103. THE OATH OF THE HORATII. JACQUES-LOUIS DAVID. 1784 C.E. OIL ON CANVAS.

JACQUES-LOUIS DAVID



FORM

- NEOCLASSICAL
- Simplistic and Symbolic
- Rejection of Rococo
- Organized and structured
- Male Figures = constructed with geometric shapes
- Female Figure = organic/realistic shapes
- Vanishing point on the swords









FORM

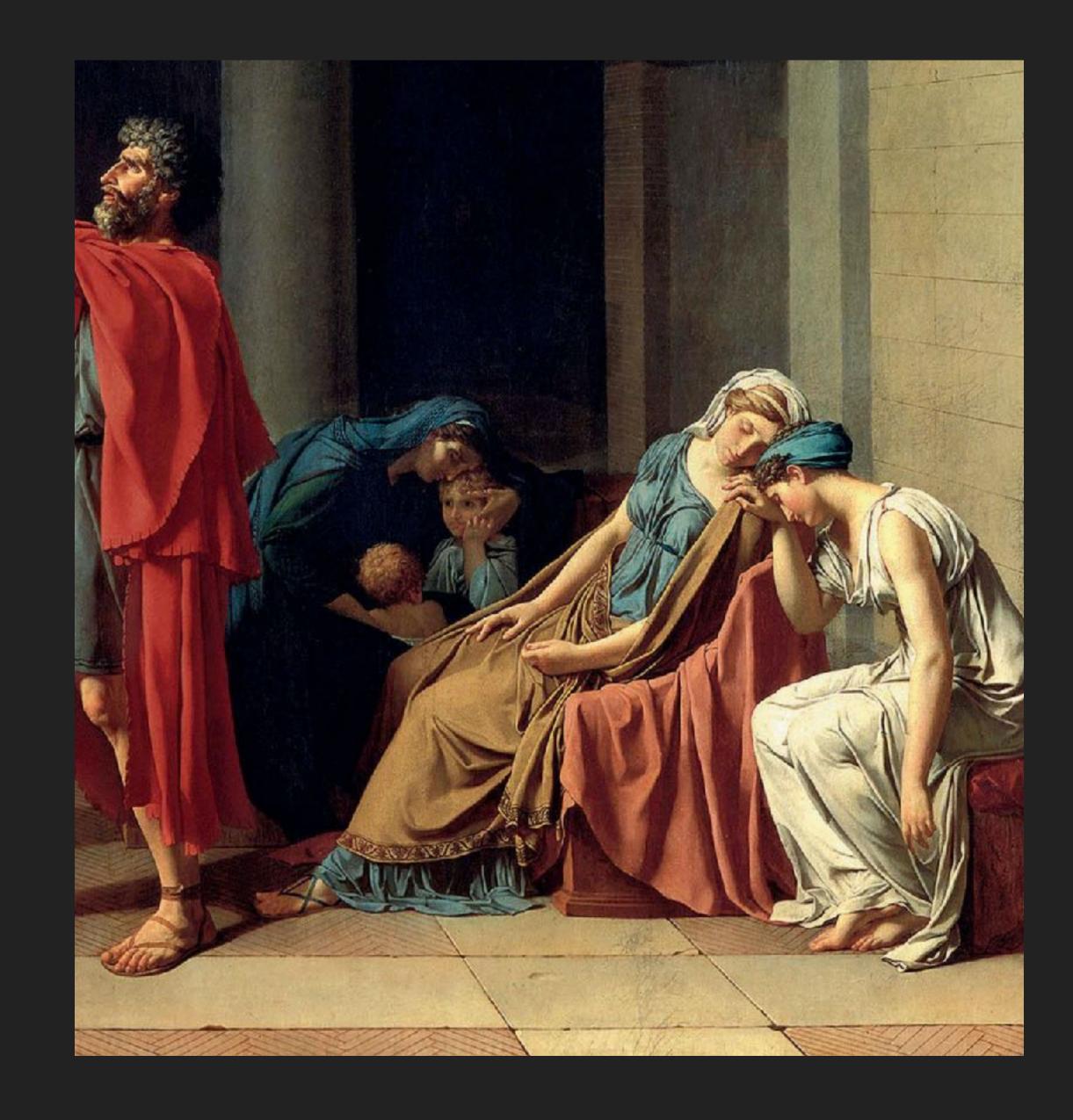
Men are rigid and angular, showing strength and determination





