

**George Balanchine**, 1904–1983, choreography. "Silenus." Anti-masque in *The Triumph of Bacchus and Ariadne*. Ballet-cantata. Music, V. Rieti. First performed 9 Feb 1948, New York City Ballet, City Center, New York. [Reynolds 1977, p. 84]

**Elaine de Kooning**, 1920–. "Bacchus." Series of paintings, after Dalou's "Triumph of Silenus" (1884, Paris). Late 1970s–early 1980s. National Museum of Women in the Arts, Washington, D.C. [Washington 1987, p. 97–ill. / see also R. Slivka, "Elaine de Kooning: The Bacchus Painting," *Arts Magazine* 57 (Oct 1982): 6–9]

**Tony Harrison**, 1937–. (Silenus in) *The Trackers of Oxyrhynchus*. Play, based partly on Sophocles' *Ichnetai*. First performed 12 July 1988, stadium at Delphi. / Revised, performed 27 Mar 1990, Royal National Theatre, London; music, Stephen Edwards; design, Jocelyn Herbert. Published London: Faber & Faber, 1990. [National Theatre program notes]

**SINON**. See TROJAN WAR, Wooden Horse.



**SIRENS**. Sea nymphs with the wings and feet of birds, the Sirens inhabited one or more small, rocky islands in the Mediterranean. Their beautiful singing lured sailors to their death on the rocks. The Sirens were daughters of a Muse (Terpsichore or Melpomene) and the river-god Achelous. Homer identifies two Sirens without naming them, but there are usually three: Ligeia, Leucosia, and Parthenope. According to Apollodorus, the three were accomplished on the lyre and lute as well as in singing.

The Sirens are best known from the passage in the *Odyssey* in which Odysseus contrives to hear the Sirens' song safely by having himself tied to the mast and plugging his sailors' ears with wax, but they figure in other myths as well. When the *Argo* passed the island, Orpheus's lute playing distracted the Argonauts and saved them from the Sirens' spell. Pausanias records that Hera persuaded the Sirens to compete with the Muses in song; when the Muses won the contest, they plucked the Sirens' feathers for headdresses. According to Ovid, they had once been human maidens, companions of Persephone, who asked the gods for wings to help them look for their kidnapped friend. Others say that their transformation was Demeter's punishment for failing to prevent her daughter's abduction.

**Classical Sources**. Homer, *Odyssey* 12.39–54, 158–200. Plato, *Republic* 617B. Apollonius Rhodius, *Argonautica* 4.891–921. Virgil, *Georgics* 4.336f. Ovid, *Metamorphoses* 5.552–63. Apollodorus, *Bibliotheca* 1.3.4, E7.18–19. Pausanias, *Description of Greece* 9.34.3, 10.5.12, 10.6.5. Hyginus, *Fabulae* 125, 141.

**Further Reference**. Siegfried Rachewiltz, *De Sirenibus*:

*An Inquiry into Sirens from Homer to Shakespeare* (New York: Garland, 1987).

See also JASON, and the Argonauts; ODYSSEUS, Sirens; PARTHENOPE; PERSEPHONE.

**Dante Alighieri**, 1265–1321. (Siren appears to Dante in a dream in) *Purgatorio* 19.1–33, (Beatrice warns Dante against the seductions of riches from the Sirens in) *Purgatorio* 31.43–46. Completed c.1314? In *The Divine Comedy*. Poem. Foligno: Neumeister & Angelini, 1472. [Singleton 1970–75, vol. 2 / Samuel 1966, p. 209 / Rachewiltz 1987, pp. 123–37 / Bono 1984, pp. 56ff. / Toynbee 1968, pp. 58of.]

**Anonymous French**. (History of Sirens in) *Ovide moralisé* 5.3451–3504. Poem, allegorized translation/elaboration of Ovid's *Metamorphoses*. c.1316–28. [de Boer 1915–86, vol. 2]

**Albrecht Dürer**, 1471–1528. "Chandelier Made of Antlers, with a Siren." Drawing, design for a chandelier for Willibald Pirckheimer. 1513. Ambras Album, Kunsthistorisches Museum, Vienna. [Strauss 1974, no. 1513/28–ill.]

**Pietro Bembo**, 1470–1547. Sirens evoked in poems, nos. 16, 97 of *Le rime* (Venice: 1530. In modern edition, *Prose e rime* (Turin: UTET, 1966). [Rachewiltz 1987, pp. 154, 160]

**Francesco Primaticcio**, 1504–1570. "The Sirens Changed into Birds." Fresco, for Chambre du Roi, Château de Fontainebleau. 1533–35. Destroyed. [Dimier 1900, pp. 256ff.]

