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Title: The “Straight Canon of Truth” in the *Indalmoi* of Timon of Phlius.

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Short abstract:

When Timon of Phlius asserts that his discourse is shaped by a “straight canon of truth” (*Indalmoi*, 842 SH = 68 D.) he is not making an epistemological claim that contradicts his skepticism, but describing his aesthetic program like a typical Hellenistic poet. The best parallel is not Democritus’ philosophical *Kanones* or Epicurus’ *Kanon*, but Polycleitus’ artistic *Kanon*. Timon is claiming that his is an art of “seeming” rather than “being” which is completely consistent with his skepticism. His *kanon*, a workman’s level applied to verse in the manner of Aristophanes (*Ran.* 788-789), belongs not to philosophy, but to the classic metaphor of the poet-as-craftsman.