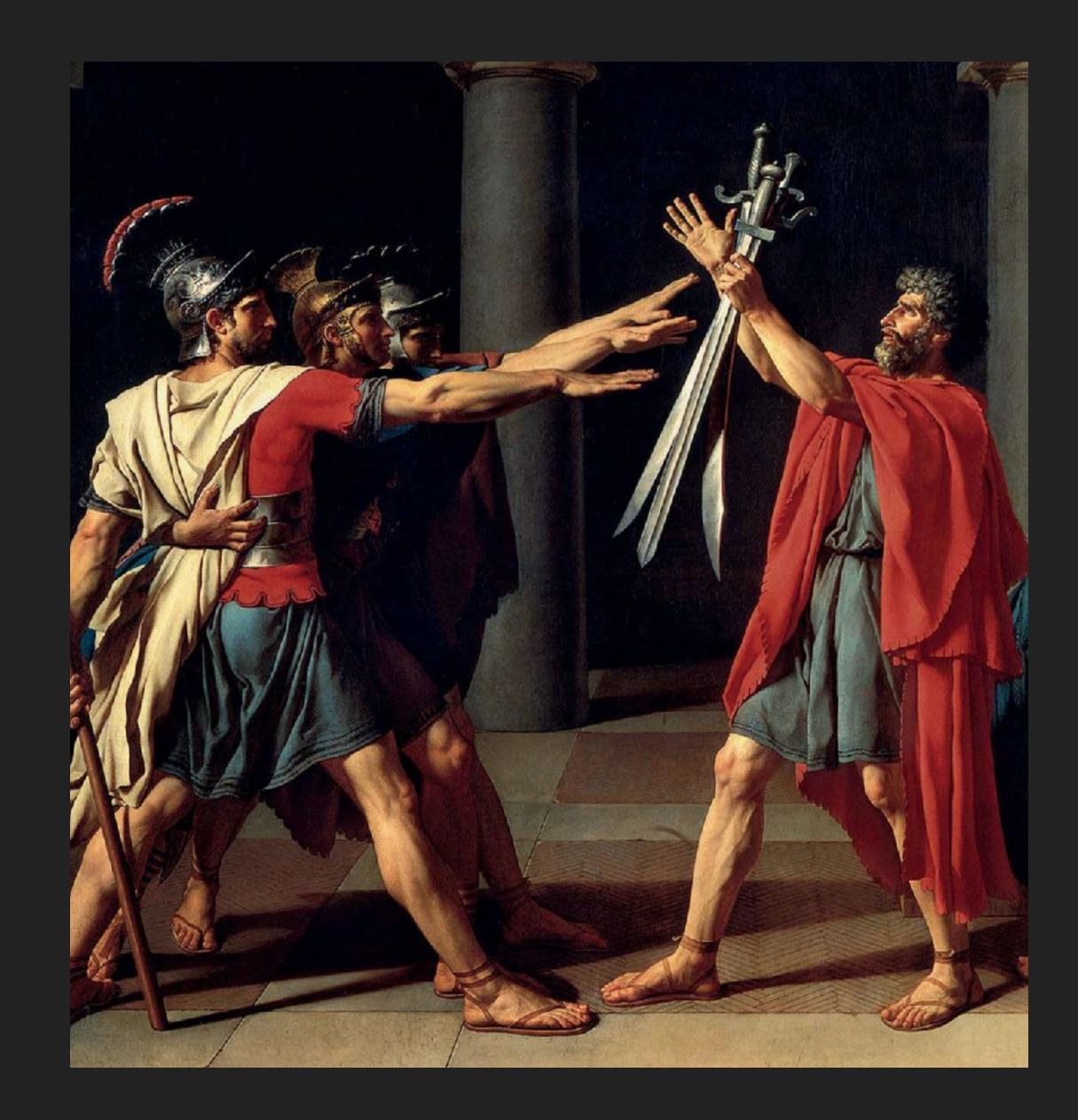
FORM

women are curvilinear - showing softness and weakness as well as a lack of agency



FUNCTION

- Shows 3 sons taking an oath to their father
- Revolutionary thinking? 5 years before French Revolution and Jacques-Louis was a revolutionary. Idea of swearing and oath to the Republic that will require dedication and sacrifice.