**Luiz Vaz de Camões**, 1524?–1580. (Siren sings to sailors in) *Os Lusíadas* [The Sons of Lusus] 10.3–74. Epic. Lisbon: Gonçalves, 1572. / Translated by Sir Richard Fanshawe (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1940). [Rachewiltz 1987, pp. 215–19]

**Lucas de Heere**, 1534–1584. "Sirens." Drawing. 1576. Rijksprentenkabinet, Amsterdam, inv. no. 11.83. [Warburg]

**Edmund Spenser**, 1552?–1599. (Sirens ["Mermaids"] tempt Guyon and Palmer in) *The Faerie Queene* 2.12.30–34. Romance epic. London: Ponsobnie, 1590, 1596. [Hamilton 1977 / Dundas 1985, p. 204]

**Hendrik Goltzius**, 1558–1617. "Head of a Siren." Drawing. Early 1600s? H. Bier coll., London. [Reznicek 1961, no. 125–ill.]

**Annibale Carracci**, 1560–1609. "Sirens." Drawing. Royal Library, Windsor Castle. [Warburg]

**Francis Bacon**, 1561–1626. "Sirenes, sive voluptas." Chapter 31 of *De sapientia veterum*. Mythological compendium. London: Barker, 1609. / Translated as "The Sirens, or Pleasures" by Arthur Gorges in *The Wisdom of the Ancients* (London: Bill, 1619). Modern facsimile edition (bilingual), New York & London: Garland, 1976. [Ipsos] **Thomas Heywood**, 1573/74–1641. (Sirens in) "Variety of Discourse Concerning Women." Passage in *Gynaikeion: or, Nine Books of Various History Concerning Women* book 7. Compendium of history and mythology. London: Adam Islip, 1624. [Ipsos]

**Peter Paul Rubens**, 1577–1640. (Sirens in) "The Disembarkation of Marie de' Medici at the Port of Marseilles." Painting, part of "Life of Marie de' Medici" cycle. 1622–25. Louvre, Paris, inv. 1774. [Saward 1982, pp. 60, 64f.–ill. / also Jaffé 1989, no. 723–ill. / Louvre 1979–86, 1:116–ill. / also

Baudouin 1977, pl. 42] Oil sketch. Alte Pinakothek, Munich, inv. 95. [Munich 1983, pp. 463ff.–ill. / Held 1980, no. 63–ill. / also Jaffé, no. 722–ill. / Baudouin, fig. 97]

**John Milton**, 1608–1674. (Parthenope and Ligeia's songs evoked in) *Comus* lines 877–87. Masque. Music, Henry Lawes. First performed Michaelmas Day 1634, Ludlow Castle. Published London: Robinson, 1637. [Carey & Fowler 1968 / Brown 1985, pp. 116f.]

**Alessandro Scarlatti**, 1660–1725. *La Sirena consolata* [The Siren Consoled]. Serenata. Text, A. Perrucci. First performed 1692, Palazzo Reale, Naples. [Grove 1980, 16:360]

**Thomas-Louis Bourgeois**, 1676–1750/51. *Les Sirenes*. Cantata. Published Paris: 1708. [Grove 1980, 3:113]

**Laurent Gervais**, fl. 1725–45. *Les Sirenes*. Cantata. 1727. [Grove 1980, 7:309]

**Nicolas-Antoine Bergiron de Briou**, 1690–1768. *Les Sirenes*. Cantata (cantata française). First performed 1729, Lyons. [Grove 1980, 2:549]

**Michel Pignolet de Montéclair**, 1667–1737. *Les Syrenes*. Cantata. [Grove 1980, 12:510]

**Antoine François Callet**, 1741–1823. "Fountain Supported by Sirens." Painting, part of ceiling decoration for Palais-Bourbon, Paris. 1774. Louvre, Paris, inv. 572. [Louvre 1979–86, 3:95–ill.]

