

Hands On - The Whole Picture

We can now take a look at the whole casts, when before we were focused in on the hands.

Could you have known the whole stories from just hands?

This child's hand, on the back of a crouching goddess Aphrodite, probably belonged to her son, the baby god Cupid.



All that remains of that part of the statue, unfortunately, is lost.

**The
Museum of
Classical
Archaeology**

It's Diana, goddess of the hunt, who is shown wandering through the forest.

Her deer companion helps us to imagine where she is.

While this deer seems safe with her, Diana looks ready to continue her hunt, as she gets an arrow ready!



This statue shows Aphrodite, goddess of love and beauty, and she's holding an apple.

With one graceful hand she is holding up her clothes, perhaps showing them and herself off! In her other hand she is holding an apple!



Did you guess why?

There was once a contest between three goddesses – Aphrodite, Minerva, and Juno – to see who was the best. A man called Paris was the judge, and the goddesses all offered him great gifts if he would pick them to win. He chose Aphrodite, gifting her an apple which she is showing off here.

Aphrodite's gift to Paris was the most beautiful woman in the world, Helen. Their love affair began the Trojan War . . .

Our other apple-clutching cast is the hero Hercules. Here he is shown from the front, holding the apples in his right hand which is behind his back.

The apples belonged to the Hesperides, and as part of one of Hercules' 'labours', or tasks, he had to steal away the apples of the Hesperides.

He's resting now, though hanging on to his trophies ...



It's a little child who is leaning on that poor goose!

There are quite a few statues from ancient Greece and Rome which show children wrestling with and mistreating geese.

Why do you think these statues were made?



Those birds are the hilts, or handles, of swords!

And the men holding them tight are Roman emperors. In a time of

trouble, there were actually four emperors at once who tried to work together.

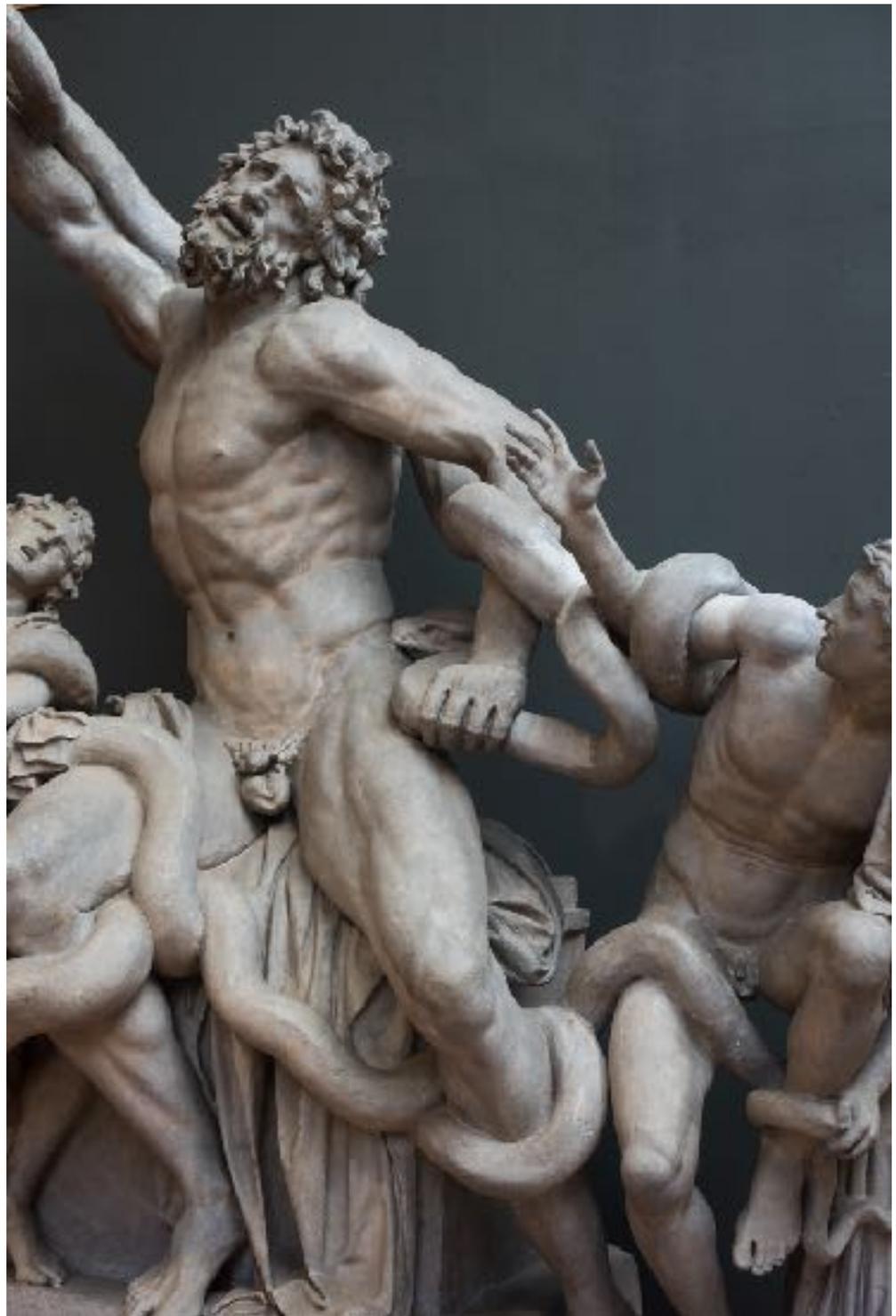


They are embracing each other here, but we've spotted the sign that all is not well. Why else would they be so ready with their fancy bird-headed swords?

