

## ***Allegory of Wisdom***

### ***Marietta Robusti, called La Tintoretta (attributed to)***

Oil on canvas

Venetian, ca. 1554–1590

#### **The Clues**

What objects in the painting do you think reflect the idea of wisdom?

#### **The Story**

If you were to create your own painting depicting Wisdom, what visual clues would you use?

#### **The Picture Book**

Marietta Robusti illustrates Renaissance artists' penchant for integrating Christian and mythological symbols into their work:

- The head of Wisdom bears the wings of Mercury, a messenger of the Roman gods and the embodiment of eloquence.
- At her feet (a position of humble submission) is a miter, the official headdress of Jewish high priests and Western bishops.
- In addition, her hand subdues a serpent, the Christian emblem of the devil.
- Finally, the books—which she uses both for support and contemplation—alludes to her perennial pursuit of knowledge.