There Was No Joking

Satire in the *Lais* of Marie de France
Sir Lanval’s Lady Appeals to the Judges by Byam Shaw (British, 20th Century)
Romance Form

Integration

Disintegration

Reintegration
Lanval by Jean-Sebastien Rossbach (French, Contemporary)
The Fairy Queen’s Beauty

Her Horse:
was well proportioned in the neck and head,
no finer beast in all the world

The Queen:
neck whiter than snow on a branch... and an
elegant forehead

(emphasis added)
Mason’s Fairy Queen

Mason’s word choice “shrouds the nakedness of the lady in words touched with sanctity and innocence.”

-Peggy Maddox

She is whiter than any altar lily; she is like the newborn rose; she wears a vesture of spotless linen; the rondure of her bosom is more untouched than hawthorn.

(emphasis added)
The Critical Final Scene

Marie de France:
Lanval jumps on the palfrey behind the fairy queen

Mason:
The fairy queen “seated herself on the palfrey, behind her friend”
Detail of a manuscript in the Bibliothèque de l'Arsenal, Paris