Tiber Muse, 56.12 G230

The Tiber Muse: Gallery Label - Current

Although discovered in the vicinity of the Tiber River in Rome in 1885, the style of this statue's drapery suggests that it originated in a workshop in Greece or Asia Minor. The Roman importation and copying of Greek sculpture are well documented, from the time of the Roman conquests of Greeks territories in the third century B.C. and throughout the imperial era (27 B.C.-about 395 A.D.). The public exhibition of Greek spoils encouraged Romans to collect Greek art and commission new works in similar styles. Displaying statuary of Greek origin or appearance eventually became a mark of one's social status and education.

Questions:
- What one word would you use to describe this sculpture?
- What do you see that gives you the impression of fabric?
- We don't know who she is because of the missing pieces. If you were a detective what clues would you use to determine her identity?
- What does the clothing tell you about the climate?

Key Points:
- Found in Tiber River in 1850s
  - During construction of the Ponte Garibaldi bridge in Rome (see attached photo and drawing props)
- Greek Sculpture in the style Hellenistic Sculpture
  - Clothing: 2 layers finely pleated long chiton, heavier himation or montel, armlet, sandal
- Style of Lysippean sculpture of Jason
  - Lysippos of Sikyon 11 miles NW of Corinth—300BCE Sculptor,
    - Pose similar to his Jason: one foot on rock, torsional movement, reaching down to sandal
  - Deep undercut folds indicate Greek origin
- Ideal Greek Beauty
- Rare because it has not been reworked, appears to be totally original
- Who is she?
  - Missing head and arms---can't tell who she is
  - Clues-
    - Posture of Aphrodite or Hygeia-- personified health
    - pose indicates that of a muse
      - Muse: Greek deities of poetry, lit, music, dance; later all intellectual pursuits
      - Personification of intellectual and artistic inspiration
      - Museum---place to connect with muses and the arts that inspired them
      - any school--Place of the muses

Notes:

Greek--- Idealized female
    Pandora, Ellen D. Reeder.
    Ideal: beautiful, beautiful voice, intelligent to run household, tall, industrious, well born, fertile, virtuous, modest passive, submissive, invisible.
    Actual: incapable of restraining insatiable sex drive. Sensuality-potential to subvert male, family, society.
Hellenistic—increased expansion of non-generic figures, less ideal more specific
Marble –first used mid 7th century BCE
Aphrodite Greek god of love, beauty, raw sexuality
Muses: Greed deities of poetry, lit, music, dance. Later—all intellectual pursuits
    Most lovable and influential creations, personification of highest intellectual and artistic inspiration

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Hellenistic p.368
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Prager Encyclopedia of Ancient Greek Civilization
       Aphrodite p. 43

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Oxford Classical Dictionary
       Aphrodite p.81
       Hygeia p.533
       Muses p.704-5

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Ancient Greek Dress | Thematic Essay | Heilbrunn Timeline of Art History | The Metropolitan Museum of Art
       http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/grdr/hd_grdr.htm

Women in Classical Greece | Thematic Essay | Heilbrunn Timeline of Art History | The Metropolitan Museum of Art
       http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/wmna/hd_wmna.htm

Ave Roma Immortalis Vol.2 by Francis Marion Crawford, Copyright 1899 p.137
       Source of the Ponte Garibaldi drawing attached

Photos of Tiber Muse Back and Side, Bridge Photo, Drawing