**John Abraham Fisher**, 1744–1806, music. *The Syrens*. Masque. Libretto, E. Thompson. First performed 26 Feb 1776, Covent Garden, London. [Grove 1980, 6:617]

**Johann Wolfgang von Goethe**, 1749–1832. (Sirens in the "Classical Walpurgisnight," in) *Faust* Part 2, 2.8034ff. Tragedy. Episode written 1830. Heidelberg: 1832. [Beutler 1948–71, vol. 5 / Suhrkamp 1983–88, vol. 2]

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**Daniel-François-Esprit Auber**, 1782–1871. *La Sirene*. Opera. Libretto, Eugène Scribe. First performed 26 Mar 1844, Théâtre de l'Opéra-Comique, Paris. [Grove 1980, 1:681]

**William Makepeace Thackeray**, 1811–1863. (Becky Sharp compared to a Siren in) *Vanity Fair* chapter 64. Novel. London: Bradbury & Evans, 1847–48; New York: Harper, 1848. [Ipsos / Kestner 1989, p. 12]

**Edgar Allan Poe**, 1809–1849. "Ligeia." Prose hymn. In *Prose Tales* (New York: Crowell, 1850). [Praz 1956, p. 46 n.9]

**William Edward Frost**, 1810–1877. "The Sirens." Painting. 1849. [Kestner 1989, p. 72, pl. 2.11]

**Edwin Arnold**, 1832–1904. "The Sirens." Poem. In *Poems: Narrative and Lyrical* (Oxford: MacPherson, 1853). [Bush 1937, p. 554 / Boswell 1982, p. 18]

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**Gerard Manley Hopkins**, 1844–1889. "A Vision of the Mermaids." Poem. 1862. First published in *The Poems of Gerard Manley Hopkins*, edited by Robert Bridges (London: Oxford University Press, 1918). MS, with pen and ink drawing, Hopkins family coll. [Phillips 1986]

**Edward John Poynter**, 1836–1919. "The Siren." Painting. 1864. [Kestner 1989, p. 214]

———. "The Cave of the Storm Nymphs" (nymphs/Sirens in a grotto, shipwreck outside). Painting. 1903. Private coll. [Wood 1983, pp. 150–53–ill. / Kestner, p. 225, pl. 4.12]

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**John La Farge**, 1835–1910. "Song of the Siren." Wood engraving, illustration for *Songs from the Old Dramatists* (1873). 1872. [Adams et al. 1987, fig. 94]

**Andrew Lang**, 1844–1912. "Two Sonnets of the Sirens." Sonnets. In *Ballads and Lyrics of Old France, with Other Poems* (London: Longmans, Green, 1872). [Boswell 1982, p. 162 / Fass 1974, p. 271]

**Arnold Böcklin**, 1827–1901. "Sirens." Painting. 1875. Staatliche Museen, Berlin, inv. A1754. [Andree 1977, no. 293–ill.]

**Edward Burne-Jones**, 1833–1898. "The Sirens." Painting. Begun c.1875, continued 1891–98, unfinished. Private coll., Spain. [Harrison & Waters 1973, 153f., pl. 41] Oil studies. Ringling Museum, Sarasota, Fla.; National Gallery of South Africa, Cape Town. [Harrison & Waters 1973, 193, pl. 41]

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**Richard Stoddard**, 1825–1903. "The Song of the Syrens." Poem. In *Poems* (New York: Scribner, 1880). [Boswell 1982, p. 223]

**Gustave Moreau**, 1826–1898. "The Sirens." Watercolor. 1882. Fogg Art Museum, Harvard University, Cambridge. [Mathieu 1976, no. 276–ill.]

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———. "The Poet and the Siren." Marble sculpture. 1900. Musée Rodin, Paris. [Rodin 1944, no. 317–ill.]

———. "The Sirens," figures in "The Gates of Hell." High-relief sculpture. Numerous versions, 1880–1917. Numerous posthumous bronze casts. [Tancock, no. 1–ill.]

