

PROGRAMS

HEROES

Heroes: Mortals and Myths in Ancient Greece **January 29 – April 25, 2010**

This exhibition has been organized by the Walters Art Museum, Baltimore, in cooperation with the Frist Center for the Visual Arts, Nashville, the San Diego Museum of Art, and the Onassis Foundation (USA), New York.

JANUARY

8 Friday
Films at the Frist: *Superman*
7:00 p.m.
Auditorium
Free

A four-part film series designed in conjunction with the *Heroes: Mortals and Myths in Ancient Greece* exhibition will examine what it means to be a hero. It will start with the iconic hero in the red cape in *Superman*, delve into the eternal beauty of the woman who was the impetus for the Trojan War in *Helen of Troy*, examine the strength and bravery of Ancient Greek warriors with the movie *300*, and will finish with the everyday hero Atticus Finch in *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

About *Superman*:

When the greatest scientist on the planet of Krypton, Jor-El, is unable to convince the council that their planet is nearing a fatal shift in orbit, he assumes the duty of preserving the Krypton race. Only moments before the planet is destroyed, he sends his infant son, Kal-El, to Earth in a starship. Raised on a farm by the Kents, the young boy is given a new name (Clark Kent). As he grows, Clark realizes he has superhuman powers that set him apart from those around him. The Kents advise him to use his powers wisely, and once Clark leaves home, he discovers how he can use his abilities to protect Earth in memory of his home planet Krypton. As an adult in Metropolis, Clark assumes the role of a reporter for the *Daily Planet*, while secretly transforming and protecting the city as Superman. Starring Christopher Reeve, Marlon Brando, Gene Hackman, and Margot Kidder. Directed by Richard Donner, 1978. 143 minutes. 35mm. Rated PG.

29 Friday
Curator's Perspective: "Heroes and Mortals in Ancient Greece"
6:30 p.m.
Auditorium
Free

Dr. Regine Schulz, director of international curatorial relations and curator of ancient art at the Walters Museum of Art, will explore the integral cultural role heroes played in ancient Greek society. Their stories created norms, defined trends, and shaped behavior. Our English word "hero" is derived from the Greek word *heros*, which represents the earliest concept of heroes in human history. Although they were not gods, but mortals who lived and died, the ancient Greeks believed that heroes had superhuman powers, especially after death when they had power over the living. As a consequence, they were worshiped alongside the gods.

This lecture will present the lifecycles, distinctive characteristics, and unique tales of some of these heroes, such as Heracles and Odysseus, and will also ask the question: did the famous Helen really have the qualities essential to being a heroine? And although they were not heroes in the Greek sense, the admiration of

musicians and dancers will be also discussed since they served as role models for society and were similar to our contemporary heroes.

FEBRUARY

5 Friday
ARTini
7:00 p.m.
Meet at the information desk
Free with purchase of gallery admission

Join Anne Henderson, director of education and outreach at the Frist Center, as she leads an informal conversation about one or two works of art in this exhibition. Complete your evening by relaxing in the Grand Lobby with beverages from the café, including special ARTinis, and visiting with friends.

9 Tuesday
ARTini
12:00 p.m.
Meet at the information desk
Free with purchase of gallery admission

Take a break from your day and join Anne Henderson, director of education and outreach at the Frist Center, as she leads an informal conversation about one or two works of art in this exhibition. Complete your visit with stop in the café or gift store.

11 Thursday
Gallery Talk
7:00 p.m.
Meet at the information desk
Free with purchase of gallery admission

Join Anne Taylor, curator of interpretation at the Frist Center, for a tour of this exhibition. Complete your evening by enjoying Music in the Grand Lobby or visiting with friends in the café.

12 Friday
Films at the Frist: *Helen of Troy*
7:00 p.m.
Auditorium
Free

After being shipwrecked on a peace-seeking mission to Sparta, Prince Paris of Troy is washed up on a beach, where he meets and falls in love with a woman he thinks is a slave girl. Determined to carry out his mission and deliver the peaceful intentions of his king, Paris soon leaves the woman to make his way to the Spartan Palace. There, he meets King Menelaus and soon realizes that the woman he loves is actually Queen Helen of Sparta. Menelaus, in turn, quickly recognizes the feelings Paris and Helen have for each other and has the Prince of Troy arrested. Not wanting any harm to come to him, Helen decides to help Paris escape and ends up

fleeing Troy with him. This impetuous action is the one that launched a thousand ships and became the impetus for the Trojan War. Starring Rossana Podestà and Jacques Sernas. Directed by Robert Wise, 1956. 118 minutes. DVD. Not Rated.

