

Etruscan, Ptolemaic Egyptian, and Roman Art

ETRUSCAN ART

Key Ideas

- Development of city-states for political system, with common religion and language.
- Etruscan women had more status/social power than Ancient Greek women.
- Etruscans adopted Greek gods into their own pantheon and were influenced stylistically by Greek art. (They also were one of the biggest importers of Greek pottery; much of what survived was found in their tombs!)
- Etruscans developed sophisticated techniques in casting and engraving bronze.

Timeline

Etruscan “Orientalizing” era, 750-575 BCE

Etruscan Decline: 575-270 BCE (eventually, the Etruscans were conquered by the Romans, and granted citizenship in 88 BCE)

- *Figure of a Youth*, Etruscan, 470-460 BCE, bronze (47.39)
- *Mirror (with Dioskouroi)*, Etruscan, 3rd-2nd century BCE, bronze (62.13)

Terms

Tuscan Order: The Etruscan variation of the Greek Doric order (see p. 161 of Stokstad)

Dioskouroi: The twins, Castor and Pollux, brothers of Helen of Troy.

PTOLEMAIC EGYPTIAN ART

Key Idea

- The artwork produced in the Ptolemaic period consists of a melding of Hellenistic Greek art and Egyptian artistic traditions. For example, Ptolemaic rulers adopted the conventions of pharaonic royalty as well as Greek ideals in their portraits.

Timeline

304 to 30 BCE (conquered by the Romans in 30 BCE)

- *Striding figure*, Egyptian, 300-30 BCE, granodiorite (58.14)
- *Ptolemaic Ruler in the Guise of Hercules*, 2nd century BCE, bronze (68.81)

Terms and Names

Cleopatra

ROMAN ART (Republican and Imperial)

Key Ideas

- The Roman Empire was one of the largest in human history. Today our own cities show the stamp of Roman civilization, with our governmental structure, civic buildings, and urban planning.
- Romans excelled in painting, sculpture, and architecture. They were heavily influenced by the Etruscans and the Greeks in all the arts.
- Romans assimilated the religious cults of many cultures they conquered (Egypt, Greece, Persia, etc.).

- Roman population was divided into two social classes: patricians and plebeians. Rome also had a large population of slaves. Patricians commissioned most of the art (sculpture and architecture).
- Roman emperors used sculpture and architecture as powerful tools of political propaganda.

Timeline

Roman Republic: 509-27 BCE

Roman Empire: 27 BCE to 393 CE (Typically broken down in Early, High, and Late Empire periods)

- *Tondo: Portrait of a Young Noblewoman*, 2nd century, marble (68.9.4)
- *Funerary Relief*, (from Palmyra), late 2nd century-early 3rd century CE, limestone (2008.28.2)
- *Venus*, 4th century, silver with traces of gilding (69.84)
- *Caduceus*, 2nd century, bronze (2000.64)
- *Dionysus on a Donkey*, 2nd century, marble (63.4)
- *Seated Silenus*, 2nd century BCE-1st century CE, marble (2004.210)
- *Head of Satyr*, 1st century, red marble (2006.110)
- *Crouching Satyr*, 1st century, marble (2005.150)
- *Cinerary Box with Cover*, 1st century, Marble, 62.20 a,b
- *Fragment of a Lion Sarcophagus*, 250-275, Marble, 2004.209
- *Cupid with hydria*, 1st century, marble (2005.149)
- *Roman Matron*, 60-70 CE, marble (32.16)
- Roman glass, various examples, 1st through 5th century CE.
- *Standing Deity Holding Horn and Bucket*, 1st century, Fresco (79.21)
- *Bust of a Young Nobleman*, 2nd century, marble (68.9.2)
- *Boss with Oceanus*, 1st-2nd century CE, Bronze with silver and copper inlay (61.58)
- *Portrait of a Man*, 253-268 CE, marble (2008.28.1)
- *Doryphoros*, 120-50 BCE, Roman copy after 5th century BCE Greek original, marble (86.6)
- *Torso*, 2nd century BCE Roman copy after the 5th century Greek original, marble (57.40)

Terms and Names

Orator: Speaker who addresses a crowd

Romulus and Remus, founders of Rome

Roman emperors (Octavian/Augustus, Vespasian, Hadrian, Trajan, Marcus Aurelius, Commodus, Caracalla, Constantine)

Dictator: One ruler holding complete power

Oligarchy: Rule by a few

Tetrarchy: Rule by four

Patrician: Roman of the aristocratic class

Plebeian: Roman of the lower or working class

Jupiter (Zeus): King of the gods

Juno (Hera): Queen of the gods. Goddess of marriage.

Minerva (Athena): Goddess of wisdom, war, city (civilization)

Bacchus (Dionysus): God of wine

Venus (Aphrodite): Goddess of love

Pantheon: All gods

Matrona: Married woman

Verism: Faithful reproduction of what is seen. The real, not the ideal.

Boss: Decorative attachment on Roman furnishings

Arch (keystone)

Barrel Vault: Arch extended; half cylinder arched structure

Groin Vault: 2 barrel vaults intersect at right angles

Concrete: Powdered lime, sand, and water mixed with rubble
Ara Pacis: Altar of Peace
Pax Romana: Peace brought from Augustus' rule
Atrium: Formal entrance hall
Cubiculum: Small rooms
Insula: Apartment buildings
Triclinium: Dining rooms
Damnatio memoriae: Erasure of memory

Additional Online Resources

A series of short videos produced by the American Institute for Roman Culture gives some great information on life and structures in a Roman city (Ostia Antica):

Daily life episode: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VMUmF14ZxG8>

If you are interested in Roman architecture, the series "Engineering an Empire: Rome" produced by the History Channel, gives you a good background on the history and engineering marvels of the major Roman structures. This is also posted on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gduKQbzS8Cc>

A complete digital rendering of Hadrian's villa can be found at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OgGQaTMtWCM>

The Metropolitan Museum has a wealth of information on Greek and Roman art and culture, in essay form and tied to objects in their collection, on the Heilbrunn Timeline:

http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hi/te_index.asp?i=20

PBS had a documentary series on the Roman Empire during the first century. This is a link to the companion website:

<http://www.pbs.org/empires/romans/empire/emperors.html>

A good general site for information on Roman culture and images is:

<http://www.vroma.org/~bmcmanus/romanpages.html>