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- Edward Armitage**, 1817–1896. "A Siren." Painting. 1888. City Art Gallery, Leeds. [Kestner 1989, pp. 246f., pl. 4.46]
- Adolphe La Lyre**, b. 1850. "Sirens in Repose." Painting. Exhibited 1890. Unlocated. [Tancock 1976, pp. 332ff.—ill. (print)]
- . "A Nest of Sirens." Painting. c.1906. [Dijkstra 1986, p. 260—ill.]
- Louis Adolphe Tessier**, fl. 1886–1909. "Sirens." 1891. Painting. [Dijkstra 1986, p. 258]
- Richard Garnett**, 1835–1906. "The Siren." Poem. In *Poems* (London: Matthews & Lane, 1893). [Boswell 1982, p. 112]
- Michal Hertz**, 1844–1918, music. *Syrena*. Ballet. Fragments published Warsaw: 1893. [Grove 1980, 8:525]
- Stéphane Mallarmé**, 1842–1898. (Sirens evoked in) "Salut" [A Toast]. Sonnet. In *La plume* 15 Feb 1893. / Translated by C. F. MacIntyre in *French Symbolist Poetry* (Berkeley & Los Angeles: University of California Press, 1961). [Mondor & Jean-Aubry 1974 / Fowlie 1970, p. 212]
- Arthur Wardle**, 1864–1949. "A Siren." Painting. 1893. [Kestner 1989, p. 335]
- Ernst Barlach**, 1870–1938. "Siren." Drawing. 1895. Private coll., Hamburg. [Schult 1958–72, 3: no. 39—ill.]
- . "Alluring Sirens." 2 drawings. 1902. Barlach Estate, Güstrow, inv. D.12, VII.25. [Ibid., no. 191—ill.]
- Max Klinger**, 1857–1920. "Siren" ("Triton and Nereid"). Painting. 1895. Villa Romana, Florence. [Hildesheim 1984, no. 26—ill. / Fiesole 1980, no. 78—ill.]
- Henri de Régnier**, 1864–1936. "L'homme et la Sirène" [The Man and the Siren]. Poem. In *Aréthuse* (Paris: Librairie de l'Art Indépendant, 1895). [Ipsos]
- John William Whiteley**, fl. 1882–1916. "A Sail!" (Sirens watching a ship approach). Painting. 1898. Private coll. [Dijkstra 1986, p. 264—ill.]
- Claude Debussy**, 1862–1918. "Sirènes." Nocturne. 1897–99. Full score, 1900. [Grove 1980, 5:298, 311]
- John William Waterhouse**, 1849–1917. "The Siren." Painting. c.1900. Sold 1970. [Hobson 1980, no. 134, pl. 108 / Kestner 1989, p. 300, pl. 5.42]
- Robert Williams Buchanan**, 1841–1901. "The Syren." Poem. In *Complete Poetical Works* (London: Chatto & Windus, 1901). [Boswell 1982, p. 59]
- Charles Tournemire**, 1870–1939. *Le sang de la Sirène* [The Blood of the Siren]. Dramatic cantata for soli, chorus, and orchestra. 1902–03. Text, M. Brennure, after A. LeBraz. First performed 17 Nov 1904. [Baker 1984, p. 2328 / Grove 1980, 19:95]
- Augusta Holmès**, 1847–1903. "Sirène." Song. Text, Durand. [Cohen 1987, 1:326f.]
- Henrietta Rae**, 1859–1928. "The Sirens." Painting. 1903. [Kestner 1989, pl. 5.16]
- Gustav Wertheimer**, 1850–1904. "Sirens." Painting. [Dijkstra 1986, p. 260]

