

TOUCHING THE ART

At the LACMA

European Wing

Find each painting in the gallery (each image is an excerpt from a larger work). As you answer the following questions, keep asking yourself (or your companions):

“How do I know this?”

“What do I see that makes me say this?”

Afterward, read the blurb below to learn the background story.



Room 305

QUESTIONS TO GUIDE YOU

READING:

- What kind of person is lying on the rocks?
- Is he dead? Is he sleeping?
- What kind of woman is this? A peasant? A goddess?
- Does she want to wake him? What is she doing?

IMMERSION:

- Pose: (young woman) Press your hand to your shoulder; caress your forearm with your hand.
- Film Clip: Will she move from her perch? Will she pay attention to the little boy?
- Quote: What is Cupid saying to her?

SITUATION:

- Whom is she in the presence of?

BACKGROUND STORY

BACKGROUND: *Selene and Endymion*. One night the moon goddess, Selene, saw a handsome young shepherd sleeping near his cave. She fell in love. She would watch over him while he slept. Thinking that he might become old and lose his youthful beauty, Selene asked Zeus, the king of the gods, to put him into an eternal sleep that would also keep him eternally youthful. She wished to gaze on him forever.

SITUATION: Being in the presence of someone you adore who is not aware of you.

REACTION: Total enjoyment of gazing upon them.

CONNECTIONS? Little Mermaid, Hunchback of Notre Dame.

