

## **ALLEGORY OF LIGHT**

### **AUDIO-VIDEO DESCRIPTION**

Welcome, you are in front of a tactile, scaled-down reproduction with audio-video description of the 'Allegory of Light' or 'Apollo', a vase holder sculpted by Andrea Brustolon around 1700.

The original, in carved and patinated boxwood, is 120 cm high, and it is on display in the Brustolon room on the first floor of this museum.

Andrea Brustolon was born in Belluno in 1662, and was one of the most important wood sculptors of the Baroque period.

He was described by Honoré de Balzac as 'the Michelangelo of wood'.

The term Baroque refers to the artistic and architectural production that developed in Italy and the rest of Europe between 1600 and the mid-1700s.

This vase holder is part of the furniture supply – “fornimento” in Venetian – sculpted by the artist for the Venier family and displayed in various rooms of the museum, including the Ballroom.

Comprising some forty pieces, originally made for Palazzo Venier in the San Vio district, it includes high chairs, vase-holding statues such as this one, and ornamental figures of Ethiopian slaves and warriors. None is the same: this is the greatest masterpiece of early eighteenth-century Veneto carving.

The extraordinary care with which the ornaments were executed testifies to the very high esteem and above all the value of the series of oriental, Chinese and Japanese vases that made up Pietro Venier's collection, for which these precious and unique displays were made.

The 'Allegory of Light' is represented by Apollo, god of the arts, son of Zeus and Latona.

This allegory has been interpreted in relation to other vase-holding statues representing other deities, which are associated with the allegories of the four elements: 'Juno or Air', 'Venus or Water', 'Vulcan or Fire' and 'Silvanus or Earth'.

Andrea Brustolon died in 1732 in Belluno.

If you stretch out your hands towards the reproduction, in the front part you can recognise Apollo who is represented as a standing young man, his hair wavy at the shoulders and with laurel leaves demurely covering his nudity.

With your fingers reach towards Apollo's left hand, which holds a shell that served as the base for the precious oriental vase.

Behind Apollo, on your left you will feel the outlines of a pair of horses pulling his chariot. On your right instead, again behind Apollo, your fingers will find a Cupid driving the chariot and who is a personification of the god Amor, or Love, represented as a naked, winged child.

Thank you for dedicating your time to this experience.



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