



Venus at the Forge of Vulcan

Date

1606–1623

Primary Maker

Jan Brueghel the Elder

Medium

oil on oak panel

Description

This painting depicts the passage in Virgil's Aeneid, where Venus, accompanied by Cupid, appeals to her husband Vulcan to make armor for her son Aeneas. The painting also praises the Renaissance metalworker, whose wide range of products are represented, from jewelry to arms and armor. The tools are those used by armorers, including hammers, anvils and large shears for cutting metal plate. At the right, assistants operate tilt-hammers, and behind them, "millmen" polish with grinding and buffing wheels.

Dimensions

55.2 × 88.9 cm (21 3/4 × 35 in.) framed: 83.2 × 117.5 × 9.5 cm (32 3/4 × 46 1/4 × 3 3/4 in.)