

**BEGIN TRANSCRIPT**

Hi, my name is Janine. I am a Museum Guide at the Dayton Art Institute, and welcome to “Art Vids for Kids”!

In this video, I would like to share with you a piece of art called *Circe Mulling Wine*. It was painted sometime around 1630 by the Italian artist, Gioacchino Assereto. That makes this painting almost 400 years old!

The medium the artist used is called oil paint. These allowed the artist to make their artwork have very intense or bright and vivid colors. Notice the vibrant red in her dress and the orangish-red tip of the hot poker she’s holding. Red was an expensive pigment to obtain. Why was it so expensive? It came from a completely different part of the world, from the country of India.

Who might the person in this painting be? Notice her clothing and setting. What time period might she be in? What is she doing or making? If this painting were the middle of her story, what would happen next? What happened right before? We actually know quite a bit about the story behind this painting. Let’s uncover it together.

The lady in the painting is named Circe, and she is a sorceress, or a witch. Is there anything about how she looks that makes us think she could be a witch? I notice that her face has a greenish tint, or color, to it, and that her hands look a bit gnarled.

Circe’s story comes from an epic poem called, “The Odyssey,” which was written by an ancient Greek writer named Homer. “The Odyssey” tells the mythological story of the soldier Odysseus and his 10-year-long adventure of him and his fellow soldiers trying to sail home to Greece after fighting in the legendary Trojan War. One of those misadventures included Circe.

Odysseus and his men were tired from their many days at sea. They had decided to go ashore on an island where Circe lived. While the men were ashore, Circe fell in love with Odysseus and desired him to



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stay on her island forever. She invited the men to a great feast, but she used her magical herbs to brew a special wine or potion. That potion is what we see Circe stirring in this painting.

When Odysseus' men drank the potion, they were turned into pigs, but Odysseus was not willing to leave the island without his men. So, in order to rescue the soldiers, he had to convince Circe to reverse the spell. It took one whole year for him to do this but eventually they escaped and began their travels home to family once more.

The stories of ancient Greece have inspired countless artworks throughout art history and continues to be the source of much creative expression.

I hope you enjoyed hearing the story of Circe and Odysseus. If you would like to see *Circe Mulling Wine* in-person, you can find her in gallery number 217 in the Dayton Art Institute. Also be sure to check back next month for a new "Art Vids for Kids." Thank you.

## END TRANSCRIPT

Click [here](#) for full multimedia presentation.

## RESOURCES

[www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)  
[www.dkfindout.com](http://www.dkfindout.com)  
[www.metmuseum.org](http://www.metmuseum.org)

## ARTWORKS FEATURED

[www.brandywine.org](http://www.brandywine.org)  
[www.bardomuseum.tn](http://www.bardomuseum.tn)  
[www.rijksmuseum.nl](http://www.rijksmuseum.nl)  
[www.metmuseum.org](http://www.metmuseum.org)  
[www.getty.edu](http://www.getty.edu)  
[www.blog.tooveys.com](http://www.blog.tooveys.com)  
[www.preraphaelites.org](http://www.preraphaelites.org)  
[www.metmuseum.org](http://www.metmuseum.org)  
[www.fondoambiente.it](http://www.fondoambiente.it)  
[www.americanart.si.edu](http://www.americanart.si.edu)  
[www.pixy.org](http://www.pixy.org)  
[www.astrochara.wordpress.com](http://www.astrochara.wordpress.com)

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## QUESTIONS?

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