

Olympia by Edouard Manet

130x190 cm, oil on canvas

1863 CE

Manet based *Olympia* off of Titian's *Venus of Urbino*. They both are in the same position, but the woman in this portrait is a prostitute, not a goddess.

Manet painted the foreground with light colors, and he painted the background dimly and with dark colors. The cat almost blends in with the dark green curtain.

Manet painted *Olympia* stylistically different than his other paintings. He used different, stronger simpler brush

Typically, French paintings were based off of Biblical stories or of mythology, versus this realistic contemporary woman.

Olympia is realistic, versus the classical portrayals of goddesses. Her face is asymmetrical, and her abdominal areas are flat.

In 1865, it was exhibited in the Salon in Paris.



The woman's name is Olympia, and although she alludes to a classical goddess, she is a prostitute waiting for her customer. Unlike Titian's *Venus of Urbino* and other portrayals of Venus, she is staring at the audience.

At the time, the public did not approve of this piece because it portrayed a nude prostitute, and not a nude goddess.

The maid brings her flowers as a gift, however she appears bored.

The cat appears scared, as if her customer has opened the door or entered the room.

http://www.musee-orsay.fr/en/collections/works-in-focus/search/commentaire_id/olympia-7087.html

<https://www.khanacademy.org/test-prep/ap-art-history/introduction-ap-arthistory/a/required-works-of-art-for-ap-art-history>

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/cultureshock/beyond/manet.html>

http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/mane/hd_mane.htm