

Osteoporosis in master-pieces

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Two paintings, two different stories

In the painting “Under the Old Apple Tree” by Dimitri Gilinskij an old pensive woman is hanging on her cane (Figure. 1). Her musculature trained by the hard work in the fields is still vigorous. She is sadly looking to the young lady and the boy, who are picking up the apples, thinking to the old times. The two young characters are affected by a palpable sadness, as they appear melancholy. She seems to communicate “If I would not be so bent, if I could pick up



Figure 1 - “Under the old Apple Tree” by Dimitri Gilinskij.

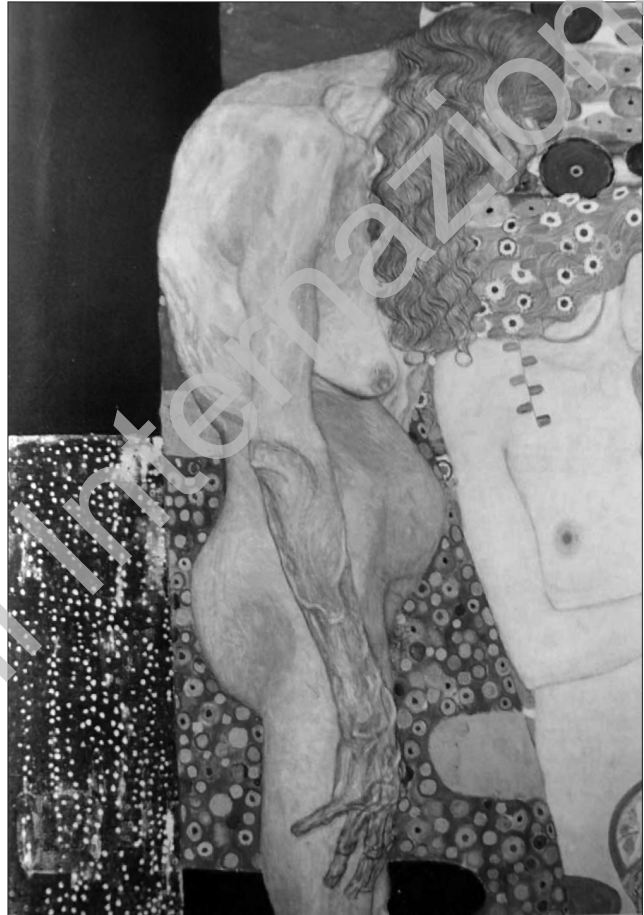


Figure 2 - “The three Ages” by Gustav Klimt.

the apples, if I could have prevented the painful vertebral fractures, as the old apple tree still standing because buttressed by stakes and ties that avoid its collapse!”. However, she is still healthy and full of the company of her grandchildren. Her regret is to be unable to work and be active as in the past.

The verism of the Russian painter inspired to the ideological currents of its country appears close to the famous example of Gustav Klimt “The Three Ages” (Figure 2). The masterpiece painted by the Austrian artist in 1908 is crude and dramatic with a decrepit old woman portrayed frail wrinkled, naked, slim, with an accentuated kyphosis and a pronounced stomach. Her face is hidden by the hair, the only memory of the past beauty, and by the hand.

The two paintings have apposite interpretations for the deformity of the elderly. Gilinskij is representing the regret of the missed prevention, while Klimt communicates the unavoidableness of the old age.