- Henri Fantin-Latour**, 1836–1904. "The Sirens." 2 paintings. 1904, unfinished. [Fantin-Latour 1911, nos. 2128, 2152]
- William Wallace Gilchrist**, 1846–1916. *The Syrens*. Choral composition. Text, Lowell (1841). First performed 1904, New York. [Grove 1980, 7:374]
- Rubén Darío**, 1867–1916. (Death of a Siren in) "Torros de Dios!" [Towers of God]. Poem. In *Cantos de vida y esperanza* (Madrid: Tipografía de la Revista de Archivos, Bibliotecas y Museos, 1905). [Méndez Plancarte 1967 / Hurtado Chamorro 1967, pp. 213–16]
- Gustave Adolf Mossa**, 1883–1971. "The Guilty Siren." Painting. 1906. Musée Jules Chéret, Nice. [Hofmann 1987, no. 13.37—ill.]
- Nadia Boulanger**, 1887–1979. *La Sirène*. Cantata. 1908. [Cohen 1987, 1:1100]
- Reynold Moritsevich Glier**, 1875–1956. *The Sirens*. Symphonic poem, opus 33. 1908. [Grove 1980, 7:434 / Montagu-Nathan 1914, pp. 287f.]
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- Pier Maria Rosso di San Secondo**, 1887–1956. *La Sirena ricanta* [The Siren Sings Again]. Drama. 1908. [McGraw-Hill 1984, 4:253]
- Giorgio de Chirico**, 1888–1978. "The Triton and the Siren." Painting. 1909. Weissart coll., Lugano. [de Chirico 1971–83, 4.1: no. 255—ill.]
- John Macallan Swan**, 1847–1910. "The Sirens." Painting. Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam, inv. A3611. [Rijksmuseum 1976, 530—ill.]
- T. S. Eliot**, 1888–1965. (Prufrock fears Sirens' song in) "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock." Poem. 1910–11. In *Poetry* June 1915; collected in *Prufrock and Other Observations* (London: Egoist, 1917). [Eliot 1964 / Smith 1974, pp. 17, 18, 20]
- Jean-François Auburtin**, 1866–1930. (Sirens in) "The Echo." Painting. 1911. [Dijkstra 1986, pp. 262f.—ill.]
- Lili Boulanger**, 1893–1918. *Les Sirènes*. Composition for soprano, chorus, and piano. 1912. [Cohen 1987, 1:99]
- Émile-Antoine Bourdelle**, 1861–1929. "Lamentations of the Sirens." "The Sirens' Games." Frescoes. 1912. Loge, Théâtre des Champs-Élysées, Paris. [Basdevant 1982, pp. 94f.—ill.]
- Kees van Dongen**, 1877–1968. "The Spanish Siren." Painting. 1912. Private coll. [Chaumeil 1967, 327, no. 18—ill.]
- Edwin Arlington Robinson**, 1869–1935. "Veteran Sirens." Poem. In *The Man against the Sky* (New York: Macmillan, 1916). [Ipsos]
- Renée Sintenis**, 1888–1965. "Siren." Bronze sculpture. 1921. [Kiel 1956, p. 21—ill.]
- Pío Baroja y Nessi**, 1872–1956. *El laberinto de las Sirenas* [The Labyrinth of the Sirens]. Novel. Madrid: Raggio, [1923]. [Oxford 1978, p. 50]
- Giuseppe Ungaretti**, 1888–1970. "Sirene." Poem. 1923. In *Sentimento dal tempo* (Florence: Vallecchi, 1933). [Bondanella 1979, p. 524 / CLC 1980, 15:539]
- William Alexander Percy**, 1885–1942. "Siren Song." Poem. In *Enzio's Kingdom and Other Poems* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1924). [Bush 1937, p. 591]
- Laurence Binyon**, 1869–1943. *The Sirens*. Ode. London: Macmillan, 1925. [Boswell 1982, p. 41]

