

CORNELIA POINTING TO HER CHILDREN AS HER TREASURES

ANGELICA KAUFFMAN. 1785.

Maria Anna Catharina Angelica Kauffmann was a Swiss prodigy and had an established reputation as an artist and musician by the age of eleven.



In this picture the woman in red is bragging to the woman in white about all her treasures such as pearls and jewels. When the woman is white is asked where her treasures are she simple points to her children calling them her treasures.

It is composed of oil on canvas and is 40 by 50 inches.



Cornelia is pointing out the foolishness and vanity of the materialism of this woman by showing what really matters, her children.

The painting is in the neoclassical style and emphasizes Cornelia as the "good mother".

It is also titled "Mother of the Gracchi".

The red the woman is wearing symbolizes passion while the white of Cornelia's outfit symbolizes white.

The child in the middle is Cornelia's daughter and is wearing pink, mixing the white of the purity and the red of the passion. Maybe even symbolizing that the future of this child is yet unknown and she can choose either path.