

The marble statuary group of Laocoon discovered in 1506 A. O. in city of Rome is one of the most studied, discussed and inspirational work of ancient art. Since its discovery, Laocoon has inspired an uncountable number of diverse receptive works of art in many different ways. Briefly summarizing, it was considered as an exemplum artis for artists of almost all periods and as an exemplum doloris in christian iconography of posttridentine period. In 17th century Laocoon was used for the first time in the sphere of popular culture. The greatest influence can be seen in the art of caricature. Influence of the group persists even until our days.

First examples of reception of the group in Czech art can be seen in the period of manierism in the court of emperor Rudolf II and in 18th century. In 19th century with the beginnings of Prague Art Academy Laocoon became even in our country one of the most copied works of ancient art, but it also stimulated the origin of satirical reaction on educational methods of Prague Art Academy. The first appearance of Laocoon in czech caricature is dated to the middle of 19th century, since then Laocoon has been used for the needs of Czech caricature many times.