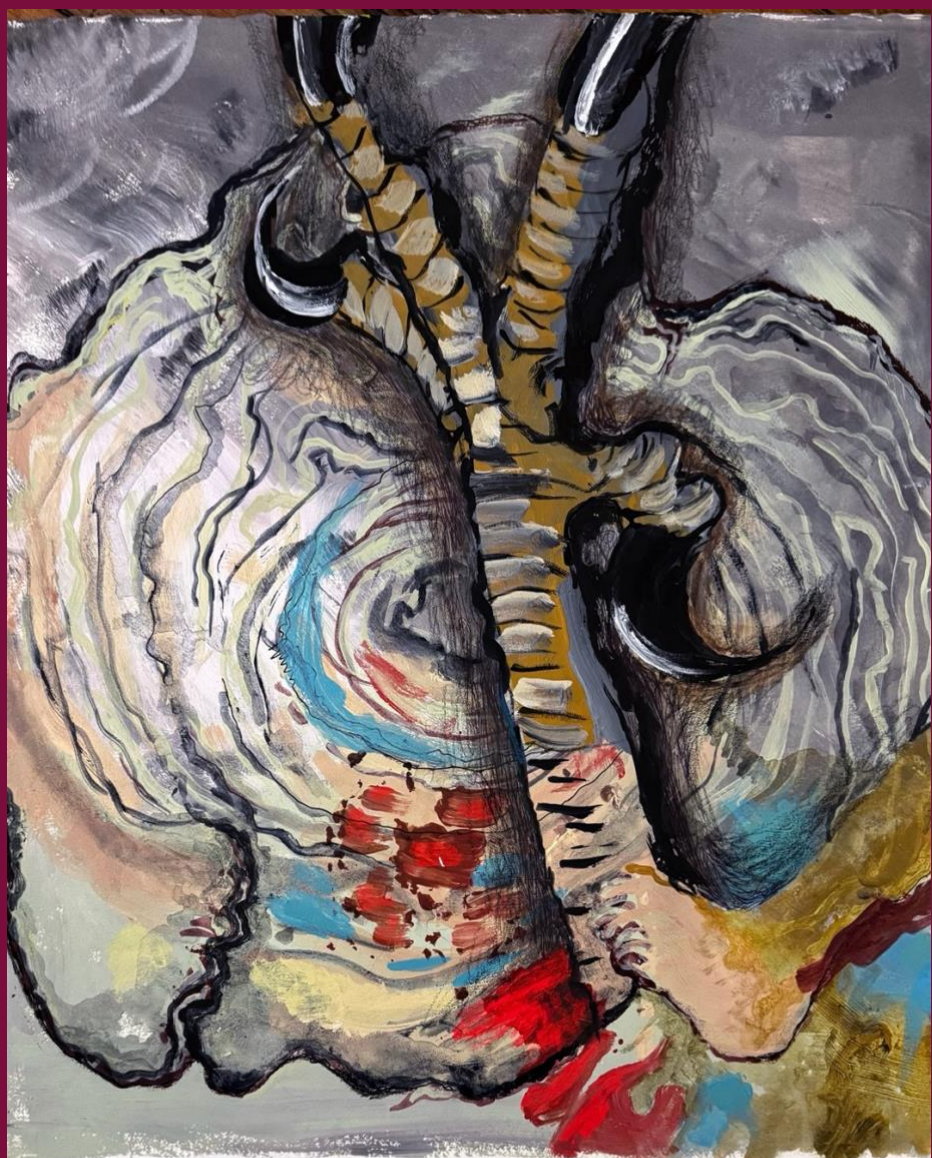


Chris Costan

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Carthage installed at a bus bench shelter adjacent to the MetLife Building, Manhattan



CARTHAGE Chris Costan, Colton's Point, Maryland and Kingston, NY, 2021
Carthage was a great city of Antiquity on the north coast of Africa and is now a suburb of the city of Tunis. It is situated on a promontory on the Tunisian coast, where it could influence and control ships passing between Sicily and the North African coast as they sailed the Mediterranean Sea. Rapidly becoming a thriving port and trading center, it eventually developed into a major Mediterranean power and a rival to Rome. Wars between Rome and Carthage were fought beginning in 264 BCE. The Third Punic War in 149 BCE was the last fought between the two nation states. The Romans launched their final assault and over seven days, systematically destroying Carthage and 62,000 inhabitants. On the last day they took the remaining 50,000 who were sold into slavery. The destruction was an act of Roman aggression prompted by motives of revenge as well as by greed for the rich farming lands surrounding the city. The Carthaginian defeat was absolute, instilling fear and terror into Rome's enemies and allies.

Carthage, Mixed media on paper (2021)

Carthage was a prosperous city on the north coast of Africa and was a major rival of the Roman Empire. Carthage had always had great power and dominated the trade networks in the Mediterranean. Rome widely used tactics of mass violence 'off the battlefield': mass killing, mass enslavement, and the destruction (and looting) of cities in Roman warfare. Their ruthless use of mass violence to have been vital to Roman military operations. Commanders in the field with full deliberation used mass violence and brutal strategies upon civilian populations to achieve their military objectives and political goals as a matter of routine. Atrocity and massacre were fundamental modalities of military practice, alongside organized battles and sieges. The soldiers on campaign and in combat participated in different ways, but at the end violence resulted in remarkable military success in foreign affairs, with important effects, too, on Rome and its society. Also remember the ruthless policies of the Assyrians and Babylonians which extended to 'scorched earth' and mass enslavement. The Romans come in for criticism because they were foolish enough to leave us lucid accounts of their crimes.

Spare no one: mass violence in Roman Warfare: War and Society
#War and Society #Gabriel Baker



The Outer Limits installed in the Flatiron neighborhood, Manhattan



The Outer Limits, Mixed media on paper (2025)

There is nothing wrong with your television set. Do not attempt to adjust the picture. We are controlling transmission. If we wish to make it louder, we will bring up the volume. If we wish to make it softer, we will tune it to a whisper. We will control the horizontal. We will control the vertical. We can roll the image, make it flutter. We can change the focus to a soft blur, or sharpen it to crystal clarity. For the next hour, sit quietly and we will control all that you see and hear. We repeat: There is nothing wrong with your television set. You are about to participate in a great adventure. You are about to experience the awe and mystery which reaches from the inner mind to... The Outer Limits.