

Title: Victory of Samothrace/ Nike of Samothrace

Date: 220-185 BCE

Location: Samothrace Island, Thrace Region, Greece

http://musee.louvre.fr/oal/victoiredesamothrace/victoiredesamothrace_acc_en.html

March 1863, a French archaeologist living in Turkey was looking for artifacts to send to a Paris Museum. During a dig they uncovered the statue, but continued to search for the head and arms, with no luck. But with what they did find, they came to the conclusion that the statue is the goddess of victory (Nike). He ended up sending this statue to the Louvre in Paris without its head or arms. The statue arrived in pieces and they had to reconstruct the statue, to include its upper torso, lower legs, and wings. It is carved from marble.

It was created not only to honor the goddess, Nike, but also to honor a sea battle. It conveys a sense of action and triumph as well as portraying artful flowing drapery, as though the goddess was descending to alight upon the prow of a ship. This statue was part of a naval battle monument, placed in the middle of a religious sanctuary. Those who were in need of victory visited this prominent statue. Unfortunately, the excavation ended and they have yet to uncover portions of the monument, leaving a mystery to the statue as well as an unknown artist.

This statue has become one of the three big art pieces of all time. Alongside with the Mona Lisa and the Venus de Milo.