25 Thursday
Off the Wall Lecture Series: "The Places of the Gods and Heroes in Ancient Greece"

Auditorium
6:30 p.m.
Free

The gods and heroes occupied every aspect of life and place in the world of the ancient Greeks. God and heroes were worshiped in major sanctuaries and small shrines. They appeared in the agora (civic center) and oversaw the passage of laws. Even houses were protected by gods and heroes.

Barbara Tsakirgis, Ph.D., associate professor of classics and art history and chair of the Department of Classical Studies at Vanderbilt University, will present an illustrated lecture that introduces the audience to Greek city life and examines the role of gods and heroes in the daily lives of the ancient Greeks.

26 Friday
Adult Workshop: Art Bites: Heroic Foods
4:30–8:00 p.m.

Frist Center Studios
\$70 members; \$80 non-members. Cost includes all supplies and gallery admission. Call 615.744.3247 to register.

When thinking of the ancient Greeks, cooking may not readily come to mind. The Greeks, however, were the first to think of cooking as an art form. Join Maite Gomez-Rejón of ArtBites in reading ancient texts and discovering the role of food and wine in antiquity while exploring *Heroes: Mortals and Myths in Ancient Greece*. Then prepare—and enjoy—a meal fit for a hero!

27 Saturday
Adult Workshop: Art Bites: Heroic Foods
10:30 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

Frist Center Studios
\$70 members; \$80 non-members. Cost includes all supplies and gallery admission. Call 615.744.3247 to register.

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MARCH

12 Friday
Films at the Frist: 300
7:00 p.m.
Auditorium
Free

This American action film based on Frank Miller's graphic novel by the same title is a fictional retelling of the Battle of Thermopylae that took place in 480 BCE. Through larger-than-life scenes, *300* depicts the heroic and borderline impetuous Spartan Army and their struggle to preserve freedom and democracy. Led by King Leonidas, the Spartan's small army of three hundred launches a battle against the much larger Persian military. Despite knowing their fate, the Greeks, who are joined by seven hundred Thespians, stand against the Persians for as long as they can in order to give the rest of Greece more time to prepare for the invasion. Starring: Gerard Butler, Lena Headey, Dominic West, and Rodrigo Santoro. Directed by Zack Snyder, 2007. 117 minutes. 35mm. Rated R.

18 Thursday
Off the Wall Lecture Series: "Heroes Ancient and Modern: Toward a History of an Idea"
6:30 p.m.
Auditorium
Free

The word hero has a different meaning in our contemporary world than it did during the time of the ancient Greeks. Dr. Timothy F. Winters, professor of classics at Austin Peay State University, will focus on the way ancient writers thought about heroes, while offering examples of them. He will also explore the evolution of the word "hero" into its current usage, which connotes something very different than it did in ancient Greece.

APRIL

1 Thursday
Off the Wall Lecture: "The Ambivalent Heroine: Femininity in Ancient Greece"
6:30 p.m.
Auditorium
Free

In a culture in which the dominant ideal was masculine, what made one a heroine? In this Off the Wall lecture Mireille Lee, Ph. D., assistant professor of the history of art at Vanderbilt University, will discuss what it meant to be a heroine in ancient Greek culture. Helen, for instance, was admired for her great beauty, but reviled for her wantonness. Similarly, goddesses such as Athena, Hera, Artemis, and Aphrodite displayed both positive and negative characteristics. And while we might admire the Amazons or Circe for their modern sensibilities, they were really objects of apprehension for the Greeks. But if mythology provided few models for women, ancient Greek vase-paintings and sculptures display images of the feminine ideal to which all aspired: beautiful and industrious, yet modest and circumspect. The true heroine embodied these cultural ideals.

9 Friday
Films at the Frist: To Kill a Mockingbird
7:00 p.m.
Auditorium
Free

This last film in the four-part Films at the Frist series, which was planned in conjunction with the exhibition *Heroes: Mortals and Myths in Ancient Greece*, examines what it means to be an everyday hero. Based on Harper Lee's Pulitzer Prize winning novel of 1960 by the same name, *To Kill a Mockingbird* introduces us to Atticus Finch, a lawyer in a racially divided town in Alabama during the 1930s. When a black man is accused of raping a white woman and set to go up against an all-white jury the odds seem stacked against him until Finch, a deeply principled man, puts his career on the line to defend him. Through the eyes of Finch's six-year-old daughter Scout and her adventures with her brother, Jem, and a friend named Dill, the story of a small southern town unfolds to reveal its true heroes and their dignified courage in the face of racial prejudice and violence. Starring Gregory Peck. Directed by Robert Mulligan, 1962. 129 minutes. 35mm.

Please visit the Martin ArtQuest Gallery for additional art-making and learning opportunities throughout the exhibition.



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