

When Keats wrote "Ode on a Grecian Urn" in 1820 there was already a crisis in the conception of the Subject as a unified and homogeneous unit. The figures on the urn in Keats' poem are frozen in time as if they are immortal. But the poet recognized that this scene bore no relation to life or mortality.



In the poem, the Subject is fallible and mortal and, as such, beauty and truth exist beyond the Subject's grasp.