

	Object:	Fairy Ilona Meeting her Lover, sketch
	Museum:	Magyar Nemzeti Galéria Szent György tér 2. 1014 Budapest (20) 439 7325
	Collection:	Grafikai Gyűjtemény
	Inventory number:	GRO_1900-303

Description

Mór Than's first significant state commission came for the interior decoration of the Vigadó Concert Hall designed by Frigyes Feszl, which he made together with Károly Lotz. The story of Fairy Ilona and Prince Árgirus is the theme of the cycle of frescos, which was chosen because certain elements were thought to be related to Hungarian folk tales. The artist's composition presents Ilona meeting her lover again. As this was the first Hungarian fine arts depiction of the story, the painter could not rely on any concrete Hungarian antecedents for presenting the figures, thus they recall the classical prototypes of Italian Renaissance, primarily those of Raphael, while the prince is dressed like figures in engravings depicting 19th-century romantic stories. The composition's energetic animation recalls the mass scenes of historical painting, while certain elements refer to earlier iconographic traditions, such as the figure with the harp, the dancers below him, the cupids or the cloth held behind the fairy queen, which in the painting appears in black, decorated with stars – an attribute of the gods, a sign of immortality.

Basic data

Material/Technique:	paper / pencil
Measurements:	387 × 760 mm

Events

Drawn	When	1863
	Who	Mór Than (1828-1899)
	Where	

Keywords

- Graphics