

101. THE SWING. JEAN-
HONORÉ FRAGONARD. 1767
C.E. OIL ON CANVAS.

FRAGONARD



FORM

- ▶ Epitome of ROCOCO
 - ▶ Lightheartedness (subject and technique)
 - ▶ Realism and Naturalism
 - ▶ Emphasis on the natural background
 - ▶ Intentional use of soft colors
 - ▶ Ornate details (layers in her dress)
 - ▶ Strong use of lines (eyes directed towards the woman)
 - ▶ Lighting = woman bathed in sunlight



FUNCTION

- ▶ made for aristocrats to decorate buildings
- ▶ show the pleasures and decadence enjoyed by the elite



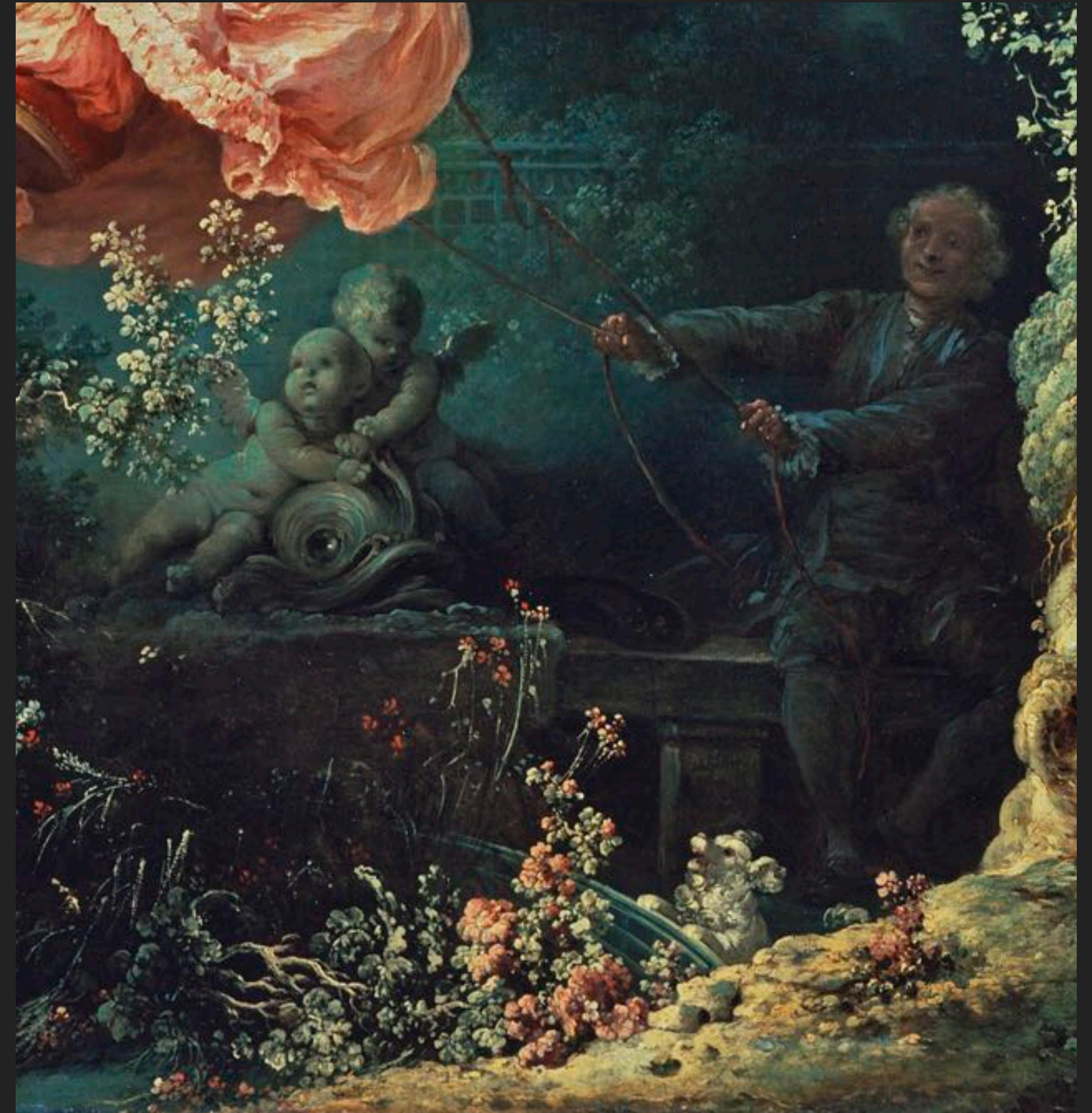
CONTEXT

- ▶ 1760s: Wealthy people of France were living better than population. Before the French Revolution
- ▶ Wealthy and lavish living
- ▶ Women were major patrons of the arts
- ▶ Art was seen as a wealthy escape from issues that France was facing
- ▶ Art became exclusive to the rich
- ▶ Art served as an attractive way for nobles to express themselves