CONTEXT

Legend of Horatii

- Conflict between Rome and city of Alba Longa
- Instead of declaring war, they sent 3 representatives to settle dispute
- > 3 brothers of the Horatii (Roman) vs. 3 brothers of the Curatii (Alban)
- > Typical for battles to be won as men remain standing
- > Held moral value in Roman culture. Sacrifice for the defense of your city is a noble case
- Time of Painting
 - France was on the verge of its Revolution and the end of the monarchy
 - David picked up on the independent ideas resurfacing all over the world (revolutionary thinking)

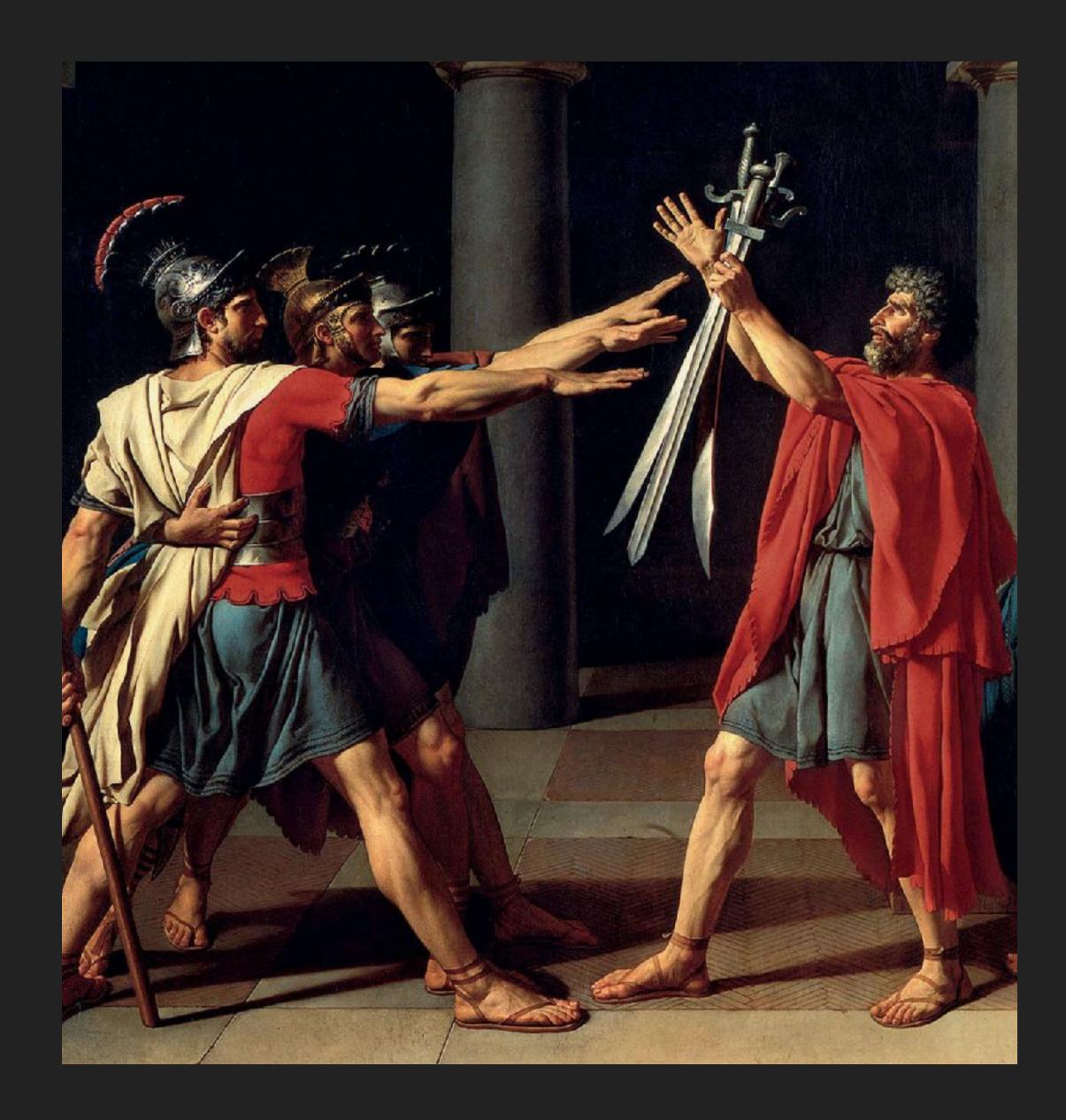




CONTENT

Horatii brothers and father

note the attention to detail in the musculature = Neoclassical ideals



CONTENT

Women and children

some are the sisters of the Horatii, who are married to the Curatii. Some are Curatii married to the Horatii brothers. Either way it will end in tragedy

