

<http://www.openartsarchive.org/open-arts-objects>

## Student handout

**presenter: Leah R. Clark**

**Object: Anonymous, plaquette of *Apollo and Marsyas*, fifteenth century, British Museum, 1915,1216.111**

In this short film, Dr Clark examines a Renaissance plaquette housed in the British Museum.

### *Before watching the film*

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1. What do you know of the Renaissance as a time period?
2. What do you think this work/object depicts or represents? Describe what you see on the screen (you might think of things like scale, how a viewer might interact with the object, or even use it). Can you identify any recognisable elements (plants, humans, animals, landscape features, architectural details, forms)?
3. How are the bodies rendered? Are they natural? Idealistic?
4. What function do you think this work serves/might have served?

### *After watching the film*

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1. What effects (aesthetic, social, political etc) do you think the artist and/or patron was trying to achieve in this work?
2. Does it have a recognisable purpose or function? Does this relate to the time period in which it was made?
3. Has the film helped you define some of the formal elements of the work/object? Consider scale, subject matter, medium, and other formal elements. What are the material properties of the object? What is it made out of?
4. How has this film helped your understanding of Renaissance mythology and the Renaissance's relationship with antiquity? How has it helped you identify formal elements of a sculpture?
5. What is its relevance for today? Can you relate it the use of images today? How do you know what a famous image looks like today, such as the *Mona Lisa*? Have you visited the *Mona Lisa* in the museum or have you seen it through a reproduction?

### Online Activity

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1. Search the image/collection of database of a museum (The [Victoria and Albert Museum](#), The [British Museum](#), The [National Gallery](#) in Washington, or [The Metropolitan Museum of Art](#), NY) using the term 'Apollo and Marsyas'

What do you find? What kinds of medium did you find the image in? What dates were the works you found?

2. Now do the same search for 'Apollo and Marsyas plaquette' (you can even do this on google image search)

What kind of observations you can make from your findings? What objects did you find? Are there differences between them? If it looks like the same object, can you discern differences in terms of material, visual appearance? Where are they located? What do they date from?

### Comparative analysis

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Fill out the table below, considering the following elements: date, subject matter, material, location, function, formal qualities. Use the empty boxes to comment on any other formal qualities or aspects of the works you would like to note.

At the top of the middle column, write down the information related to the plaquette, and on the left column, the information related to the Laocoön, such as artist, title, date, location.

Works of art		
date		
What is it?		
material		
Size/scale		
Subject matter		

Original location in the Renaissance		
How are the figures depicted?		
Composition		
Condition		
Function		