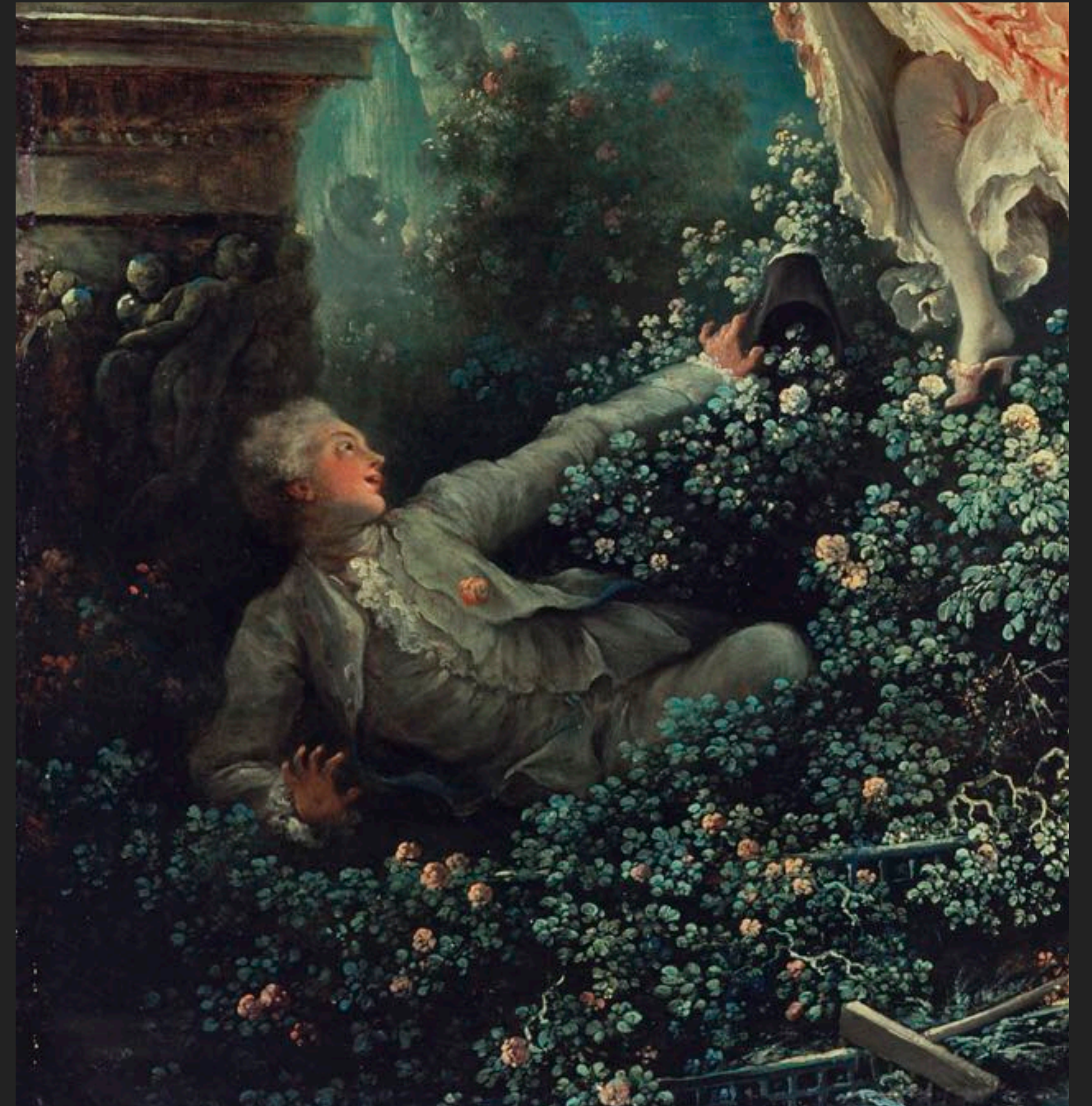
CONTENT

- ▶ Husband/bishop pushing her from the shadows. Literally "in the dark"
- ▶ Small dog, usually a sign of fidelity/loyalty. Here is barking as if to alert the husband to what is going on
- ▶ Cherubs / Putti urger her on



