

Aphrodite and Pan with Eros

The portrayal of deities is a common theme within Ancient Greek sculpture. It is obvious that it is Aphrodite, the goddess of love, because she is portrayed in the nude. She is accompanied by her son Eros. Pan, who is a half man half goat god, is shown flirting with Aphrodite. He is often associated with fertility. As all the figures depicted in the sculpture are associated with love it is not surprising that they are all in the same sculpture.

All three figures seem to be in a playful mood. Aphrodite is almost teasing Pan. This can be seen that although she is wearing no clothes she is still bothering to cover her pubic area with one of her hands. Whilst doing this she is giving Pan a teasing smile. Pan on the other hand is in a very playful mood. This is shown through the way that Pan is looking at Aphrodite as if almost transfixed. As well as this, he is trying to pull away Aphrodite's hand from her pubic area. Eros meanwhile is also in a playful mood. He can be seen trying to draw Aphrodite and Pan together and he also has a playful look in his smile.

The scene can be seen as being comical. This is because the most beautiful of all of the goddesses Aphrodite is being flirted with by Pan who although he is a god is also a satyr which means he is a half goat half man. This is comical because not only is it a playful scene, but Pan thinks that he has a chance to seduce Aphrodite.

The sculptor has shown great skill in this piece. Normally a sculptor could show his great skill through the drapery of the clothing and the way that it falls, however, although there is no clothing in this statue because Aphrodite is portrayed in the nude, he manages to show his skills in a different way. His skills can be seen in the way that he sculpts Pan. This is impressive because he has managed to sculpt the shaggy legs and hair as well as the horns and hoofs on Pan and managing to make these look realistic. It is even more impressive that

the sculptor has managed to make these features look realistic because elements such as shaggy hair and hoofs are not commonly used in sculpture, so he probably would not have had much practise.

The other way in which the sculptor shows his great skill is through the way that he manages to make it look like Eros is flying. It was not of course possible for the sculptor to make Eros levitate but the sculptor has created it in such in a way that the viewer cannot see the support system. This gives the viewer the impression that Eros is flying all his own accord.

To conclude I believe that the sculptor has done an excellent job depicting the figures in the sculpture. This is because he has found a way to portray the figures in a playful manner whilst showing his artistic skills by using complicated techniques such as making Eros appear to be flying.



Aphrodite and Pan

National Archaeological Museum, Athens

Hellenistic

ca 100 BCE

From Delos, House of the Poseidoniasts of Beirut