

Greek Art

ENDURING UNDERSTANDING

- Greek art is grounded in civic ideals and polytheism.
- Greek Art is characterized by a pantheon of gods celebrated in large civic and religious buildings.
- Contextual information for ancient Greece can be derived from contemporary literary, political, legal, and economic records as well as from archeological excavations conducted from the mid-18th century onward.

ESSENTIAL KNOWLEDGE

- Greek art is studied chronologically according to changes in style.
- Greek works are not studied according to dynastic rule, as in Egypt, but according to broad changes in stylistic patterns.
- Greek art is most known for its idealization and harmonic proportions, both in sculpture and in architecture.
- Greek art has had an important impact on European art, particularly in the eighteenth century.
- Greek writing contains some of the earliest contemporary accounts about art and artists.
- Epics form the foundation of Greek writing. The texts were at first transmitted orally, but later written down.

IDEAS AND CONCEPTS

1. Greek art is organized by styles that evolve from Geometric to Hellenistic.
2. Greek art was influenced by earlier Mediterranean cultures, Egyptian, Mesopotamian, Minoan and Mycenaean.
3. Greek citizens focused on rationality and reason, this is demonstrated in their sculptures and architectures as perfect mathematical proportions.
4. The development of the standing male nude in Greek sculpture. Note particularly the changing proportions, the depiction of motion, and the conception of the figure in space.
5. Stylistic conventions of the kouros.
6. The three classical orders of architecture.
7. Classical Art originates in Greece and is a foundation of all art history.
8. Greek sculpture is characterized by the idealizing of the human form, the beauty of the nude body, and the ability of figures to express a great range of emotions.
9. Greek temples become extremely influential in the development of European architecture.
10. Painting on Greek pottery echoes the development of Greek sculpture and forms virtually all our knowledge about Greek painting.

VOCABULARY

Aegean	Minoan	cella	kore
Arthur Evans	Mycenaean	centaur	kouros
ashlar masonry	relieving triangle	chryselephantine	Iekythos
citadel	repousse	colonnade	Lord Elgin
corbeled vault	tholos	contrapposto	naos
Cycladic	Tiryns	Delian League	Nike
Cyclopean walls	wet (or true) fresco	encaustic	pediment
faience	abacus	engobe	Pericles
Heinrich	agora	entasis	peristyle
Schliemann	Amazonamachy	foreshortening	Propylaia
Helladic	amphora	gigantomachy	stoa
Knossos	Apollo	Hera	triglyph
Labyrinth	architrave	Herakles	Vitruvius
megaron	caryatid	Homer	volute

RESOURCES

Introduction to Greek Art
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gtKgF51QwLk>

John Green’s Crash Course Persians v Greeks
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q-mkVSasZIM>

A web site for all things Greece
<http://www.ancientgreece.com/s/Art/>

Greek Art

JOURNAL

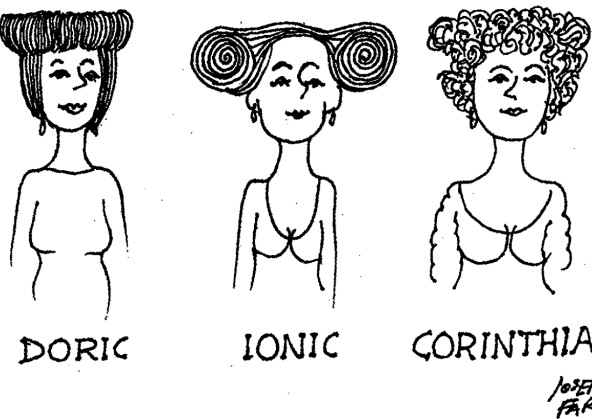
Doryphoros (3.1, 2.3, 1.2)
Parthenon (3.1, 2.3, 3.3)

CONTEXT

The collapse of Aegean society around 1100 BCE left a vacuum in the Greek world until a reorganization took place around 900 BCE in the form of city-states. Places like Sparta, Corinth, and Athens defined Greek civilization in that they were small, competing political entities that were united only in language and the fear of outsiders.

In the Fifth century BCE the Persians threatened to swallow Greece, and the city-states rallied behind Athens’ leadership to expel them. This was accomplished, but not before Athens itself was destroyed in 480 BCE. After the Persians were effectively neutralized, the Greeks then turned, once again, to bickering among themselves. The worst of these internal struggles happened during the Peloponnesian War (431-404 BCE) when Athens was crushed by Sparta. Without an effective core, Greek states continued to struggle for another century.

This did not end until the reign of Alexander the Great, who in the fourth century BCE briefly untied the Macedonians and Greeks, by establishing a mighty empire that eventually toppled the Persians. But because Alexander died young and left no clear successor, his empire crumbled away soon after his death. The remnants of Greek civilization lasted for another hundred years or so, until it was eventually absorbed by Rome.



WORKS OF ART

- Athenian Agora 600 BCE-150 CE
- Anyvasos Kouros 530 BCE
- Peplos Kore from the Acropolis 530 BCE
- Niobides Krater 460-450 BCE
- Polykletos, Doryphoros (Spear Bearer) 450-440 BCE
- Grave Stele of Hegeso 410 BCE
- Iktinos and Kallikrates, Parthenon (Temple of Athena Parthenos) 447-410 BCE
- Plaque of the Ergestines 447-410 BCE
- Kallikrates, Temple of Athena Nike
- Nike adjusting her sandal 447-410 BCE
- Gigantomachy frieze from Altar of Zeus, Pergamon 175 BCE
- (Winged Victory) Nike of Samothrace 190 BCE
- Great Altar of Zeus and Athena at Pergamon 175 BCE
- Seated Boxer 100 BCE
- Philoxenos of Eretria, Battle of Issus (Alexander Mosaic) 100 BCE

ASSIGNMENTS

- ☐ Read Gardners pages 103-161
- ☐ Complete homework packet
- ☐ Write journal
- ☐ Fill in flashcards

HOMWORK DUE: _____