

The Watery World of Ovid

I sing of both the flow and stillness of water in Ovid's *Metamorphoses*--from the catastrophic flood in Book 1 through the glorious moment when Aesculapius, having crossed the Ionian Sea, sails into Rome upon the Tiber in Book 15. I present for the viewer's delectation a variety of modern European works of art made in response to Ovid's watery world—transformations of the poet's text into vivid and sometimes unexpected images. We will feast our eyes on works by Piero di Cosimo, Titian, Caravaggio, Rubens, Poussin, and Redon, artists who rendered such subjects as Jupiter and Io, Pan and Syrinx, Diana and Actaeon, Salmacis and Hermaphroditus, among other myths.