

AP Art History Review: Unit 2

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Ancient Mediterranean (3500 B.C.E - 300 C.E.)

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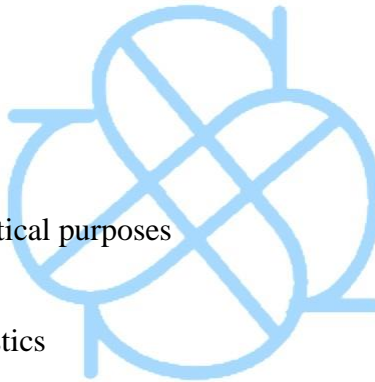
Ancient Mediterranean Overview of Civilization

- This unit includes Ancient Rome, Greece, Egypt, Etruscan, and Some Middle East countries (Mesopotamia).
- **Etruscan civilization:** a group of people that lived in Ancient Etruria, Italy, and was influenced by the Romans
- **Roman civilization:** over the years Ancient Rome controlled the Mediterranean, Northern Africa, and West Asia, depending on the ruler that was alive
- **Egyptian civilization:** in Northern Africa along the Nile river
- **Greek civilization:** Greek civilization was close to Roman civilization and had many similarities
- **Middle Eastern countries:** were often controlled by the Romans and share some influences

Characteristics Of Each Civilization In Art

- **Egyptian art**
 - Stiff postures
 - Only shows royalty (pharaoh and the family) in art
 - Connections to the afterlife and afterlife purposes
 - Twisted perspective

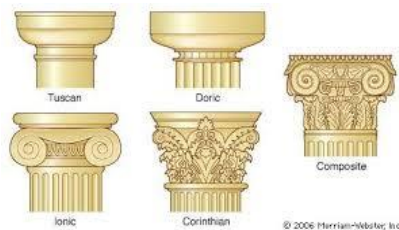
- **Roman art**
 - Realism
 - Idealism
 - Harmony
 - More fluid poses
 - Stiffness in clothes
- **Greek Art**
 - Idealism
 - Humans and mythological gods
 - For public display
- **Etruscan art**
 - Funerary
 - Urban
 - Sacred
 - Portraits
- **Mesopotamian art**
 - Religious and political purposes
 - Narrative imagery
 - Human characteristics



Key Vocabulary

- **Ziggurat:** a rectangle shaped step tower
- **Votive:** an offering used to fulfill a vow or promise, ancient mesopotamia structure
- **Steele:** an upright slab
- **Hypostyle hall:** a hall with rows on columns that support the roof
- **Sarcophagus:** a type of coffin
- **Papyrus scroll:** something that was used to write on, commonly used in Egypt
- **Pharaoh:** an egyptian ruler
- **Lamassu:** a deity that guards a certain building or area
- **Bas-relief:** a carving that is raised from the surrounding material
- **Cella:** rooms or chambers

- **Hierarchical scale:** different heights and sizes of depictions show their importance
- **Hieroglyphs:** the writing in Egypt
- **Cuneiform:** the writing in Mesopotamia, Persia, and Urgait
- **Burnishing:** polishing by rubbing something on another material
- **Calyx/krater:** a vase used as a bowl for mixing wine and water together
- **Palestra:** a gym for athletes
- **Canons:** a set of rules for judging something
- **Contrapasso:** a fluid stance of the body, not a stiff stance
- **Wet drapery technique:** the clothes are seen as transparent like wet clothes
- **Ex-voto:** an offering for religious purposes
- **Impluvium:** a part of the atrium that was made to hold rainwater
- **Atrium:** an open roof with buildings/structures around it
- **Hellenistic period:** related to Greek history and language after the death of Alexander the Great
- **Oculus:** a round opening
- **Fora:** a marketplace in an ancient roman city
- **Hyperrealism:** a very detailed depiction of the natural world
- **Realism:** an accurate depiction of the real world
- **Patricians:** men who worked in the government and were educated and wealthy
- **Verism:** extreme natural depictions
- **Tripirate plan:** a three part plan
- **Amphitheater:** a large theater



(source: britannica.com)

