

MUSEUM OF ANCIENT CULTURES

# Intaglio Ring depicting the Three Graces

MU4760



## Who were the Three Graces?

The Three Graces originate from Greek mythology in which they are referred to as the Three Charites. They were the daughters of Zeus and were commonly associated with the concept of fertility. They were believed to personify grace, charm and beauty and thus were closely associated with the goddess Aphrodite.

The Three Graces are;

- Thalia who embodied youth and beauty
- Euphrosyne who embodied mirth and joyfulness
- Aglaia who embodied elegance and splendor

However, according to Roman mythology the Three Graces were the daughters of Jupiter (the Roman equivalent of Zeus) and were companions to the Nine Muses. They are commonly depicted as a trio of beautiful naked women as can be observed on MU4760. The Three Graces were believed to bestow beauty, charm and goodness on young women and to bring joy and goodwill to all.

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