

OVID, MYTH AND EXILE
IN JOYCE'S *A PORTRAIT OF THE ARTIST AS A YOUNG MAN*

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Abstract: Joyce's A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man starts with an epigraph from Ovid's Metamorphoses (VIII, 188): "Et ignotas animum dimittit in artes", meaning "Then to new arts his cunning thought applies" and the line continues in the classical writer's text: "And to improve the work of Nature tries". This description by Ovid pays homage to Daedalus, the first sculptor who allegedly created statues with legs apart and the first man who attempted to fly with wings created by himself. Joyce masterfully impregnates his entire narrative with references to the story of the labyrinth and the Daedalian figure. Moreover, Daedalus both begins and ends the novel, if we consider Stephen's final invocation to the "Old father, old artificer". Thus, our aim in this article is to show the relevance of reading Joyce through the lens of the "mythical method" and as a revisitation of Ovid.