

Matisse DuPont
Diana and Actaeon

Growing up, Greek and Roman mythology was always one of my favorite subjects, particularly because it showed these powerful goddesses wreaking their havoc and will on the world. For me, as a trans feminine person, the hormones I'm able to take produce a body that looks similar to these women's bodies: smaller breasts, a larger belly. It's so comforting to see myself in these women when so often in today's standards of beauty, I don't see myself.

Diana is the goddess of the hunt and also of the moon and virginity. Virginity at the time didn't mean chastity in the same way it means today; virginity meant or highlighted someone's unwedded status. And so really here we're just saying Diana is never going to get married to a man.

It's really easy for a modern queer viewership to see this as a queer scene and there's this man coming into their space, and this death glare Diana gives him! And there's just like a direct line of sight between them that feels palpable and like a real visceral, dagger going through the air. It's just this amazing death glare. It's not just the death glare of any woman being mad at a man. It's this death glare that has a queerness to it as a queer woman having a space for her and her bevvy of beautiful ladies, and this man coming into this queer space.

I love that Diana has a little dog at her feet who is also barking at this man entering the space.