Giuseppe Recco and Luca Giordano The riches of the sea with Neptune, tritons and two nereids, 1684 Naples, oil on canvas 2.35mm x2.95m (Mary Overton Gift Fund 1997).

Encased in a thick, gold and black ostentatious frame this is a large, dark work, in a palette comprising of browns, black, white and red, it has figures emerging from the sea and a bounty of abundance and seafood delicacies in the foreground.

For reference - Nereids were fifty sea-nymphe daughters of Nereus the old man of the sea. In Ancient Greek mythology, Nereus is one of the water deities, those gods or goddesses who control the element of the water, including rivers, lakes, and seas, as well as all the creatures that live in these. There are many gods and goddesses associated with the waters in Ancient Greece.

The Nerieds were goddesses of the sea's rich bounty and protectors of sailors and fishermen, coming to the aid of those in distress. Individually they represented various facets of the sea from the salty brine, to the sea foam, sand, rocks, waves and currents, as well as the various skills possessed by seamen.

The Nereides dwelt with their elderly father in a silvery grotto at the bottom of the Aegean Sea. The Nereid Thetis was their unofficial leader and Amphitrite was Poseidon's queen. The Nereides were depicted in ancient art as beautiful, young maidens. The name Nereides means "Daughters of Nereus" but also "the Wet Ones" from nêros the Greek word for "wet".

Against a murky background of rocks and trecherous skies, Neptune – the god of the sea is on our left, trident in his right hand, white beard and hair, a shroud of white material billowing out behind, VERY muscled torso revealed, the brown cloth of his toga wrapped around his left shoulder and draped across his groin. Above him flies a dark haired chubby cherub and below his waist, as he is emerging from the water, still partly submerged and clinging, two numphs,

Almost at centre, surrounded by the darkness of rocky outcrops two women, both have red coral headdresses and one is clutching an oblong woven basked.

Collected on the rocks in the foreground is a pile of succulent fresh seafood, oysters, muscles, scallops and conch shells scattered on the left, on the right squid, red, opened mouthed medium-sized fish, silver fish with white underbellies, a turtle, a swordfish eel, and crayfish. They glisten.