

# ALLEGORY

An allegory is the description of a subject in the guise of another subject. An allegorical painting might include figures emblematic of different emotional states of mind – for example envy or love – or personifying other abstract concepts, such as sight, glory, beauty, Revolution, or France. These are called allegorical figures. The interpretation of an allegory therefore depends first on the identification of such figures, but even then the meaning can remain elusive.

1575, Paolo Veronese, The four Allegories of love:



Infidelity



Scorn



Respect



The happy union



Hercules and the Hydra

Hans Holbein the Younger An Allegory of the Old and New Testaments early 1530s

**The nativity:** In a painting of the nativity list 4 people you expect to see in the image:

List other items/imagery you would expect to see:

What would the backdrop be of?:

List 3 colours you would see and what would they represent?:

# Allegory



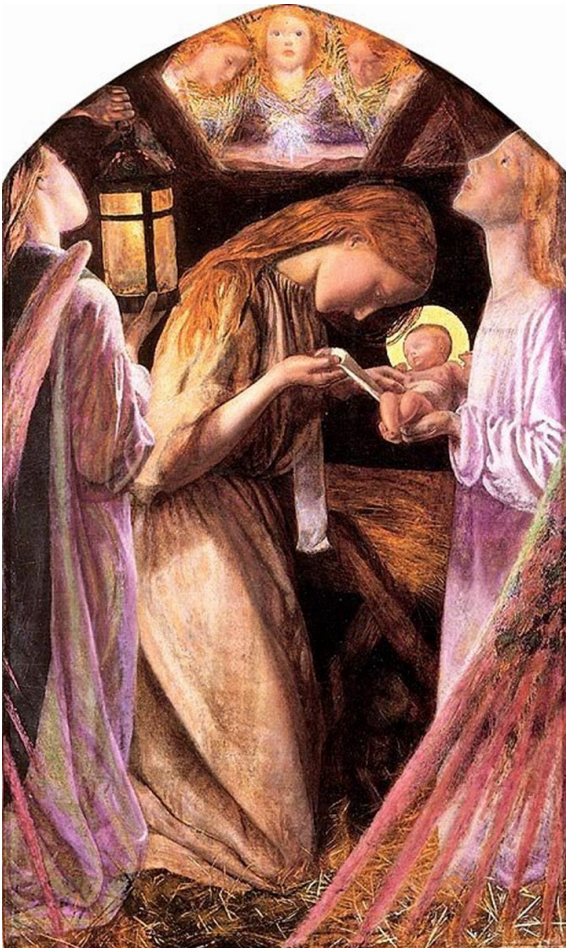
Petrus Christus, 1445



Gerard van Honthorst, 1622



Artist unknown, circa 1100's



Arthur Hughes, 1858



Conrad von Soest, 1403

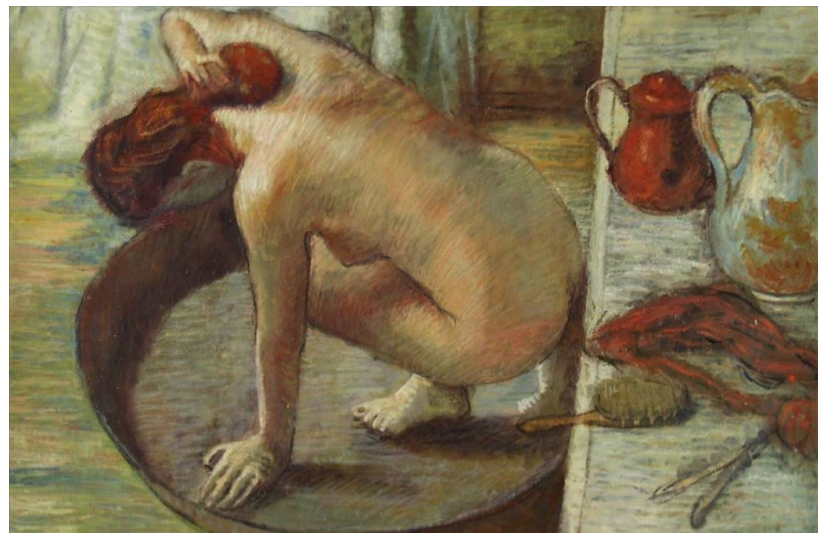
# ALLEGORY



Edgar Degas, sketches for 'The Dancers'



Augustus Egg, *The Travelling Companions* 1862



The Tub, 1886 by Edgar Degas



Blue Dancers, 1899



Mary Cassatt *Breakfast in Bed* 1897

# Allegory

Augustus Egg, Past and Present:



Mary Cassatt The Bath



Misfortune



Prayer



Mary Cassatt The Letter 1891



Despair

# Allegory



*Ophelia* by John Everett Millais 1852



*Dream Caused by the Flight of a Bee Around a Pomegranate a Second Before Awakening* (1944) Salvador Dalí.



