## **Mars**

Mars is the Roman god of war, which for the Greeks is 'Ares'.

Mars also gave its name to the month of March, the beginning of the year in the old Roman calendar. The god Mars has both negative and positive sides.

Mars seduced Rhea, who became pregnant. Because her uncle wanted to prevent her descendants from contesting his rule, she was imprisoned. She gave birth to twins, Romulus and Remus, who were abandoned immediately after birth. A wolf rescued and fed them, and a woodpecker helped him.

The love affair of Mars with Venus takes form in Concordia (Unity), as a balancing of opposites. Roman married couples are often depicted in the guise of Mars and Venus.

Mars is both god of war and patron of peace.

He is usually depicted with helmet and shield, with breastplate or barechested. His attribute is the sword.

When we are born, we get the spirit from Sol, the body from Luna, and the blood from Mars. Its metal is iron. The planet's reddish color is taken as a symbol of its fiery nature.

Mars is also shown dancing. In the training of Ares, his teacher, Priapus, demands that he first be a perfect dancer before he can teach him fencing.

The goat is assigned to the peacefulness of Mars, the lion is one of his companion animals.

The Germanic god of war is called 'Ziu' or 'Thir', hence the word 'Tuesday'.

The Mars figure, made of bronze, is approx. 180 cm high. The sign had to be cast out of aluminum because otherwise it would have pulled the figure too much to one side.

From the series: Bronze sculptures for the 7 planets Agathe Zinsstag, <a href="www.agatheskulpturen.ch">www.agatheskulpturen.ch</a>