

KESHISHIAN

Antique Carpets, Tapestries & Aubussons

Flora

An important Flemish Mythological tapestry, Brussels, from the series *Triumph of the Gods III*, co-designed by Jan van Orley (1665–1735) and the landscape painter Augustin Coppens (1668–1740) and woven by Van der Borgh workshop, early 18th century.

Made with wool and silk threads, retaining fresh and original color.

Width: 13ft 8ins (415cm) Height: 11ft 8ins (357cm)

The Van der Borgh workshop was one of the most prominent in Brussels at the time and in the Leyniers workshop inventory archives they mention that Orley and Coppens supplied the designs for the *Triumphs of the Gods* series in 1725, (Doc 57/K). Jasper Van der Borcht ordered *the Triumph of the Gods III* (c. 1725) from Van Orley.

Flora, wearing a red underskirt and a cream overdress, with a green cloth falling from the back of her head over her left shoulder, sits on a low pale brown chair. She holds white carnations in her right hand. *Flora* places her left hand on the shoulder of a winged boy, who carries a jar of flowers. A grey-brown building is on the left, with the statue of a woman holding a basket in a niche. In the distance in the center is a formal garden in shades of gray and blue, with arched buildings and a fountain. On the right is a grey- brown pedestal with a ball on top. Large trees with brown and green trunks of blue and brown foliage frame the scene.

A similar example is in the Austrian National Collection, catalogue reference: Kunsthistorischen Museum in Vienna, page 44 plate.12F; and at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; one similar, though a small section, without its original borders, which is illustrated in Standen, *European Post- Medieval Tapestries and Related Hangings*, page 239 plate 38. The Hermitage, St.Petersberg, have in their collection, *The Triumph of Diana* from the series of the *Triumph of the Gods*.

Literature:

Dora Heinz, *Europäische Tapissierkunst des 17. und 18. Jahrhunderts*. Bohulau Verlag, 1995, plate 17.

Konrad Brosens, *A contextual study of Brussels tapestry, dye works and tapestry workshop of Urban Leyniers*, 2004.

