to bring an idea to life. Even though I could not complete the project the way I first planned, using AI allowed me to create a piece that truly represents my vision. The final artwork is the result of patience, repetition, and creativity. It also shows that modern tools can help us explore old stories in new ways.