

12 Casts Stories

This is about the Canova casts, not the casts themselves but the stories of the subjects of the casts.

The people, mythological or real, are often not the focus of discussions about these pieces. Usually discussions about the piece concern the artist, when it was made, the technical skill set, and that is all very important.

But these casts can be an educational window into more than just the art, but history, mythology and philosophy can all be explored through these casts.

A Bit About the Casts

The Canova casts are a collection of 12 casts currently displayed in the Crawford Art Gallery, Cork.

They are plaster casts of famous Classical and Neoclassical statues intended for use as study material for art students (for which they are still used today).

They were commissioned by Pope Pius VII and by the flows and tides of politics they ended up in Cork and have become the basis for the modern Crawford Art Gallery's collection.

THE GODDESS CONCORDIA

This is Concordia, the Roman Goddess of "concord" or agreement. She appeared on Roman coins and was extremely popular with members of the Roman state. During times of war, the goddess would meet in her temple.



We know this is Concordia because of her distinctive features (sacrificial bowl), long cloak, and crown.

THE MOTHER OF NAPOLEON THE GREAT

Letizia Bonaparte was born in 1760 into an Italian family. She married the man who would become Napoleon Bonaparte. After the death of her husband in 1821 she took her family and they were exiled to the island of St. Helena.



When her son was crowned as emperor the French said "Pouvry que ça dure" meaning "let's hope this lasts for life because the time comes and fortune could be lost as easily as it is gained."

Bathing Venus

Venus was the Roman goddess of love, beauty, desire and fertility. Her Greek form was Aphrodite.



Plato described Venus as the most beautiful of all the gods. She was the goddess of love and beauty.

Adonis

Adonis is a figure from classical mythology. He was the mortal lover of Aphrodite (Venus). One day he was hunting and was fatally wounded by a wild boar in the mountains of Cilicia. He was buried in the mountains of Cilicia. He became the narcissus flower.

Adonis is a figure from classical mythology. He was the mortal lover of Aphrodite (Venus). One day he was hunting and was fatally wounded by a wild boar in the mountains of Cilicia. He was buried in the mountains of Cilicia. He became the narcissus flower.

The Adonis of Adonis - John William Waterhouse

Head of a little fawn - and - The piping fawn

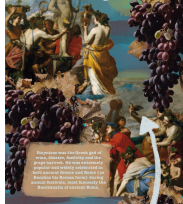


Apollo Belvedere

Apollo was the Greek god of the sun, the arts, music and horses. He was said to pull the sun across the sky in a chariot.

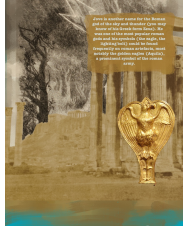
Apollo is the Greek god of the sun, the arts, music and horses. He was said to pull the sun across the sky in a chariot.

Bust of Dionysus



We know that is Dionysus because of the distinctive grape vine in his hair.

The Jove of Otricoli



Bust of Socrates