

Art History

PART 1: PREHISTORY TO EARLY MIDDLE AGES

[HTTP://JCAVEARTS.WEEBLY.COM/ART-HISTORY.HTML](http://jcavearts.weebly.com/art-history.html)

ART History

What is art?

Why do people make art?

What is common in all art?

What is visual communication?

Aesthetics Repulsive or Gorgeous?

Critical Method: describe, analyze, interpret, judge

Elements of Art : line, shape, form, value, color, texture, space

Principles of Design: Emphasis, Balance, Movement, Harmony, Variety

art

Originally... it was a VERB



Les Demoiselles D'Avignon
Picasso, 1907, oil on canvas

Prehistory

This period of humanity was BEFORE the invention of writing. Imagine all the things that we call “art” that were the only forms of communication...

Art

Dance

Theater

Music

Language

Something to think about.... Where did our art & culture begin? What is art/artifact?



Dave Coverly, 2014

Paleolithic

The Venus of Willendorf is one of the earliest images of the body made by humankind. It stands just over 4 inches high and was carved some 25,000 years ago. It was discovered on the banks of the Danube River, in Austria, and it was most likely made by hunter-gatherers who lived in the area.

SmART History by Khan Academy

<https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/prehistoric->

<http://www.pbs.org/howartmadetheworld/episodes/human/venus/>

Khan Academy Video

<https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/prehistoric-art>

Paleo - lithic

Literally means “old stone”



← What today's art historians think...

Paleolithic

The Caves of Lascaux

September 12, 1940.... Near Montignac, France, a collection of prehistoric cave paintings are discovered by four teenagers who stumbled upon the ancient artwork after following their dog down a narrow entrance into a cavern. The 15,000- to 17,000-year-old paintings, consisting mostly of animal representations, are among the finest examples of art from the Upper Paleolithic period.

<http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/lascaux-cave-paintings-discovered>

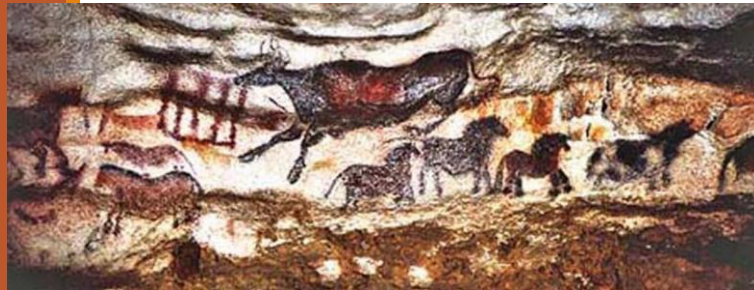


Paleolithic

The Caves of Lascaux

“In the painted caves of western Europe, namely in France and Spain, we witness the earliest unequivocal evidence of the human capacity to interpret and give meaning to our surroundings. Through these early achievements in representation and abstraction, we see a newfound mastery of the environment and a revolutionary accomplishment in the intellectual development of humankind.”

http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/lasc/hd_lasc.htm



Neolithic

Stonehenge, “3000 B.C.E., is set on Salisbury Plain in England, it is a structure larger and more complex than anything built before it in Europe.

Cultural advances of the Neolithic revolution:

- settled in homes; close to other people in towns and cities
- protected by laws
- eating food grown on farms; technology needed to plant and harvest crops and to domesticate animals
- leisure time to learn, explore and invent

<https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/prehistoric-art/neolithic-art/a/stonehenge>

Neo- lithic

Literally means “new stone”



<https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/prehistoric-art/neolithic-art/a/the-neolithic-revolution>

<https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/prehistoric-art/neolithic-art/a/stonehenge>

Ancient

From the dawn of writing to the end of the Roman era

What advancements were made in the ancient world? Contrast Aegean culture with Egyptian

Greek art changed what from previous culture(s)?

How did Roman art develop?

