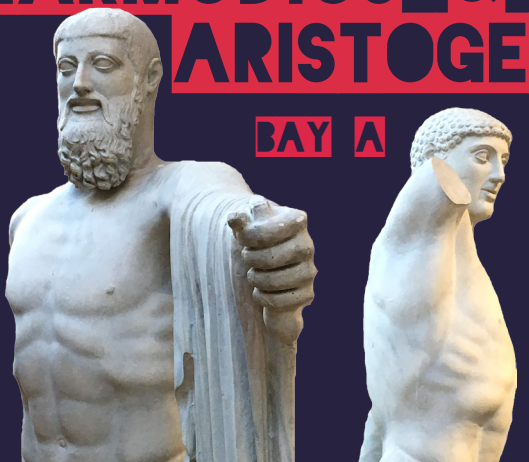


# HARMODIOS & ARISTOGEITON

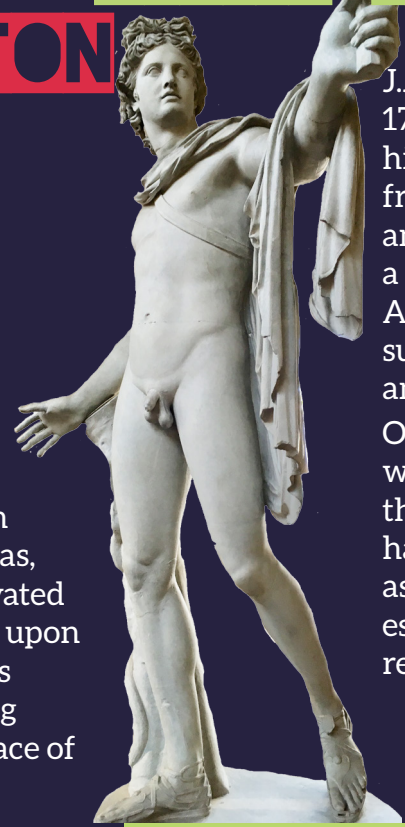
BAY A



Harmodios and Aristogeiton were tyrant slayers: in 514 BCE they killed the Athenian ruler Hipparkhos (but not his brother Hippias, whoops). They were said to be lovers, motivated in part by Hipparkhos' unwanted advances upon Harmodios. In this way, same sex desire was woven into Athenian political myth-making about the foundation of democracy in the face of unchecked despotism.

# APOLLO BELVEDERE

BAY E



J.J. Winckelmann (1717-1768), the first classical art historian, wrote a homoerotic frisson into his descriptions of antique statues. He identifies a transcendent beauty in the Apollo, calling it 'the most sublime of the statues of antiquity'.

Of the Belvedere Torso, he wrote, 'How magnificent is the arching of that chest!' It's hard not read such passages as (not so) sublimated desire, especially since he pursued relationships with men.

# BELVEDERE TORSO

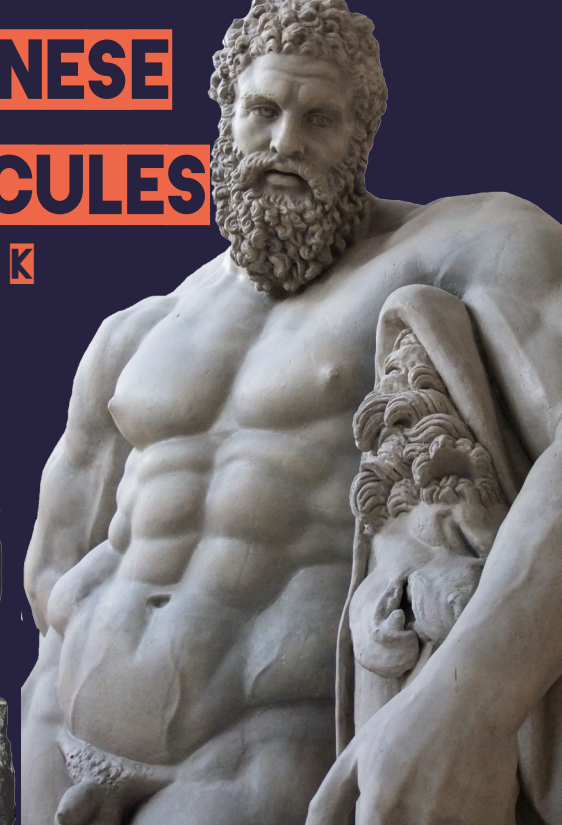
BAY K



# FARNESE

# HERCULES

BAY K



In so many ways, Hercules was the most manly of all the Greek heroes. But there is also a story that Hercules and the Lydian queen Omphale swapped gender identities: as her slave for a year, she had him dress in women's clothing and work wool, while she wore his famous lionskin and hefted his club.

