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## Hiram Powers' "Greek Slave"

By Elizabeth Barrett Browning

Hiram Powers' "Greek Slave"

By Elizabeth Barrett Browning (1806 - 1861)

They say Ideal beauty cannot enter  
The house of anguish. On the threshold stands  
An alien Image with ensnaked hands,  
Called the Greek Slave! as if the artist meant her  
(That passionless perfection which he lent her,  
Shadowed not darkened where the sill expands)  
To so confront man's crimes in different lands  
With man's ideal sense. Pierce to the centre,  
Art's fiery finger! and break up ere long  
The serfdom of this world. Appeal, fair stone,  
From God's pure heights of beauty against man's wrong!  
Catch up in thy divine face, not alone  
East griefs but west, and strike and shame the strong,  
” by thunders of white silence, overthrown.

### [Further Information about the Artwork:](#)

**Artist/Maker:** Hiram Powers (American, 1805-1873)

**Date:** 1869

**Medium:** Seravezza marble

**Dimensions:** 167.5 × 51.4 × 47 cm (65 15/16 × 20 1/4 × 18 1/2 in.)

**Resides In:** The National Gallery of Art, Washington D.C.



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