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Growing up in Ancient Greece
Classical exhibition proves art is indeed child's play

CINCINNATI – (May 18, 2004) The first major exhibition exploring children in ancient Greece comes to the Cincinnati Art Museum May 25. *Coming of Age in Ancient Greece: Images of Childhood from the Classical Past*, which brings to life the stories of children in ancient Greece, runs through Aug. 1.

This traveling exhibition, spanning 1,500 years, features approximately 120 examples of Greek art on loan from North American and European collections. These art works, including bronze and stone sculpture, vases, jewelry, toys, coins and marble grave monuments, provide for the first time a glimpse of life as a Greek child.

“The Greeks were the first people known to depict children realistically in art, rather than as miniature adults,” said Glenn Markoe, Ph. D., curator of Ancient and Near Eastern art at the Museum. “And while written accounts of Greek children are scarce, the art in this exhibition tells us many stories about what life was like growing up in ancient Greece.”

Families can explore various aspects of children’s lives – from birth and infancy, education and play, to the passage into adult life and death. Specifically, subjects represented in the artifacts include images of children with their mothers or nannies, mythological children and schoolroom scenes, as well as elaborately carved gravestones. And of course, as an exhibition about children, *Coming of Age in Ancient Greece* features ancient Greek toys, including miniature Trojan horses and game pieces for knucklebones.

Other toys in the exhibition show that while many things have changed for children in the past few thousand years, some have remained the same. *Coming of Age in Ancient Greece* features dolls, including some with movable legs and arms, which are still popular today. And a terracotta plate depicts a game called ephedrismos, similar to today’s blind man’s bluff.

“This exhibition offers a tangible link to the past through art that gives us a true sense of everyday Greek life,” Markoe said. “Carefully designed to appeal to visitors of all ages, *Coming of Age in Ancient Greece* incorporates interactive, hands-on learning components that will engage families and encourage them to explore the timeless aspects of family and childhood.”

The Cincinnati Art Museum presentation of *Coming of Age in Ancient Greece* is generously supported by The Otto M. Budig Family Foundation as Presenting Sponsor. The Educational Programs Sponsor is Frisch's Restaurants.

This exhibition has been organized by the Hood Museum of Art, Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Hampshire, with generous support from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Alexander S. Onassis Public Benefit Foundation.

Images available by request at the contact information above.

The Cincinnati Art Museum (CAM) is open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday, with extended hours until 9 p.m. on Wednesdays. School tours are available between 9 and 11 a.m. on weekdays.

Free general admission to the Museum and its permanent collections every day is made possible by a gift from The Lois and Richard Rosenthal Foundation. Certain featured exhibitions may charge admission. For general information and ticketline, please call (513) 721-ARTS, or call toll free at 1-877-472-4CAM. Visit the Museum's Web site at www.cincinnatiartmuseum.org.

Annual CAM memberships start at \$25. The Cincinnati Art Museum is supported by the generosity of individuals and businesses that give annually to the Fine Arts Fund. The Ohio Arts Council helped fund the Cincinnati Art Museum with state tax dollars to encourage economic growth, educational excellence and cultural enrichment for all Ohioans. The Cincinnati Art Museum gratefully acknowledges operating support from the City of Cincinnati. The Official Airline of the Cincinnati Art Museum is Delta.