

	Object:	Venus Disarming Cupid
	Museum:	Szépművészeti Múzeum Dózsa György út 41. 1146 Budapest
	Collection:	Grafikai Gyűjtemény
	Inventory number:	GRA_1890

Description

The splendid drawing is one of the most elaborate versions of the theme that preoccupied the painter for a long time and was popular in the sixteenth century. According to Ovid's *Metamorphoses* Cupid accidentally wounded, with his arrow, his mother Venus, who then fell in love with the mighty but mortal hunter Adonis. Consequently, the goddess of love came to experience all the torments of consuming passion. The furious Venus therefore disarms her son. More than half a dozen surviving studies testify that Parmigianino initially envisaged a highly dynamic composition. The goddess provides a masterful example of the *figura serpentinata*, an exaggerated and elegant twisted pose, which was beloved of Mannerist and Baroque artists. The pink prepared paper, the wash rich in tones and the painterly use of body colour are evocative of chiaroscuro woodcuts (colour woodcut printed from different woodblocks). Between 1527 and 1530, when the drawings were made, Parmigianino was working with the woodcutter Antonio da Trento, and so the Budapest sheet was possibly intended for woodcuts, which was probably never realized. Text: © Zoltán Kárpáti, 2015

Basic data

Material/Technique:	prepared paper / pen, wash, ink, white heightening, black chalk
Measurements:	188 x 143 mm

Events

Drawn	When	1527-1530
	Who	Parmigianino (1503-1540)
	Where	

Keywords

- Drawing
- olasz