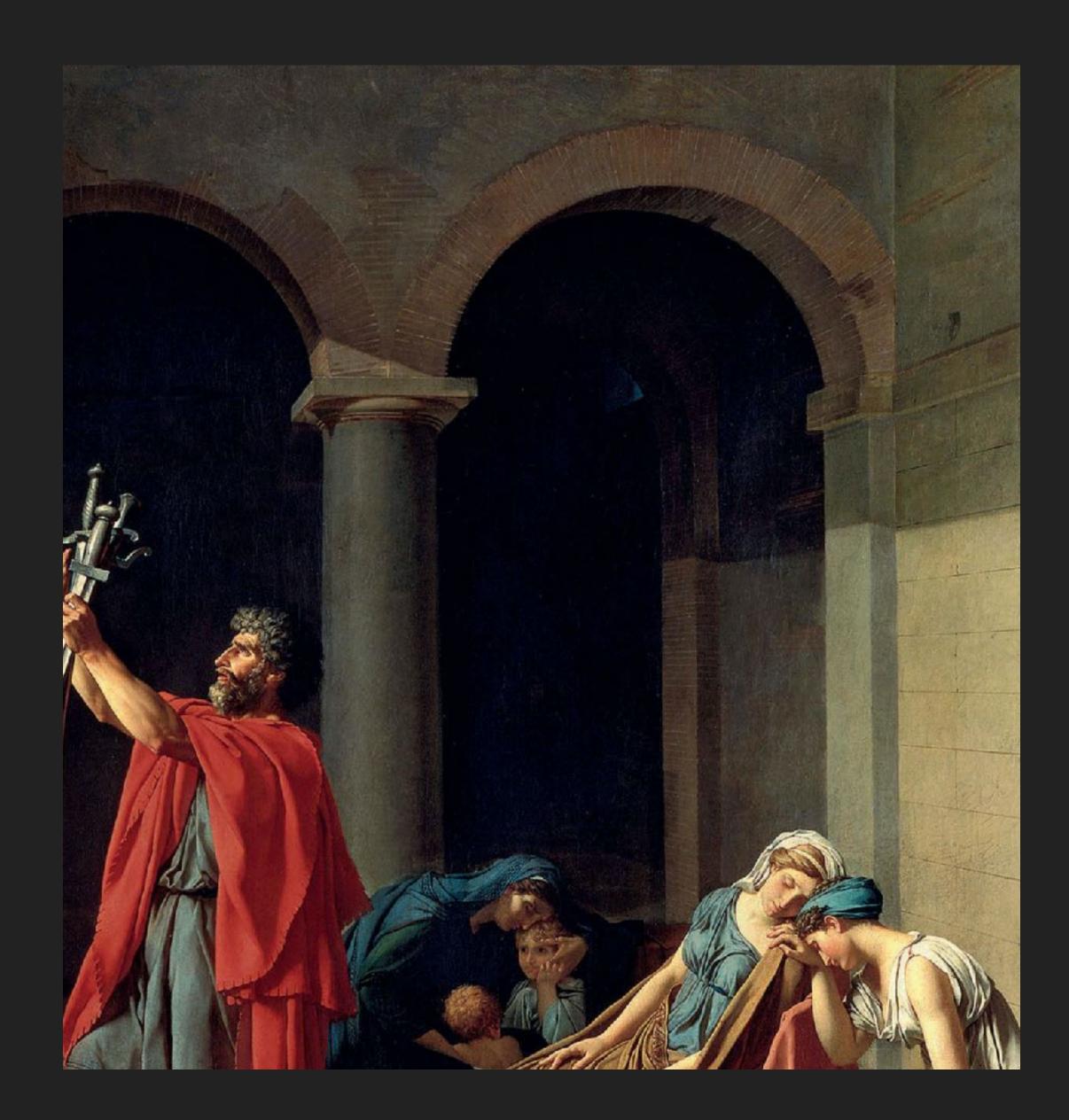






CONTENT

Roman arches and Tuscan columns = a Neoclassical setting



COMPARE WITH

Roman and Greek art

Neoclassical art