John William Waterhouse's *The Lady of Shalott*, 1888



Magritte's "La Trahison des Images" ("The Treachery of Images") (1928-9) or "Ceci n'est pas une pipe" ("This is not a pipe"). Sometimes translated as "The Betrayal of Images" By René Magritte.



Joseph Kosuth one and three chairs 1965

At 491 cm x 716 cm (16' 1" x 23' 6"), it is an over-life-size painting that depicts a moment from the aftermath of the wreck of the French naval frigate *Méduse*, which ran aground off the coast of today's Mauritania on 2 July 1816. On 5 July 1816, at least 147 people were set adrift on a hurriedly constructed raft; all but 15 died in the 13 days before their rescue, and those who survived endured starvation and dehydration and practiced cannibalism. The event became an international scandal, in part because its cause was widely attributed to the incompetence of the French captain.



Chinese opera masks each colour and style depicts a different meaning.

| Greek      | Roman   | Role                           |
|------------|---------|--------------------------------|
| Hera       | Juno    | Chief Goddess - marriage       |
| Aphrodite  | Venus   | Goddess of beauty              |
| Artemis    | Diana   | Goddess of hunting             |
| Athena     | Minerva | Goddess of wisdom              |
| Demeter    | Ceres   | Goddess of the harvest, nature |
| Hestia     | Vesta   | Goddess of the hearth          |
| Zeus       | Jupiter | Chief God - sky and air        |
| Apollon    | Apollo  | God of poetry, music, Sun      |
| Ares       | Mars    | God of war                     |
| Hephaistos | Vulcan  | God of blacksmiths             |
| Hermes     | Mercury | Messenger of the gods          |
| Poseidon   | Neptune | God of the sea                 |

### SYMBOLS IN CHURCHES

The Almighty

~ the first three letters of the Greek word for Christ

Trinity

Eternity

~ Resurrection and new life

Fleur-de-lis ~ purity

Rose

Fish ~ all symbols for Christ

The Crown of Thorns and Nails

Phoenix ~ Resurrection

~ Peter and Paul the Two Pillars of the Church

Tree of Jesse - ancestry of Christ

Rooster ~ the cock that crowed after Peter's denial

Lamb

Crosed Keys



ALLEGORY

Hieronymus Bosch, *The Garden of Earthly Delights*, oil on oak panels, 220 cm x 389 cm (87 in x 153 in)



