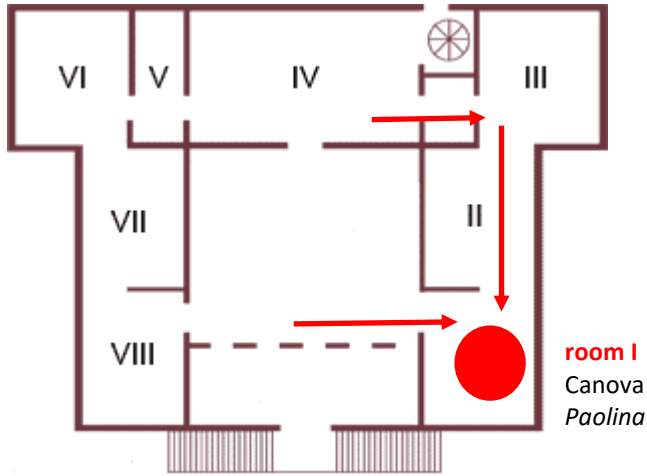




**BORGHESE GALLERY'S
STORIES**

**IF I WERE ...
PAOLINA**



Use the **MAP** and look for the statue **Paolina Borghese** by Antonio Canova at the ground floor of the museum

If you can, read her **story** or get some help.



then **LOOK** how she was made, **LOOK** at all the details: what she dresses, her hairstyle, placement, expression and what she has in her hand.

AND NOW PUT YOURSELF IN HER SHOES

now **YOU** are a princess: you are **Paolina**.

Do you want to explain your side of the story? If you are Paolina, what are you doing now? And why? You can draw or write, or both: for example a cartoon!

Free your imagination!

THE STORY

Antonio Canova

Paolina Borghese as Venus Victrix

1805-1808

The statue represents princess **Paolina**, Napoleone Bonaparte sister and wife of a descendant of cardinal Scipione, Camillo Borghese. In 1804, he asked Antonio Canova to realise this masterpiece. In that period Canova was a famous sculptor: he came from North Italy (Veneto), but he was early in Rome, and he had already worked for Napoleone. He was specialized in sculptures very, very influenced by ancient art. Look at Paolina: don't you think it is true?

But why she has an **APPLE** in her hand? This is explained by an ancient story (a myth):
the story of the **Judgement of Paris**.

Once Minerva, Juno and Venus asked Paris to say who was the most beautiful among them. Paris chose Venus, because she promised him the love of the most beautiful woman in the world. As a prize, Paris gave Venus a golden apple.

Paolina is beautiful like Venus: she is the **MOST** beautiful.

Like **Venus**, in her hand she has an **apple**.

if I were ... PAOLINA