

### **How are stylization and abstraction alike? different?**

**Stylize** (v.) – to represent in or make conform to a particular style, especially using artistic forms and conventions to create effects; not according to nature.

Examples: Modigliani's Head conforms to styles related to Cycladic figurines and African art.

The Graeco-Egyptian Ram is stylized to follow conventions of Near Eastern art – which simplifies the form, de-emphasizes naturalism, and often incorporates pattern.

**Abstract** (v.) – to base the subject of the work on what you see: form, color, shape, line, and, in some cases, the process; total abstraction makes little or no attempt at pictorial representation or narrative content. However, the process of abstraction can begin with simplification of a natural form. Abstraction indicates a departure from reality which can be slight, partial, or complete. Artwork that takes liberties, altering for instance color and form in ways that are conspicuous, can be said to be partially abstract.

Example: See how Kandinsky uses formal elements to create an abstract work

### **Why is it called the Byzantine Empire when Byzantium was changed to Constantinople?**

Both "Byzantine Empire" and "Eastern Roman Empire" are terms that were created and applied by historians after the end of the realm; its citizens continued to refer to their empire as the Roman Empire and to themselves as Romans. Although the Byzantine Empire continued the Roman state and maintained Roman state traditions, "Byzantine" was used by modern historians to distinguish Byzantium from ancient Rome insofar as it was oriented towards Greek rather than Latin culture, and was characterized by monotheistic Christianity rather than Roman polytheism.

### **Does the acanthus leaf have symbolic meaning?**

The symbolism and meaning associated with the acanthus is that of enduring life; it symbolizes immortality in Mediterranean countries. It was not initially a reference to resurrection (in a Christian sense), but in a sense that life is cyclical. The acanthus is also a medicinal plant associated with Apollo and his healing abilities.

In Christianity the thorny leaves came to represent pain, sin and punishment.

### **When were halos first used?**

Here's an interesting blog by an art history professor where I found some of the information below:

<http://albertis-window.com/2013/09/history-of-the-halo-in-art/>

The halo may have come from several different sources, including classical culture. For example, the Greek god of the sun, Helios, is depicted with rays emanating from his head. There also are a few depictions of Apollo, the god of light, with halos. (The two eventually become identified with one another.) Laurel wreaths (used to crown victors in classical societies) could also be related to the halo.

In addition to classical sources, the sun disk found in Egyptian crowns may have been an early manifestation of a halo-like form. There are similar forms related to the halo (like the nimbus or aureola) found in non-Western art. Some think the halo form traveled from West to East, ending up in Gandhara and influencing depictions of the Buddha.

Christians adopted the round halo from their contemporaries, using the circular shape to connote perfection, divinity, and holiness. An early image, a ceiling mosaic from the necropolis underneath St. Peter's, may depict Christ or Sol Invictus (the later sun god of the Roman empire). This image pre-dates the 4th century, and could be a very early example of the halo in a Christian context. After this point, halos were used for Christ, the Lamb of God, angels, the Virgin, and eventually saints.

The halo is an artistic convention. It was not intended to imply that holy figures literally had a glow around their head. It simply indicated which people in the picture were 'holy' or 'divine' characters. It was a way to convey meaning to viewers of the art.