

## ***Remaking the Renaissance***

I decided to return to my remaking of the Ovidian myth of Narcissus and Echo, which told the story through a text conversation between Narcissus and “Echo”. My goal with this project was to highlight the themes of disconnection and self-absorption as they are seen through their modern version of digital disconnection and echo chambers. Using Narcissus’s obsession with his reflection as a mirror for how people become captivated by curated online personas, seeking self-validation outwardly when they should look inward. This focus, driven by social media, isolates individuals from genuine relationships. Within Narcissus and Echo's conversations, the latter only repeats Narcissus's words, symbolizing a connection that lacks depth.

Echo representative of the digital echo chambers we all find ourselves in, where algorithms reinforce existing beliefs; trapping users in cycles of validation. Just as Echo repeats Narcissus’s words without challenging them, digital platforms create closed-off spaces that stifle dialogue and foster isolation. This piece underscores how technology simulates connection while fostering separation. Narcissus’s entrapment by his reflection and Echo’s fading voice illustrate the risk of losing authentic connections for digital affirmations. The piece serves just like the original as a modern cautionary tale, urging readers to seek meaningful interactions beyond algorithmic confines.

Overall I am really happy with how this project turned out, though I do wish I had more time to add some more visual effects and editing to a smooth, and more consistent pace. I did 5 different takes and took the best parts from each of them. Yet there was a lot of space at times that felt silent and slow which overall I’m not sure how I feel about it. I think it's interesting reading someone's text conversation as they are sent creates a weird sense of intrusiveness. Similar to how we study the letters of the Renaissance, it is not hard to believe that people will study the vast database of information that exists digitally. How many of our private conversations will one day sit in literary archives? Being studied by scholars to discover what our lives were like; trying to understand what the world once was.