

3 8 The Famous Two Venus

The basic difference

with “The Sleeping Venus” and “The Venus of Urbino”

2020

Tomonori Manabe

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“The Sleeping Venus” 1510  
Giorgione



“The Venus of Urbino” 1538  
Titian

1 What is the basic difference about the Sleeping Venus and the Venus of Urbino?

The answer is very simple – the Venus in “the sleeping Venus” is the idle Venus in the ancient Greek or Roman story, but “the Venus of Urbino” is the reality nude.

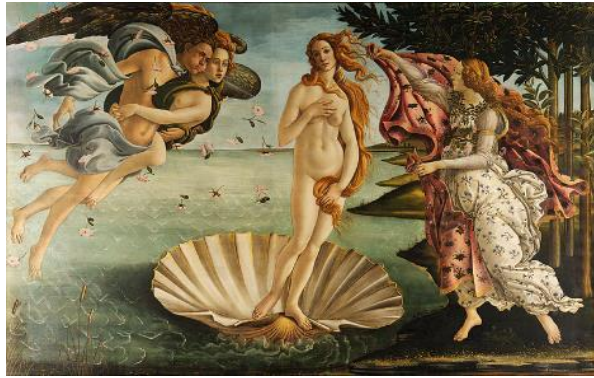
We know that the Greek and Roman sculptor expressed the Venuses as a nude woman.

But, the painter Giorgione in Renaissance period expressed Venus in the painting for the first time.

We easily notice that the head part is not harmonized with her body. In other words, the head part is too small for her body like mannerism art style.

The reason is not the poor ability of his drawing, but the image of

an ideal human body and he didn't use a model.  
We can see the same drawing style in "The birth of Venus" by Botticelli.



"The birth of Venus" Botticelli. 1483

The Venus has a small head and long neck. The human body proportion is not the same as a real one.

The common point of two painting is not using an art model, and by it we interpret that these Venuses are the one in heaven.

On the other side, "Venus of Urbino" is based on an order from the ruler of Urbino, and imaged object was a specific model.

So, the expression of "Venus of Urbino" is realistic, and finally the difference between the former two painting and "Venus of Urbino" is very big.

Try to continue founding the difference between "Sleeping Venus" and "Venus of Urbino"

Next focus is the background of these paintings.

We easily find that the background of "Sleeping Venus" is not usual.

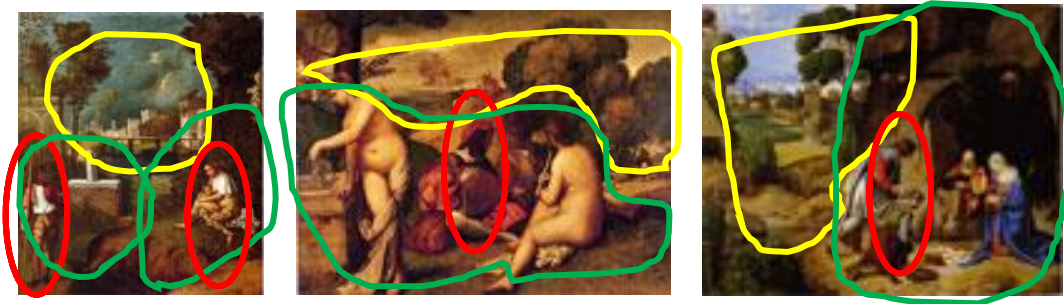
The Venus looks like staying outdoor.

But, the truth is, not so.

Giorgione gave a special meaning in the outdoor background.

The common rule of Giorgione's painting is that the main scene with the countryside background means "fictional ground".

For example, these 3 paintings are all made by same rule.



“The storm”      “The ensemble in the country”      “The adoration of the Shepherds”

- Figures in the red circle are the deceased and Venus with a baby as his deceased wife.
- The space in the green circle represent heaven.
- The space in the yellow circle means real ground.
- The 3 paintings are all made by synthesis of Heaven and the real ground.

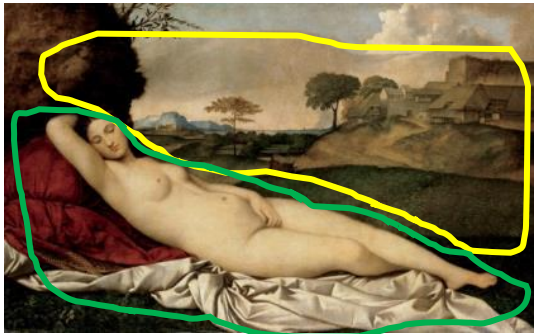
Giorgione painted not the usual scene of living people or visible country background, but he illustrated the world according to his liking.

In other words, Giorgione painted the complex scene of main scene and the background, but Titian painted these as total one' s scene.

We need to know that Giorgione doesn' t paint a normal world that we usually see.

The least, if Titian had painted the background of the “Sleeping Venus” after the death of Giorgione, “Sleeping Venus” must be like typical Giorgione' s work with his basic painting rule.

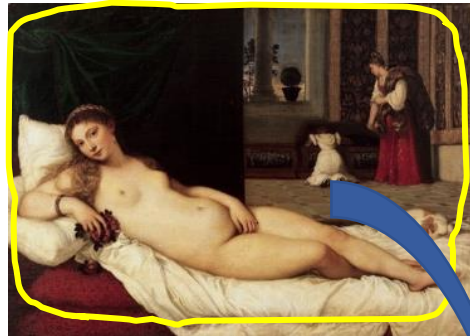
On the other hand, the all scene of “Venus of Urbino” by Titian is painted from a real visual description.



“The Sleeping Venus” 1510

Venus in Heaven

The Description style of Giorgione



“The Venus of Urbino” 1538

Naked woman as Venus on the ground

The Description style of Titian

- The yellow circle means the ground scene.
- The green circle means heavenly
- We need to judge the description style, Giorgione’ s or Titian’ s style it.

It’ s very important to be cautious on the description style of these painting to know who had done it.

Is it Giorgione’ s style or Titian’ s style?

Because, we need to be familiar with their style to be able to distinguish them.

Try to scrutinize the next work by studying the painting technique used.



Naked Maha 1797 Goya

\*The Titian’ s style painting, not Giorgione’ s.

Of course, this work is Titian’ s style of work, not of Giorgione’ s style, one as a symbol of Heaven.

We must deny the style expression when we see a nude work.

Two painting style is clearly different, so we need to distinguish

every style that is displayed.

Finally, when we see an art work of a naked woman, the most important point is that we know in advance the difference between Giorgione' s style—one as a representation of Heaven or Titian' s style—one as a real space.