

The British  
Museum

# A Story of a Youth

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Curated by:

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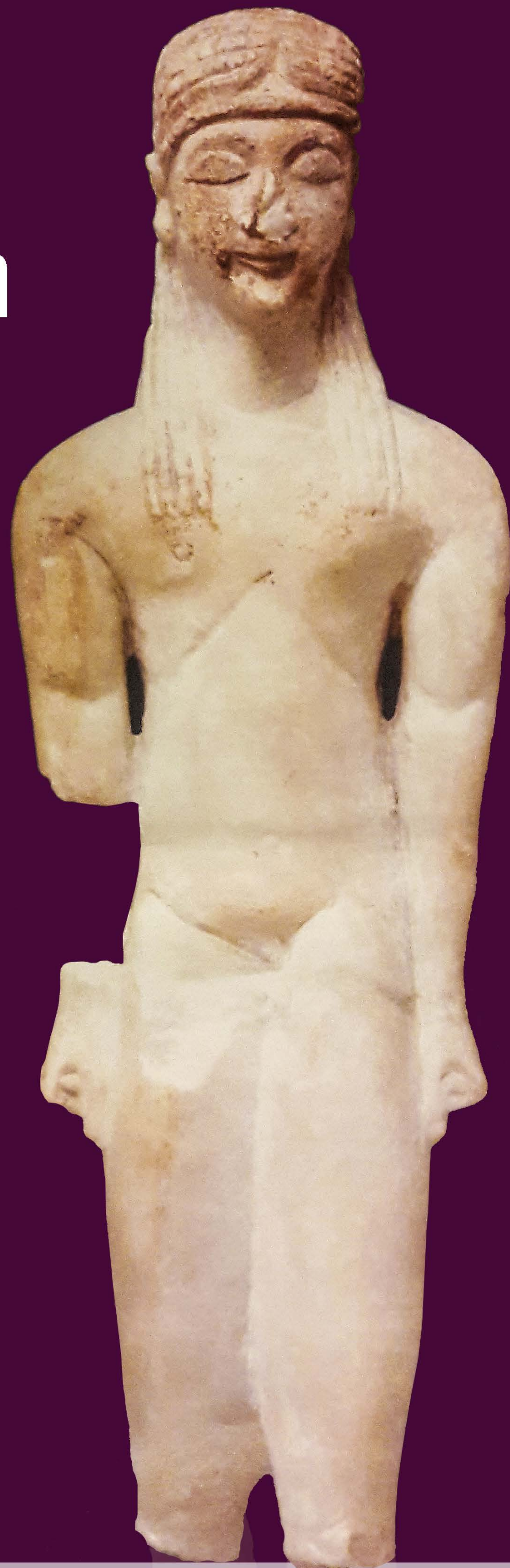
Hoda El Chayah

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Alabaster Kouros  
Αλάβαστρο κούρος  
الباستر كوروس

Found within the Sanctuary of Aphrodite.  
Naukratis, Egypt

580 - 570 BC

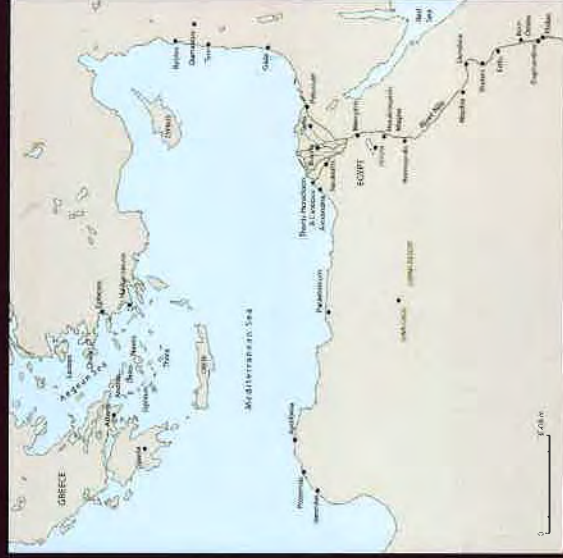


Map of the Eastern Mediterranean showing Naukratis and Cyprus

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Around 600 - 550 BC, Cypriot merchants traded a type of statuette made for the Greek market as part of an international trade. It may have been made in Cyprus and carried to Naukratis in the Nile Delta by Greek sailors or it could have been made in Naukratis itself.

The frontal standing youth (Kouros) was carved naked in a Greek style with Egyptian influence. Unlike the Cypriots, Greek male sculpture was usually nude; several statuettes found in Naukratis were popular votives dedicated to the gods as thank-you offerings for safe voyages.

A citizen of Naukratis in the Roman period recalls an account he had read of how such statuettes bought in old Paphos in Cyprus had saved his ship during a storm; arriving safely at Naukratis he dedicated the statuette to Aphrodite in her temple.

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