

The Judgement of Paris

Who is who in this mythological contest, painted by Bob Thompson? Try to identify each of the four characters mentioned in the story on the other side of this card.

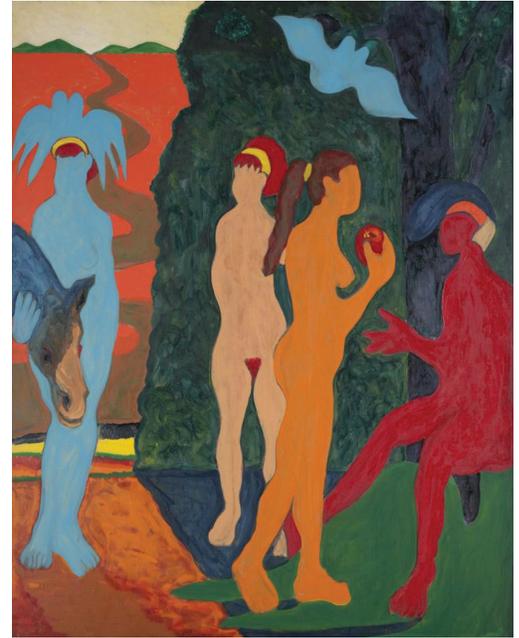
Paris is judging the contest. Can you locate him in the picture?

Hera offers Paris power. Which character stands in front of distant lands and controls something powerful?

Athena offers knowledge. A figure located in a central position might see both sides of an argument. The creature flying towards her may be an owl, also considered wise, and associated with the goddess, Athena. Can you find her?

Aphrodite offers Paris the love of the most beautiful woman in the world, Helen of Troy, and wins the competition. Which figure is holding the apple, showing she is the winner?

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Bob Thompson, *The Judgement of Paris*, 1964, oil on canvas, 75 ³/₈ x 60 ⁵/₁₆ in., Museum Purchase, 97.11

The Judgment of Paris

According to ancient Greek legend, the goddesses Aphrodite, Athena, and Hera were quarreling about which one of them was the most beautiful. To settle the argument, Zeus, king of the gods, chose the shepherd, Paris (also the son of King Priam of Troy), as judge.

Each goddess offered Paris a bribe to persuade him to choose her. Athena offered him great warrior skills. Hera offered him kingly power. When Aphrodite offered him the most beautiful woman alive, Paris selected her as the fairest of the three goddesses.

In return, Aphrodite helped Paris kidnap Helen, the most beautiful woman in the world, who was also the wife of King Menelaus of Sparta. Paris took Helen back to Troy with him and refused to return her. This began the ten-year-long Trojan War as King Menelaus sought to win his wife back.

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Support provided by Art Bridges

