

Abstract: This article examines a juncture in Ariadne's famous speech from Catullus 64 in order to explore the self-conscious nature of Catullan ecphrasis. Focusing on the related constructs of boundaries and escapism, it looks at the figure of Oceanus amongst the textual tradition of ecphrasis as a boundary of experience to suggest Ariadne's awareness of her ecphrastic fate. This identification of a self-conscious Ariadne further illuminates the labyrinthine mechanism of the poem itself.

Keywords: Catullus, Ariadne, Ecphrasis, Digression, Escapism.