Contrast Roman & Greek

	art	architecture	society/ political	religion
Prehistory Old Stone Age				
Prehistory New Stone Age				
Ancient- Mesopotamia				
Ancient- Egyptian				
Ancient- Aegean/Greek				
Ancient- Etruscan/Roman				

Mesopotamia

Foundations of Western Civilization teachers like to call it the “Fertile Crescent.” Actually it’s the same area.... Ruled over the centuries by many cultures:

Sumeria

Akkadia

Babylon

Assyria

Persia

<http://mesopotamia.mrdonn.org/mesopotamia%20map.gif>

https://www.google.com/maps/vt/data=RfCSdfNZ0LFPrHSm0ubiXdzhdrDFhtmHhN1u-gM_Lk4i4FBdGkt6MnY_E6UTt1emMHD9doA6xiUjvt11_j8o0MTcvxCAb6SMs8BzkqfckLEU_Qf1WWqZ4uAIJzpvfV4sRxQGwtzP3U1ma5ugeODmgTU3KTd-09uU_YXyHOAbVw-ai8tDMPQuOlnXi-uZ5qvapGiXLRzQFArpiRnkew7lt93g_UotWTvOGPoS2SEeK4YQurUOjc3-Co



Mesopotamia

Lion Gate, Ishtar Gate

“Detail of a lion found along the processional way from Ishtar Gate into the city of Babylon. The Ishtar Gate was constructed around 575 BC by King Nebuchadnessar II of Babylon, made of fired bricks and decorated with animals made in glazed bricks.”

<http://www.ancient.eu/image/724/>

<https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/ancient-art-civilizations/ancient-near-east1/babylonian/v/ishtar-gate-and-processional-way-reconstruction-babylon-c-575-b-c-e>



← Khan Academy video going through the gate

Mesopotamia

Lamassu, Assyrian,
8th century B.C. (Louvre, Paris)

“Detail of a lion found along the processional way from Ishtar Gate into the city of Babylon. The Ishtar Gate was constructed around 575 BC by King Nebuchadnessar II of Babylon, made of fired bricks and decorated with animals made in glazed bricks.”

<http://www.sandrashaw.com/AH1105.htm>

<http://www.nbcnews.com/storyline/isis-terror/isis-latest-radical-group-destroy-ancient-art-n315451>



← NBC video of ISIS destroying Mesopotamian art/artifacts

Mesopotamia

Skirted Adorers, c. 2,750-2,500 B.C.

Stylized the human body as a method to communicate. Those large eyes were considered windows to the soul.

Mesopotamia was the origin of written language: cuneiforms. "Cuneiform is a system of writing first developed by the ancient Sumerians c. 3500-3000 BCE. In cuneiform, a carefully cut writing implement known as a stylus is pressed into soft clay to produce wedge-like impressions that represent word-signs (pictographs) and, later, phonograms or 'word-concepts' (closer to a modern day understanding of a 'word')."

<http://www.sandrashaw.com/AH1L05.htm>

<http://www.ancient.eu/cuneiform/>



Egyptian

[Nebamun] *Hunting Birds in Marshes*

“This is more than a simple image of recreation. Fertile marshes were seen as a place of rebirth and eroticism. Hunting animals could represent Nebamun’s triumph over the forces of nature as he was reborn. The huge striding figure of Nebamun dominates, forever happy and forever young, surrounded by the rich and varied life of the marsh.”

http://www.britishmuseum.org/explore/highlights/highlight_objects/aes/n/nebamun_hunting_in_the_marshes.asp

<http://www.nbc.com/saturday-night-live/video/king-tut/n8663x>



← Steve Martin performs his funky musical parody "King Tut," which satirizes the popularity of the King Tut exhibit. [Season 3, 1978]

Egyptian

Ahakenaten

This sandstone pillar “illustrate[s] the new figure style inaugurated with the reign of Akhenaten. The long faces are characterized by long noses, heavy eyelids, full protruding lips, and elongated chins. The bodies seem deformed with high waists, wide hips, and bulging thighs.”

