

Basic Detail Report



Minerva Giving to Venus a Bridle to Curb Cupid

Date

1556-1629

Primary Maker

Otto van Veen

Medium

Oil on canvas

Description

This is an oil on canvas painting of pagan gods and goddesses. At the center of the composition is Venus, goddess of love, whose son Cupid curls up beside her. Venus has thrown her purple cloak upon the ground to enjoy the company of Ceres (a buxom peasant holding a shaft of wheat), Bacchus (peering over Ceres' shoulder and holding a bunch of grapes) and Silenus (an amorous figure whose ample flesh is a testament to his indulgence in Ceres' fruits and Bacchus's wine). On the right, Saturn appears as the emblem of Time, and at his side is Minerva, representing wisdom, hands a bridle to Venus so that she might restrain herself from the temptations of Ceres, Silenus and Bacchus.

Dimensions

Overall: 64 x 101 in. (162.6 x 256.5 cm)