

## Images of Myths in Classical Antiquity

Myths inspired Greek and Roman artists to rise to the challenge of conveying flowing narratives in static form. This book describes the different ways painters, sculptors, and other artists explored and exploited the dense forest of myth. It explains how formulas were devised for certain stories; how these could be adapted, developed, and even transferred to other contexts; how one myth could be distinguished from another – or confused with it; how myths related to daily life or political propaganda; and the influence of evolving tastes.

Written in a lively and accessible style, fully illustrated with examples drawn from a wide range of media, *Images of Myths in Classical Antiquity* provides fresh and stimulating insights into the representation of myths in Greek and Roman art.

Dr. Susan Woodford teaches Greek and Roman art for the University of London and is engaged in research for the Department of Greek and Roman Antiquities at the British Museum. A former Fulbright Scholar and Woodrow Wilson Fellow, she has written extensively on classical art for learned journals and is the author of several books, including *The Parthenon*, *The Art of Greece and Rome*, *An Introduction to Greek Art*, and *The Trojan War in Ancient Art*.

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Frontmatter

# IMAGES OF MYTHS IN CLASSICAL ANTIQUITY

SUSAN WOODFORD



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## FOR HELEN

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ὅστις δὲ πλοῦτον ἢ σθένος μᾶλλον φίλων  
ἀγαθῶν πεπᾶσθαι βούλεται, κακῶς φρονεῖ.

– Euripides, *The Madness of Herakles*, lines 1425–1426

Only a fool would prefer wealth or power to true friends.

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## Note on Terminology and Spelling

### PERIODS IN GREEK AND ROMAN ART

#### *Greek*

**Archaic:** the style of early Greek art from about the middle of the 7th century BC to the beginning of the 5th century BC.

**Classical:** Greek art produced between the end of the Persian wars (490–479 BC) and the death of Alexander the Great (323 BC).

**Hellenistic:** the period from the death of Alexander the Great, when Greek art was further developed over the wide area that had been conquered by Alexander and was ruled by his successors to the final conquest of all the Hellenistic Kingdoms by Rome in 31 BC.

#### *Roman*

**Republican:** the early phase of Roman art, much influenced by the Etruscans, lasting from the 6th century BC through the 1st century BC.

**Imperial:** Roman art under the emperors, starting with the first emperor, Augustus (ruled from 27 BC–AD 14).

\* \* \*

*Attic* is the adjective pertaining to Athens and the art produced by the Athenians.

**SPELLING**

The transliteration of Greek names is problematic. Many have long been familiar in Anglicised (e.g., Priam) or Latinised (e.g., Achilles, Ajax) forms. Others are now more commonly found in forms closer to the original Greek (e.g., Herakles).

Early on I abandoned any hope of being consistent in the spelling of Greek names. I have usually tried to use the form that seemed to me most familiar to an English-speaking public or the form most suitable to the context (that is, transliterating from Greek for less familiar Greek myths and using Latin spelling when the context is a Roman myth or work of art). The alternative spelling (when there is one) is given in the Glossary.