

The three Graces

In Greek mythology, the Three Graces were the goddesses of joy, charm, and beauty. Their names were Aglaia (splendor), Euphrosyne (Mirth), and Thalia (Blossoming one).

The main role of these minor goddesses was to preside over rich banquets, parties, dances, and any enjoyable activity for the gods and humans. Taken together, they are the messengers of joy and good will to people. Together with the Muses, they sang for the gods on Mount Olympus and always dance to the divine music that Apollo played on his lyre. The Three Graces were always treated as a triple embodiment of grace and beauty and rarely as single entities.

The ancient theme of the Three Graces is one of the most recognizable topics in art throughout the centuries from antiquity to our time. They are generally represented as youthful, beautiful women closely embracing each other or dancing.

What can you see in this work?

This painting presents a modern-day interpretation of the Three Graces.

- The permanent inseparable binding among them is represented by the chain of pearls at their waist.
- Apollo is depicted as the Sun. The hand of Apollo playing the lyre is a gigantic sun storm photograph by NASA's Solar Dynamics Observatory spacecraft on 31 August 2012.
- Similar to Greek mythology, they are dancing together to the lyre of Apollo. Yet,
- Because the Three Graces are originally Greek, they are dancing to the music of the Greek composer Mikis Theodorakis's "Zorba the Greek" whose piano score appears as music notes embedded in the entire background that covers a large portion of the painting. These notes are accurate and can be played.
- At the same time, the music is transmitted from the lyre by fiber optic cables to two modern, column-type loudspeakers whose tops (capitals) are ancient Greek Doric columns similar to the Parthenon at Athens.
- The universality of the ideas represented by the Three Graces is depicted by presenting the Three Graces as different races and the flowers that surround them are from around the Planet. The pedestal is adorned by an assortment of tundra wildflowers from northern Alaska, lupin from Southern Patagonia on the left, and three Mediterranean flowers (crown anemone, Persian cyclamen, sun's-eye tulip), natives of their origin on the lower part.
- As Thalia was also the patron of Comedy, two ancient comic Greek theatre masks, common at that time, are placed at her feet.

(This section was written as a service for viewers.)