



THE ATHENS GREEK RELIGION SEMINAR, Tuesday, February 10, 2026

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Chain my Heart! Bound Eros in Graeco-Roman Art and Literature

ABSTRACT

The motif of bound Eros, punished for his torments of unhappy lovers, emerged in the minor arts of the late fourth century BC and became popular in Hellenistic and Imperial visual culture and literature. Rooted in ideas of ritual discipline and magical containment of a dangerous divine force, it simultaneously evokes metaphorical notions of the bonds of passion and the chains of reason. Playing with the ambivalent and sometimes contradictory nature of Eros between deity and emotion, primordial force and mischievous troublemaker, the motif provides a framework for exploring the universal and historically contingent aspects of desire, as well as the entanglement of concrete and metaphorical meanings in ancient visual language.

The seminar takes place Tuesday, February 10, 2026, 17.00 (Athens) in a hybrid format with live presence at the Swedish Institute at Athens and online via Zoom.

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