CONTENT

- ▶ The girl's lover hides in the bushes admiring her legs.
- ▶ Playful naughtiness found in ROCOCO



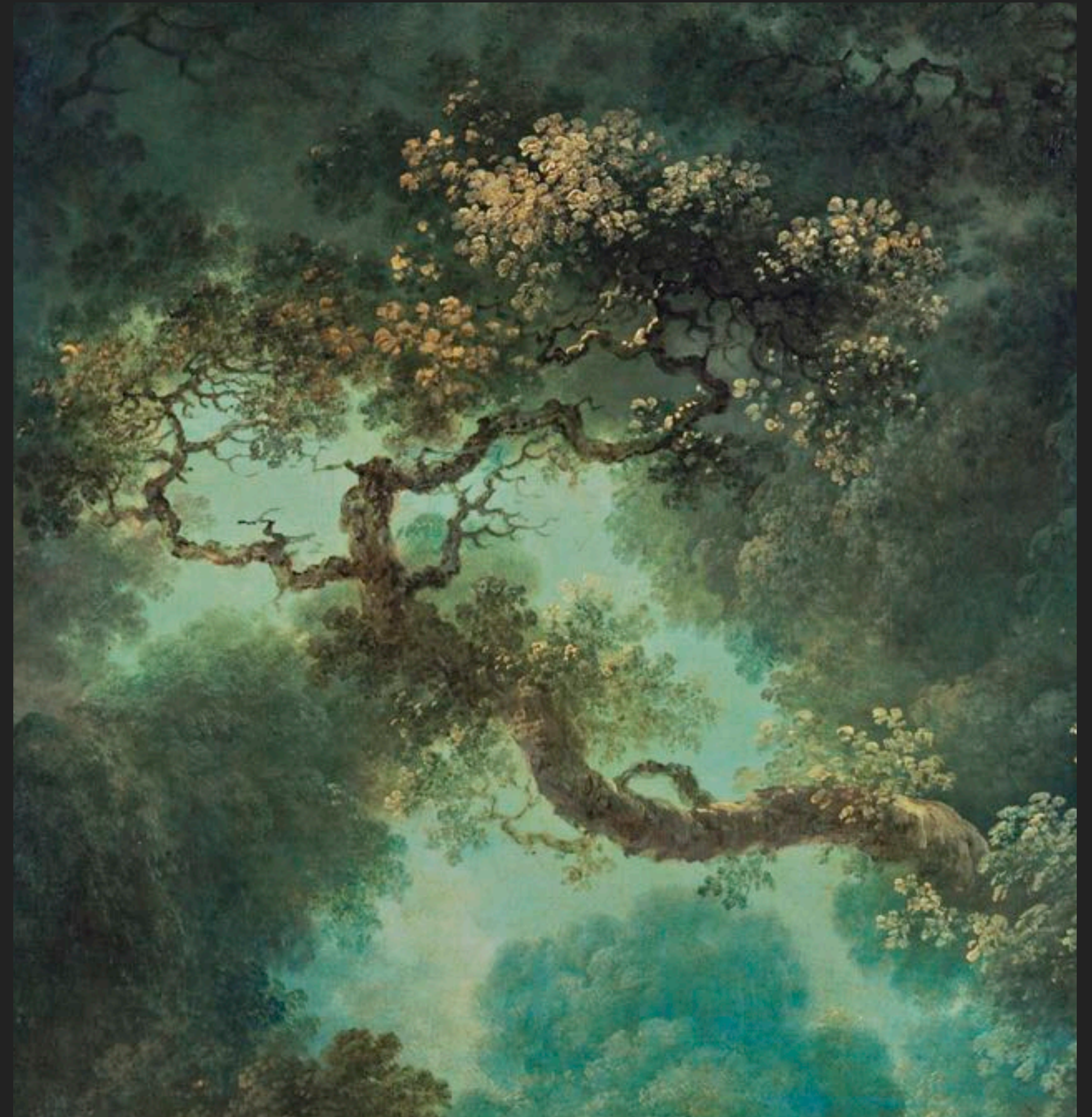
CONTENT

- ▶ Statue of Cupid holds his finger up to "shhh", letting her know that he will keep her secret
- ▶ She seductively kicks off her shoe to her hidden lover



CONTENT

- ▶ Branches are said to represent lightning strikes; the spark of love and passion



COMPARE WITH

- ▶ The Swing (After Fragonard)
by Yinka Shonibare



COMPARE WITH

- ▶ The Tete a Tete by William Hogarth

