



Primavera by Sandro Botticelli, 1477-1482

Renaissance

- 1) Primary analysis: This painting portrays people celebrating an event. Several human figures are present: few women are dancing, two are standing thoughtful and one is being frightened/kidnapped by a strange and spooky man, who is popping out from the trees. There is, also, a young man standing next to a tree and trying to catch the fruit from it. On the top-middle of the painting, there is a flying baby angel who is holding an arc and arrow which are pointed towards the target. The background seems to be a jungle where only trees, leaves, flowers and bushes are visible.
- 2) Conventional analysis: This painting's concept is love, marriage, sensuality and fertility which is understood by the presence of the characters in it. The people illustrated in this scene are not human beings but ancient Gods, goddesses and holy spirits of the Ancient Greek and Rome. In the center we can see the Roman goddess, Venus who is a symbol of Love, sex, beauty and fertility. Behind her the trees are shown in the

shape of an arc which emphasizes her privileged position in the painting. Above her head, there is Cupid, the god of Love. The three female characters that are dancing are called Three graces, who are important figures as they represent feminine virtues of Chastity, beauty and love. Next to them, we can see Mercury, the god of the month of May who symbolizes fertility, wealth and good fortune. On the right side of the painting there is Zephyrus, spring wind, who is chasing a Nymph, named Chloris, which he marries, and she becomes Flora, the goddess of Spring.

- 3) *Intrinsic analysis*: This historical painting has been made by The Italian painter Sandro Botticelli of the Early Renaissance, probably during 1477-1482. On his credit there are several historical and world-famous paintings such the one shown above “Primavera”, “Venus and Mars” (1485) and “The birth of Venus” (1486). “Primavera” is an Italian word that stands for “Spring”. The actual meaning of this painting still remains a mystery. However, some historians said that the concept highlighted is marriage, celebration of Love, prosperity, fertility and peace due to the presence of classical mythology’s figures and their respective symbolisms. Also, because this painting is believed to be a wedding gift that Botticelli made for Lorenzo di Pierfrancesco, cousin of the powerful Italian statesman Lorenzo Medici. During the Renaissance Neo-Platonic Philosophy was very popular, which focuses on fusion of Spirit and Matter, as well as Ideas and Nature. Botticelli was highly influenced by this movement.

<https://www.uffizi.it/en/artworks/botticelli-spring>

<http://www.italianrenaissance.org/a-closer-look-botticellis-primavera/>

<https://www.artsy.net/artist/sandro-botticelli>

<https://www.artstor.org/2013/03/20/spring-mysteries-botticellis-primavera/>