Art Pieces Overview

- **White temple and ziggurat**
 - A white temple and ziggurat dedicated to Anu

- For political and religious purpose
- Has north, west, and east entrances
- **Palette of King Narmer**
 - An eye makeup and lipstick palette
 - Depicts King Narmer with a bull tail and a kilt
 - Enemies decapitated and castrated
- **Statues of votive figures from square temple at Eshnunna**
 - Statues of male and female donors that are used as stand-in worshippers
 - Defining feature = their big eyes
- **Seated scribe**
 - A statue of a well respected scribe in Egypt
 - Scribes were the only people who could read and write
- **Standard of Ur from the Royal tombs at Ur (modern day Iraq)**
 - Depicts a war and peaceful side
 - War side → injured naked captives of war being given to the king; talons folding over an arrow--war sign
 - Peace side → olive branches, men bringing crops and fish
 - Unknown function
- **Great Pyramid of Giza (Menkaura, Kharfe, Khufu) and Great Sphinx**
 - Three pyramids made by three different Pharaohs (Menkaura, Kharfe, Khufu)
 - Functioned as a burial site for the pharaohs
- **King Menkaura and Queen**
 - A statue of Menkaura and one of his wives stepping into the afterlife
- **The Code of Stele of Hammurabi**
 - A list of laws to abide by
 - Shows Hammurabi receiving the code from a god of justice, Shamash
- **Temple of Amun-re and Hypostyle Hall**
 - A temple dedicated to the god Amun-re
 - It also honors many other Egyptian gods and goddesses
- **Mortuary temple of Hatsheput**
 - A temple dedicated to one of the only woman pharaohs

- Hatsheput had this created to solidify her right to rule
- **Akhenaten, Neferiti and three daughters**
 - Wanted to inspire Egyptians to worship only one god, Aten the sun god
 - Portrayed Akhenaten, Neferiti, and the daughters with Aten to show divine right to rule
- **Tutankhamun's tomb, innermost coffin**
 - Tut was set on having a prepared burial process for him to get to the afterlife
 - The inner sarcophagus was made out of gold
 - Depicted Tut with a death mask, two different gods, a fake beard
- **Last judgment of Hu-nefer, from his tomb. Book of the dead**
 - The book of dead was used to guide the royals into the afterlife and how to pass the test made by the Egyptian Gods
 - Shows Hu-nefer explaining how he was a good person to the gods
- **Lamassu from the citadel of Sargon II, Dur Sharrukin**
 - A protective creature with a human head, a bull body, and wings
 - Guarded the palace of Sargon
- **Athenian Agora**
 - Burial ground to a market place to a temple dedicated to Athena
 - Also was a place for government
- **Anavysos Kouros**
 - Showed the ideal beauty standards of men (strong, lean with neatly braided hair)
 - Had Egyptian influence through the stiff posture

- **Peplos kore from the Acropolis**
 - Ideal beauty standard of women
 - Also represented a goddess
- **Sarcophagus of the spouses**
 - Showed more gender equality in Etruscan society
 - The spouses sit together, reaching out with an archaic smile
- **Audience hall (apandna) of Darius and Xerxes**
 - Hypostyle hall
 - Center of the Persian Empire
- **Temple of Minerva**
 - Dedicated to Minerva
 - Shows the Etruscan being influenced by the Greeks
- **Tomb of the triclinium**
 - Has fresco painting of dancers and musicians and a nude ring bearer
 - Had the deceased and offerings to the gods
 - The living shared a meal with the deceased
- **Niobides Krater**
 - Used to mix wine with water
 - Depicted Hercules, Athena, Niobe, Apollo, Leto, Artemis, Niobe's kids
 - A story in mythology
- **Doryphoros (spear bearer)**
 - Shows the artist understanding of harmony and proportions
 - Contrapasso
 - Naked man
- **Acropolis**
 - Contained many temples to different mythology gods
 - Was burned down and destroyed

- **Grave stele of Hegeso**
 - Depicts Servant holding a jewelry box and Hegeso is looking at a necklace
 - Is a gravestone
- **Winged victory of Samothrace**
 - Depicts the goddess of victory, Nike
 - Made to commemorate a naval victory
 - Also is an offering to Nike
- **Great Altar of Zeus and Athena at Pergamon**
 - Shows the mythological story of the gods fighting the giants in order to be the controllers of the universe
 - High relief
 - Used to worship the Greek gods and show their power
- **House of Vetti**
 - Owned by two former slaves that became very wealthy
 - A decorated house
- **Alexander Mosaic from the house of the faun, Pompeii**
 - Depicts the battle of Alexander the Great and Darius III (the Battle of Issus)
- **Seated boxer**
 - Depicts a defeated boxer of Quirinal
 - Head and face covered with blood covering his wounds
 - Represented the boxing culture in Rome
- **Head of a Roman Patrician**
 - Dedicated Roman Patrician that was well respects
 - Wrinkles and sagging → shows wisdom and determination
- **Augustus of Prima Porta**
 - Depicts idealized Augustus in a breastplate
 - Used as propaganda

- **Colosseum (Flavian Amphitheater)**
 - Was gifted to the Greek people
 - POWs, slaves, and non-citizens fight for freedom or die in the colosseum
- **Forum of Trajan**
 - Depicts the trajan defeating the dacians
 - Contained Roman and Greek literature
 - Used to solidify rule
- **Pantheon**
 - Was a temple to mythology gods then turned into a church
- **Ludovisi Battle Sarcophagus**
 - Narrative piece
 - Romans are shown as the good guys
 - The hero is the focal point
 - The goths are shown as the bad guys

Sources:

- Site.google.com
- Collegeboard.com
- Khan academy
- Britannica.com