- Raoul Dufy**, 1877–1953. "The Sirens" (angry sailor [?] surrounded by wreckage, with Sirens). Painting, inscribed with poem by Apollinaire. 1925–28. Musée, Le Havre. [Laffaille 1977, no. 1648—ill.]
- Humbert Wolfe**, 1885–1940. "The Sirens," "What the Sirens Sang." Poems. In *This Blind Rose* (London: Gollancz, 1928). [Boswell 1982, p. 310]
- Gaetano Martinez**, b. 1892. "A Young Siren." Bronze sculpture. Before 1930. Galleria d'Arte Moderna, Rome. [Clapp 1970, 1:581]
- Carl Milles**, 1875–1955. "Siren." Bronze sculpture. Before 1930. [Clapp 1970, 1:626]
- Azorín**, 1873–1967. "The Sirens" [English title of a work written in Spanish]. Short story. / Translated by Warren B. Wells in *The Syrens and Other Stories* (London: Partridge, Scholartist, 1931). [EWL 1981–84, 1:168 / Schneider & Stern 1988, p. 552]
- Emmanuel Hannaux**, 1855–1934. "The Poet and the Siren." Marble statue. Musées Nationaux, inv. R.F. 1361, deposited in Musée, Rouen, in 1935. [Orsay 1986, p. 273]
- Henri Puvrez**, b. 1893. "Siren." Marble sculpture. 1934. Open-Air Museum, Middelheim, Antwerp. [Clapp 1970, 1:727]
- R. P. Blackmur**, 1904–1965. "All Sirens' Seine," part 10 of "From Jordan's Delight." Poem. In *From Jordan's Delight* (New York: Arrow, 1937). [Ipsos]
- Paul Delvaux**, b. 1897. "The Water-Nymphs" ("The Sirens"). Painting. 1937. Private coll., New York. [Delvaux 1975, no. 84—ill.]
- . "The Water-Nymphs (II)" ("The Sirens," "Bathing Nymphs"). Painting. 1938. Nellens coll., Knokke. [Ibid., no. 92—ill.]
- . "The Village of the Sirens" ("The Gulf of the Village of Love"). Painting. 1942. Art Institute of Chicago, inv. 5173. [Ibid., no. 115—ill.]
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- . "The Siren" ("Siren in the Moonlight"). Painting. 1949. Southampton Art Gallery. [Ibid., no. 198—ill.]
- . "The Sirens" ("Study of Sirens"). Painting. 1950. Armand Poncelet coll. [Ibid., no. 200—ill.]
- . "The Siren." Color lithograph. 1969. [Jacob 1976, no. 28—ill.]
- Rita Boumi-Pappás**, 1906–. *The Passion of the Sirens* [English title of a work written in Greek]. Collection of poetry. Trikala: 1938. [Friar 1973, p. 685]
- Henri Laurens**, 1885–1954. "Group of Sirens." Bronze sculpture. 1938. [Hofmann 1970, p. 218—ill.]
- . "Winged Siren," "Small Winged Siren." Bronze sculptures. 1938. [Ibid.—ill.]
- . "Large Siren." Bronze sculpture. 1945. [Ibid., p. 219—ill.]
- Denys Puech**, 1854–1942. "Siren." Marble sculpture group. Musées Nationaux, inv. RF 4060, deposited in Musée, Bort-les-Orgues, in 1953. [Orsay 1986, p. 279] Another version of the subject, in Glyptothek, Copenhagen. [Bénézit 1976, 8:517]
- Robert Graves**, 1895–1985. "The Sirens' Welcome to Cronos." Poem. 1938–45. In *Poems, 1938–1945* (London: Cassell, 1946). [CLC 1974, 2:175]
- David Smith**, 1906–1965. "Seaman and Siren." Steel sculpture. 1945. Tinsman coll., Kansas City, Mo. [Krauss 1977, no. 188—ill.]
- Frederick Ashton**, 1904–1988, choreography. *Les Sirènes* (modern setting). Ballet. Music, Gerald, Lord Berners. First performed 12 Nov 1946, Covent Garden, London. [Grove 1980, 2:623 / Sorley Walker 1983, p. 25]
- Hubert Berke**, 1908–. "Singing Sirens." Painting. 1949. [Hannover 1950, no. 14]
- Marc Chagall**, 1887–1985. "Yellow and Blue Sirens." Pastel. 1949. Ida Chagall coll. [Chagall 1975, no. 43—ill.]
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- Roel D'Haese**, 1921–. "Siren." Marble sculpture. 1951. Open-Air Museum, Middelheim, Antwerp. [Clapp 1970, 1:216]
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- Constantin Andreou**, 1917–. "Sirene." Sculpture. Exhibited 1957 at Musée des Arts Décoratifs, Louvre, Paris. [Clapp 1970, 1:29]
- Emil Cimiotti**, 1927–. "Siren." Bronze sculpture. 1957. Exhibited Venice Biennale, 1958. [Clapp 1970, 1:173]
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- Lawrence Durrell**, 1912–1990. "The Sirens." Poem. In *Collected Poems* (London: Faber & Faber; New York: Dutton, 1960). [Ipsos / Boswell 1982, p. 98]
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- Domenico Gnoli**, 1933–1970. "Sirens." Painting. 1963. Sold London, 1976. [Warburg]
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- Richmond Lattimore**, 1906–1984. "Sirens in the Aegean."

- Poem. In *Poems from Three Decades* (New York: Scribner, 1972). [Ipsos / Boswell 1982, p. 164]
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- Felice Lesser**, 1953-, choreography. *Sirens*. Dance. Music, Lanny Myers. Performed 25 Sep 1989, by Dance 2000, Symphony Space, New York. [Jack Anderson in *The New York Times*, 1 Oct 1989, section 1 pt. 2, p. 61]

**SISYPHUS**. Founder of the city of Corinth, Sisyphus was the son of Aeolus of Thessaly and Enarete and the grandfather of Bellerophon. He established the Isthmian games and fortified the acropolis at Corinth. However, he was primarily noted for his cunning.

When the master thief Autolycus stole his prized cattle, Sisyphus traced them by following the marks he had made on their hooves. He then avenged himself by seducing Autolycus's daughter Anticlea, leading some to suppose that he, rather than Laertes of Ithaca, was the father of Odysseus.

Having observed Zeus's seduction of the nymph Aegina, Sisyphus reported the story to her father, the river-god Asopus. According to *Pherecydes*, *Phlegon*, *Phlegon*, Zeus punished Sisyphus by sending Thanatos (Death) to claim him. Sisyphus eluded Thanatos once, by imprisoning him in a dungeon from which he was released by Ares, and finally yielded to him only after making his wife, Merope, promise to leave his corpse unburied and to make no offerings for him. In the Underworld, he received permission from Hades to return to earth by saying that he wished to punish Merope for this sacrilege. Sisyphus then lived a long life. When he eventually died, the gods punished him by making him perpetually roll a boulder to the top of a hill, only to have it roll back down as it reached the summit.

