

Ares and Athena's Warfare Waltz by Christina Ciufo

Scarlet-orange illuminates
and ignites its ambers over
the Parthenon's stone roof.

Like the Ilisos river,
its light streams
into their thin cracks,
dripping into the Parthenon's pillars.

An owl and vulture appear –
circling over Athena's temple
in a ritualistic dance. They screech,
kindling Ares' golden-orange flames
between each column.

The aroma of charred
olive tree wood
and boar's meat
permeating the air.

Athena appears, composed and agile,
like a deer, with her spear.

Ares appears, fierce and untamed,
like a boar, with his spear.

The gods' eyes are narrowed,
staring intensity with the ambers
of warfare. Sword and spear
raised up and collide.

Clang,
clang, and
clang.

Athena and Ares
twirl and osculate
in their waltz
to the owl's screeching
and the dog's clamor howling.

Ares' flames
become extinguished
as their warfare waltz ceases.

