
THE ART OF WAR

1. WHAT ARE OUR BELIEFS AND ATTITUDES ABOUT WAR?

2. HOW ARE THOSE BELIEFS AND ATTITUDES PORTRAYED IN OUR ARTS?



ALLEGORY

What is an ALLEGORY?

a **story** in which the characters and events are **symbols**; these **symbols represent ideas** about human existence or a political/historical situation

What is the function of ALLEGORY

to add different layers of meaning.

to make stories and characters multidimensional, so that they stand for something larger in meaning than what they literally stand for.

to put forward moral and/or political point of views

to give insight into an artist's mind and how he/she views the world and wishes the world to be.

PETER PAUL RUBENS, *ALLEGORY OF THE OUTBREAK OF WAR*, 1638, OIL ON CANVAS, 6'9"X11'4". PITTI GALLERY, FLORENCE.

What are the **SYMBOLS**?

What is the **STORY**?

What **IDEA** about **HUMAN EXISTENCE** does this allegory reveal?

PETER PAUL RUBENS, *ALLEGORY OF THE OUTBREAK OF WAR*, 1638, OIL ON CANVAS, 6'9" X 11'4".
PITTI GALLERY, FLORENCE.



The principal figure is Mars, who has left the temple of Janus open (which according to Roman custom remained closed in time of peace) and struts with his shield and his bloodstained sword, threatening all peoples with disaster; he pays little attention to Venus, his lady, who, surrounded by her little love-gods, tries in vain to hold him back with caresses and embraces. On the opposite side, Mars is pulled forward by the Fury Alecto with a torch in her hand. There are also monsters signifying plague and famine, the inseparable companions of war. Thrown to the ground is a woman with a broken lute, as a symbol that harmony cannot exist beside the discord of war; likewise a mother with a child in her arms indicates that fertility, procreation, and tenderness are opposed by war, which breaks into and destroys everything. There is furthermore an architect fallen backwards, with his tools in his hands, to express the idea that what is built in peace for the benefit and ornament of cities is laid in ruin and razed by the forces of arms. . . you will also find on the ground, beneath the feet of Mars, a book and a drawing on paper, to indicate that he tramples on literature and other refinements. . . the sorrowing woman. . . clothed in black with a torn veil, and deprived of all her jewels and ornaments is unhappy Europe, which for so many years has suffered pillage, degradation, and misery affecting all of us so deeply that it is useless to say more about them.