# TEMPLE OF ZEUS

BAY C



Peirithoos was a fool to invite the centaurs to his wedding. At just a sniff of wine, they lost control of their animalistic urges and began to abduct the female guests. On the west pediment of the Temple of Zeus at Olympia, they're shown as equally unable to rein in their desire for the young men: look closely and they're carrying them off, too.

# GANYMEDE - BAY F

Look out for little Ganymede. Zeus' eagle is carrying him off to become the god's favourite cupbearer. The king of the gods may be famous for his affairs with women, but he also pursued young men when the mood took him.

# THE WRESTLERS

BAY G

The tangled bodies of the Wrestlers evoke the heat and sweat of bodies thrust together in physical exertion. It should be no surprise that the frame of competitive sport has long provided a legitimate opportunity for a far more carnal mode of viewing the pleasures of the flesh..



TRAIL CONTINUES ON THE OTHER SIDE...



# FAST FACTS

## PAEDERASTY,

from Greek paiderastia, from pais, 'boy' + erastes 'lover'. Relationships between older men and younger partners were almost institutionalised in parts of ancient Greece, providing a mentoring dynamic as well as homoerotic release. The age of the pais is a bit of a puzzle, but due to puberty hitting later in pre-industrial cultures they may have been as old as 16 or 17. They weren't little boys.

## INTERCRURAL,

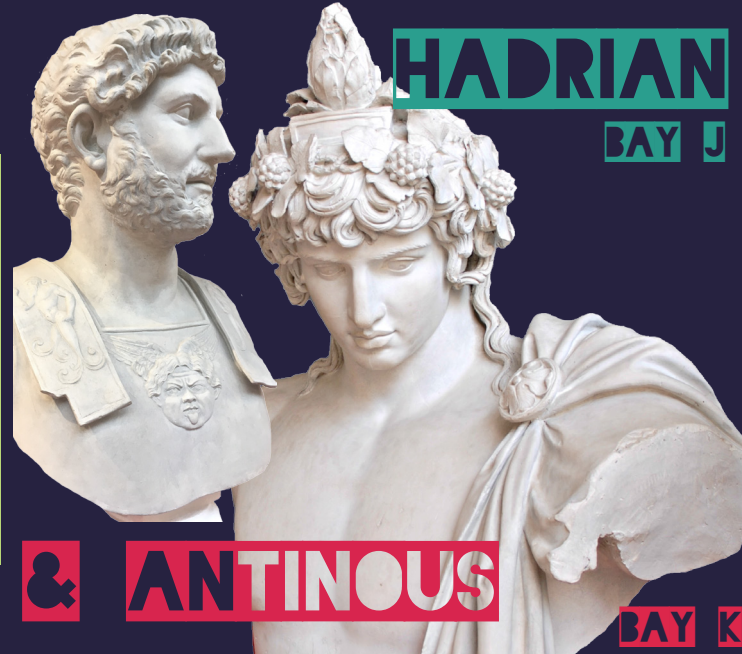
*adj.*: Between the legs. Some scholars think kouroi have thickly-muscled legs because older men took their enjoyment between their younger partner's thighs.

## CINAEDES

Sex between men was a bit different in Rome: it was good to be an active partner, but bad to be passive. *Cinaedus* was a term of invective as much as identity, denoting a man who allowed himself to be penetrated. But the *cinaedus* was also hyper-sexualised and could be thought of as being especially attractive to women.

## BUT... WHERE ARE THE GIRLS?

Depictions of same-sex female desire are hard to find: public sculpture just didn't tease women in the same way as it did men. Representations of what could be women in love or lust are more frequently identified in smaller media like Greek vases, but even then it's difficult to know if they're just friends.



**HADRIAN**  
BAY J

**& ANTIKINOS**  
BAY K

The Roman Emperor Hadrian (Bay J) and his boytoy Antinous (Bay K) were star-crossed lovers: Antinous died in a suspicious drowning incident in the river Nile (did he jump? or was he pushed?). But, lest we forget the ancients were not like us, it's also possible to read them as the paradigmatic power couple rather than true love. Their relationship was surely defined as much by posturing as by desire: Hadrian performed a very public form of Greek love by taking a younger male lover and the handsome Antinous was deified as a god after his death...

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# QUEER

# ANTIQUITIES

## WE DON'T KNOW

## WHAT HAPPENED

## BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

## 2000 YEARS AGO

## BUT THERE ARE

## CLUES...

## FOLLOW

## THIS TRAIL

## TO FIND OUT MORE.

## START HERE

## BAY A



**Kouroi** are statues of naked young men which sprang up across the Greek world, in temples and on graves, remarkably quickly at the beginning of the sixth century. In their all-too-perfect nudity, kouroi mark up the male body as a site of desire....