# Allegory

Automat, 1927 by Edward Hopper



Cindy Sherman

film still #12 1977



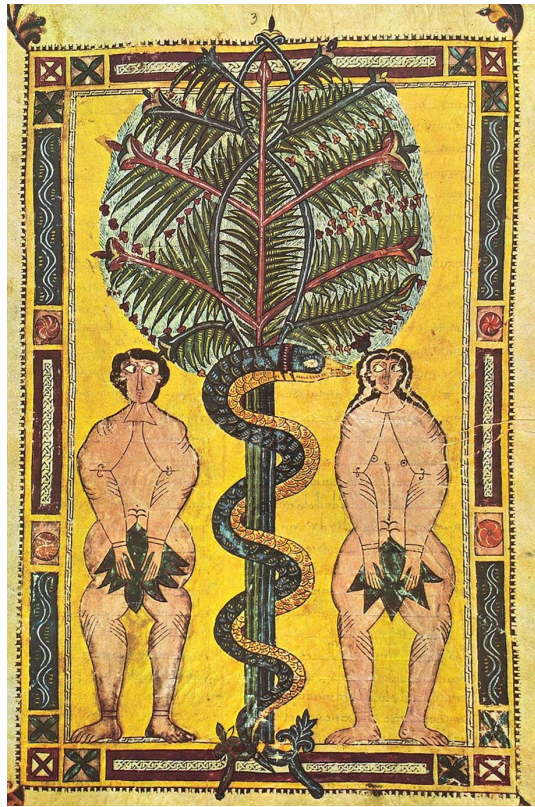
#58 1980



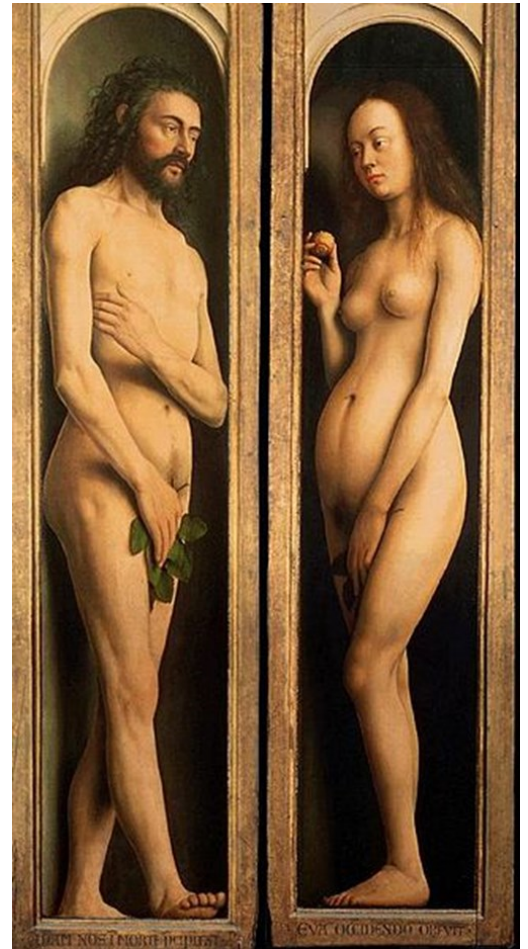
# A<sup>dam</sup> and E<sup>ve</sup>



Gustav Klimt 1862-1918



Illuminated manuscript circa 950,  
Escorial Beatus



Ghent Altarpiece 1432 Jan Van Eyck

Watercolour Illustration to Milton's *Paradise Lost*  
William Blake 1808 the creation of Adam and Eve.



The *Fajnama* (Book of Omens) ascribed to Ja'far al-Sadiq, ca. 1550

# ALLEGORY

The  
kiss:



Auguste Rodin  
1882–1889

1895, drypoint, and  
aquatint on card, Edvard Munch



Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec 1892

1969 by Pablo Picasso



Auguste Toulmouche 1829-1890

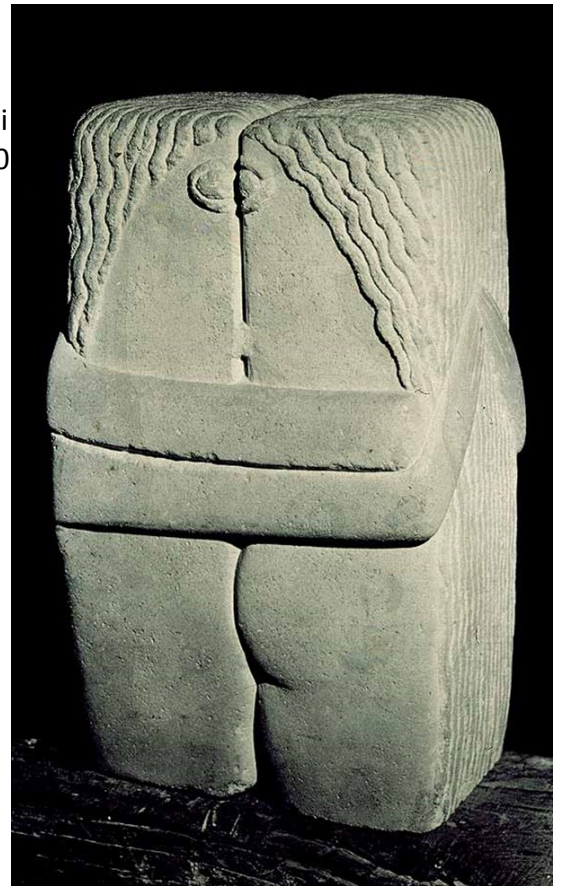


# Λίλεθγ

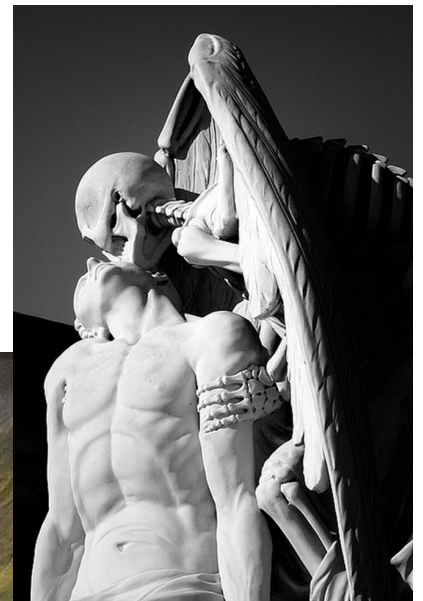
Constantin Brâncuși  
1910



Gustav Klimt (Lovers), 1907–1908



Gustav Wertheimer *The Kiss of the Siren* 1882



The Kiss of Death (*El Petó de la Mort* in Catalan and *El beso de la muerte* in Spanish) dates back to 1930