Roman Torso of a Youth

Roman

1st-2nd century A.D.,

Marble

H: 82 cm

A marble statue of a youth in contrapposto position. The torso is idealised but has only softly suggested muscles, giving the impression of youth. The beginnings of the slender arms and legs further contribute to this impression, as does the languid pose which runs throughout the body.

Statues such as this draw their inspiration from those attributed to the fourth-century B.C. Athenian sculptor Praxiteles. Praxiteles was known for his languid, youthful, and sensuous male figures. He deployed a contrapposto posture, with one taut leg bearing the body's weight and the other relaxed and bent at the knee. This produced a curve through the figure's torso and a tilt to the hips and shoulders.