

# THE ART OF THE FRESCO

*Alexandra  
Walker*



*Bowl of Fruit*

In 79AD Mount Vesuvius near Naples erupted and covered the ancient town of Pompeii and its surrounding countryside in lava and ash. Although the disaster devastated the city at the time, killing its citizens and burying everything, the buildings and works of art were preserved for centuries under the ash. Since few paintings have survived from this era, Pompeii is one of the few precious sources for much of what we know about ancient painting and decoration.

With the same eruption the summer resort of Herculaneum was also buried as were dozens of private residences. Amongst these there are three villas that are particularly noteworthy: Boscoreale and Boscotrecase (north of Pompei and nearer to the volcano), and Nero's wife Poppea's villa on the sea at Torre Annunziata (ancient Oplontis).

"Bowl of Fruit" is a detail from the North wall of Cubiculum M from the Villa Fannius at Boscoreale. The entire room was acquired by the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. It has been reconstructed in the Museum and can be seen there.

£600

59cm x 48cm

*Villa of Publius Fannius Synistor, Boscoreale, Italy*

*c.50 BC – 79AD*