Treatments of Sisyphus in the fine arts commonly depict him pushing the boulder uphill. He is sometimes grouped with Ixion, Tantalus, and Tityus, known collectively as the Four Blasphemers (or Deceivers, Disgracers, Condemned).

**Classical Sources**. Homer, *Odyssey* II.593-600. Aeschylus, fragment of a play on Sisyphus. Sophocles, fragment

of a play on Sisyphus. Euripides, *Sisyphus* (fragment of a satyr play). Ovid, *Metamorphoses* 4.460-68, 10.44, 13.26-33. Apollodorus, *Bibliotheca* 1.9.3. Pausanias, *Description of Greece*, 2.1.3, 2.5.1. Hyginus, *Fabulae* 60, 201.

- Alcman**, 38.5.12-13. *fr.* 110. 5-10. *cf.* *ALP*. 360
- Titian**, 1488/90-1576. "Sisyphus." Painting, part of "The Four Condemned" series. 1548-49. Prado, Madrid, no. 426. [Wethey 1973, no. 19B-ill. / Prado 1985, pp. 701f. / Berenson 1957, p. 188]
- Michael Drayton**, 1563-1631. (Sisyphus evoked in) Sonnet 40 of *Idea*. Cycle of 63 sonnets. London: Smethwicke, 1619. [Hebel 1931-32, vol. 2]
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- Luca Giordano**, 1634-1705, traditionally attributed (questionably attributed to Giovanni Battista Langetti; also formerly attributed to Salvator Rosa). "Sisyphus." Painting. Mauritshuis, The Hague, no. 335. [Mauritshuis 1985, p. 480-ill. / Ferrari & Scavizzi 1966, 2:285]
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- Felicia Dorothea Hemans**, 1793-1835. "The Lost Pleiad." Poem. In *Poetical Works* (Philadelphia: Porter & Coates, 1821). [Boswell 1982, p. 129]
- Alfred de Vigny**, 1797-1863. (Myth of Sisyphus embodied in) "La flûte." Poem. In *Les destinées* (Paris: 1864). [EW 1983-85, 5:484]
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- Honoré Daumier**, 1808-1879. "Like Sisyphus" (pushing a "budget" rock uphill). Satirical lithograph. 1869. [Deltail 1906-30, 29: no. 3694-ill.]
- Lewis Morris**, 1833-1907. (Sisyphus in) *The Epic of Hades*. Poem. London: King, 1876. [Bush 1937, pp. 428, 559 / Boswell 1982, p. 189]
- Gregor Csiky**, 1842-1891. *Sisyphus munkája* [Labors of Sisyphus]. Tragedy. First performed 1892, Budapest. [Sharp 1933, p. 61]
- Franz von Stuck**, 1863-1928. "Sisyphus." Painting. 1899. Private coll., New York, in 1909. [Voss 1973, no. 194-ill.] Variant, c.1920. Unlocated. [Ibid., no. 538-ill.]
- Vyacheslav Ivánov**, 1866-1949. (Sisyphus's fate recalled in) *Tantal* [Tantalus]. Tragedy. St. Petersburg: Alkonost, 1905. [Venclova 1985, pp. 90, 94f.]
- Alfred Austin**, 1835-1913. "Sisyphus." Poem. In *Sacred and Profane Love* (London: Macmillan, 1908). [Bush 1937, p. 566]
- Robert Calverly Trevelyan**, 1872-1951. *Sisyphus, an Operatic Fable*. Dramatic poem. London & New York: Longmans, Green, 1908. [Boswell 1982, p. 304]
- Jules Desbois**, 1851-1935. "The Rock of Sisyphus." Stone statue. c.1910. Avenue Debourg, Lyons. / Wood replica, torso ("Sisyphus"). By 1925. Musée d'Orsay, Paris, inv.