It's a man called Laocoon fighting for his life with his sons here.

We've gone back to the story of the Trojan War. It had been going on a long time and the Greeks came up with a plan to capture the city. They built a wooden horse as a "gift" and sat inside it, where they waited for the Trojans to take the horse into the city. At night they broke out of the horse and captured the city!

Laocoon was a Trojan who saw through this scheme. He begged his people not to accept the "gift" of the horse. For this, he was punished by the gods who sent snakes to kill him and his sons. This is the moment we can see in this statue.



“Clack clack!” It’s a pair of castanets!



This rather jazzy figure is a satyr, one of the companions of Dionysus the god of wine and good times. He’s making lots of noise here, both with the castanets and a foot clapper, and having a dance!

On the tree trunk next to him he’s hung up his pan pipes. Three instruments might be a bit much all at once!

This box probably held some lovely jewellery.

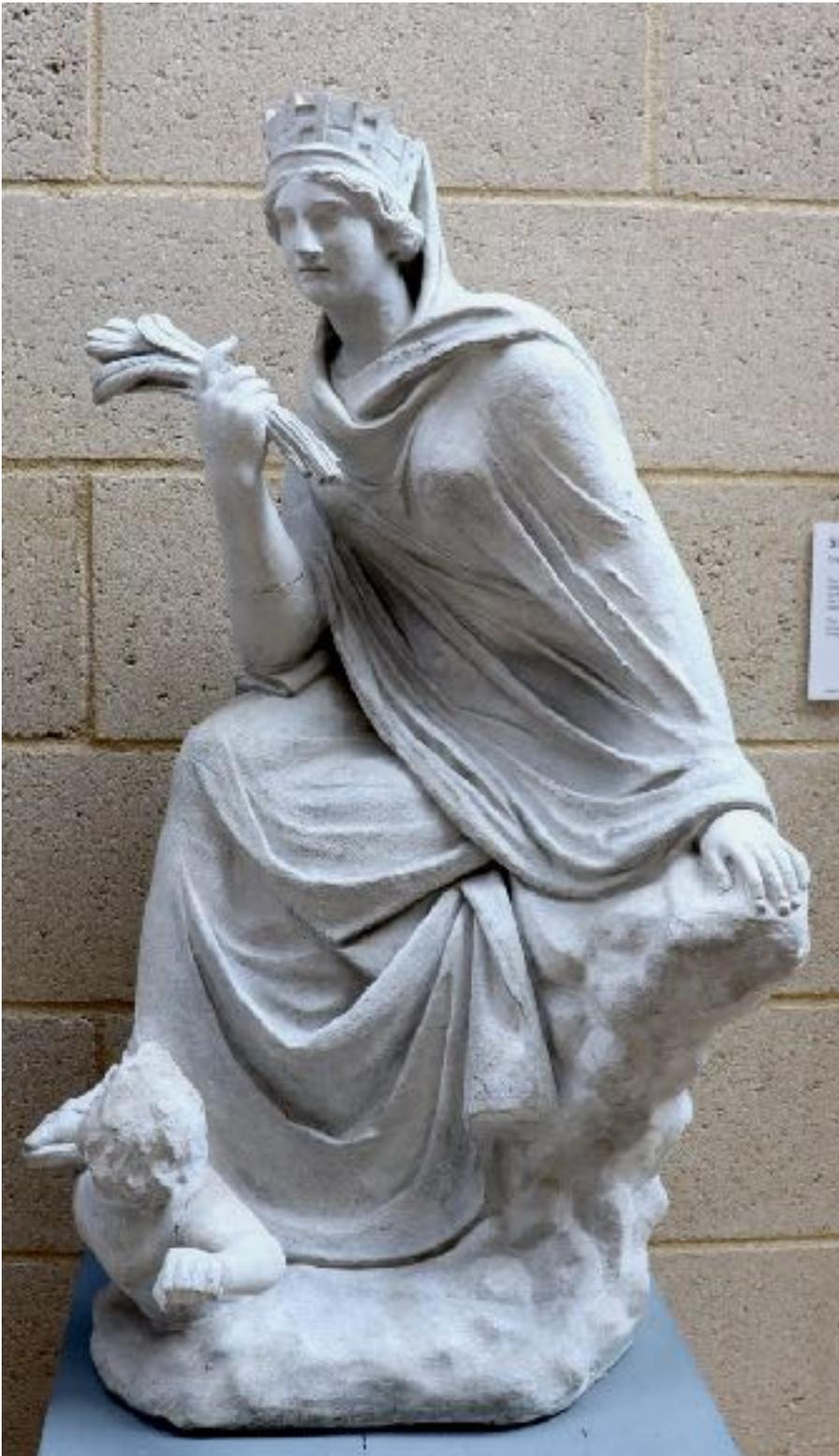
This is the tombstone of a woman called Hegeso. On it she is being handed a box, which may have held jewellery. She seems to be holding up some jewellery, perhaps she was picking out her favourite piece!

Why do you think this was shown on her tombstone, for remembering her after she died?



This figure is Tyche who represents good fortune.

So the wheat that she is holding isn't just to make some bread with, it's a symbol of the good times that come with having enough crops.



Tyche's crown is in the shape of city walls, representing security and safety.