- R.F. 3196. [Orsay 1986, p. 141-ill.] Plaster study. Musée des Beaux-Arts, Tours. [Ibid.]
- Ettore Romagnoli**, 1871-1938. *Sisifo*. Satirical drama. Milan: Treves, 1914. [DELI 1966-70, 4:582]
- G. Strähler**. *Sisyphus*. Tragedy. 1920. [Hunger 1959, p. 329]
- Bernt von Heiseler**, 1907-1969. *Sisyphus*. Tragedy. 1927. [Hunger 1959, p. 329]
- Edith Sitwell**, 1887-1964. (Sisyphus evoked in) "Metamorphosis" (first version). Poem. In *Five Poems* (London: Duckworth, 1928). [Sitwell 1968 / CLC 1978, 9:496 / Brophy 1968, p. 76]
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- Werner Riemerschmid**, 1895-1967. (Sisyphus in) *List, Lust, und Last* [Craft, Desire, and Burden]. Drama. First performed Burgtheater, Vienna, 1954. [Hunger 1959, p. 329]
- Birgit Aakesson**, 1908-, with **Kaarl Gundersen**, choreography. *Sisyfos*. Ballet. Music, Karl-Birger Blomdahl. Scenario, Erik Lindgren. First performed 1957, Royal Swedish Ballet, Stockholm; décor and costumes, Tor Horlin. [Oxford 1982, p. 6 / Terry 1976, p. 297]
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- Rudolf Hoffeher**, 1916-. "Sisyphus (Homage to Albert Camus)." Iron sculpture. 1959. [Clapp 1970, 1:448]
- Josephine Miles**, 1911-. "Sisyphus," "Neighbors and Constellation." Poems. In *Poems: 1930-1960* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1960). [Ipsos]
- Paul Goodman**, 1911-1972. (Sisyphus evoked in) "A Meal." Poem. In *The Lordly Hudson* (New York: Macmillan, 1962). [Ipsos]
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- Aurel Milloss**, 1906-1988, choreography. *Rivolta di Sisifo* [Revolt of Sisyphus]. Ballet. Music, Goffredo Petrassi. First performed 1977, La Scala, Milan. [Les saisons Oct 1977, p. 31]
- Pentti Saarikoski**, 1937-1983. (Sisyphus in a modern setting in) *Tanssilattia vuorella* [Dance Floor on the Mountain]. Poem. Helsinki: Otava, 1977. [BWL 1981-84, 4:119]
- Bill T. Jones**, 1952-, choreography. *Sisyphus [sic] Act I and II*. Modern dance. First performed 1980, New York. [Cohen-Stratynier 1982, p. 468]
- Louise Glück**, 1943-. (Sisyphus evoked in) "The Mountain." Poem. In *The Triumph of Achilles* (New York: Ecco, 1985). [Ipsos / CLC 1987, 44:222]

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**SPHINX**. See OEDIPUS, and the Sphinx.

**STYX**. See HADES [2]; also ACHILLES, Infancy; AENEAS, in the Underworld; ORPHEUS, and Eurydice; PSYCHE.

**SYRINX**. A chaste Arcadian Hamadryad, Syrinx spurned the advances of satyrs and woodland spirits alike. In spite of this, Pan pursued her ardently. She fled to the river Ladon, where she begged the Naiads to help her. As Pan reached for her, they transformed her into a stand of marsh reeds that sighed musically in the wind as he held them. He bound seven of the reeds together with wax to create the first panpipe, which he named syrinx. In postclassical works Syrinx often denotes the music of the spheres.

**Classical Sources**. Theocritus, *Syrinx*. Virgil, *Eclogues* 2.31ff. Ovid, *Metamorphoses* 1.689-713. Longus, *Daphnis and Chloe* 2.

See also DAPHNIS AND CHLOE.

- Anonymous French**. (Story of Pan and Syrinx in) *Ovide moralisé* 1.4031-98. Poem, allegorized translation/elaboration of Ovid's *Metamorphoses*. c.1316-28. [de Boer 1915-86, vol. 1]
- Filarete**, c.1400-1469? "Pan and Syrinx." Relief, on bronze door of St. Peter's, Rome. 1433-45. In place. [Pope-Hennessy 1985b, 2:318]
- Giorgione**, c.1477-1510, follower. "Pan and Syrinx." Painting. Schwyzer coll., Zurich. [Pignatti 1978, no. V41-ill.]
- Baldassare Peruzzi**, 1481-1536, circle, attributed (also attributed to school of Giulio Romano or Raphael). "Pan and Syrinx." Fresco. 1511-12 (or c.1517-18). Sala delle Prospettive, Villa Farnesina, Rome. [d'Ancona 1955, pp. 27ff., 93f. / Gerlini 1949, pp. 31ff. / also Frommel 1967-68, no. 51]
- Pseudo-Boccaccio** (unknown artist, formerly identified with Boccaccio Boccaccio, now questionably identified as Giovanni Agostino da Lodi). "Landscape with Ladon