<https://www.bluffton.edu/~sullivanm/egypt/cairo/amarna.html>

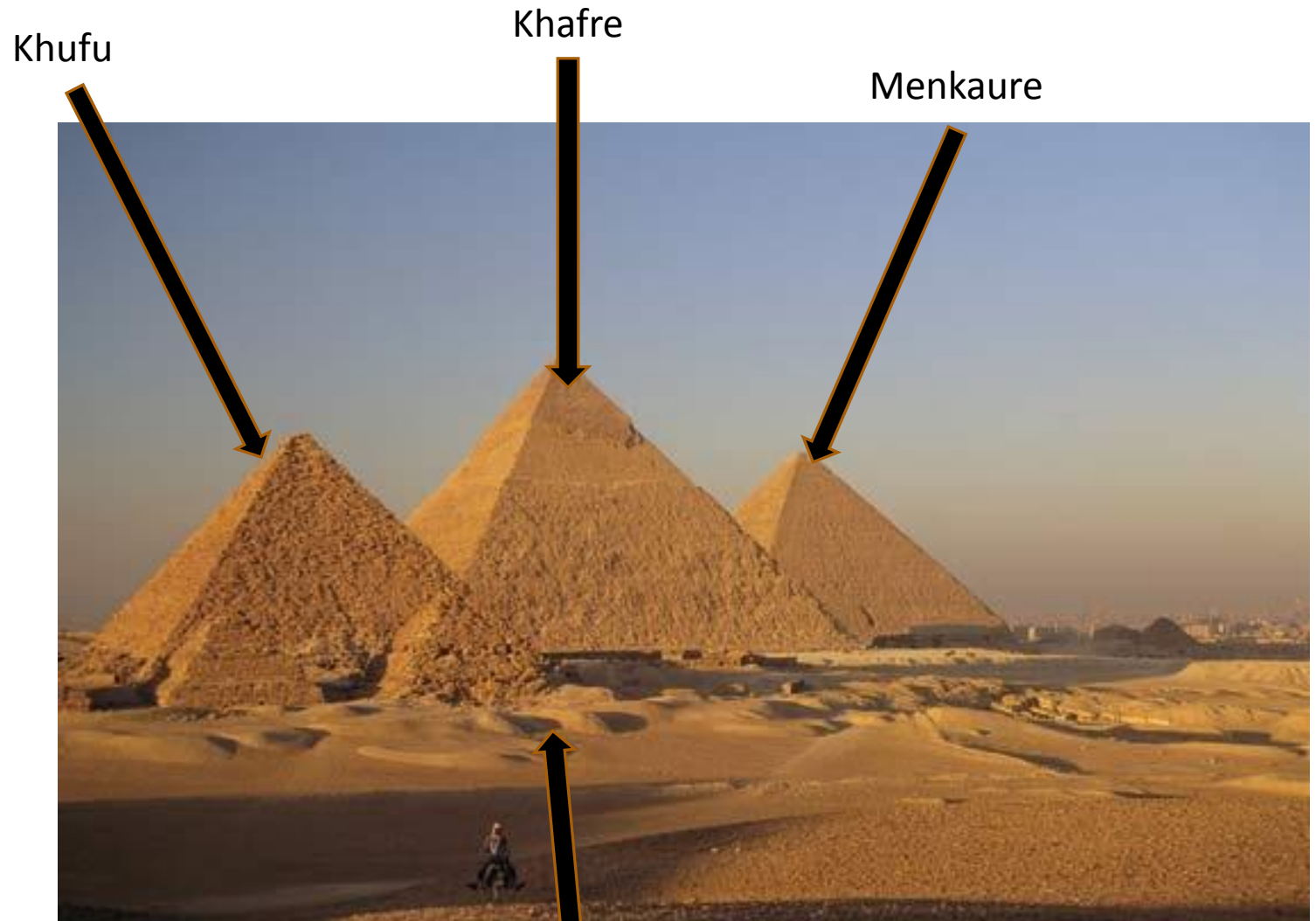


Egyptian

Great Pyramids

“The great Pyramids of Giza, the tallest of which rose to a height of 147 metres (481 feet), are a marvelous technological achievement, and their visual impact is stunning even today; it was not until the 19th century that taller structures would be built. But they also represent a dead end in massive stone construction, which soon moved in the direction of lighter and more flexible stone frames.”

<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/243620/Great-Pyramid>



The Pyramids are surrounded by flat topped funerary structures are called mastabas

Egyptian

Hatshepsut

Colossal Sphinx of Hatshepsut

Early 18th Dynasty, joint reign of
Hatshepsut
and Thutmose III (1479-1458
B.C.)

Western Thebes, Deir el-Bahri
Granite © The Metropolitan
Museum of Art, New York

http://arthistory.about.com/library/weekly/sp/bl_hatshepsut_rev.htm

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2472963/Banksy-NYC-Shop-owner-dismantles-sells-artists-replica-Great-Sphinx.html>



Shop owner dismantles and sells Banksy's replica of the Great Sphinx just HOURS after it appears on his property

Egyptian

Temple of Luxor, 1392 BC

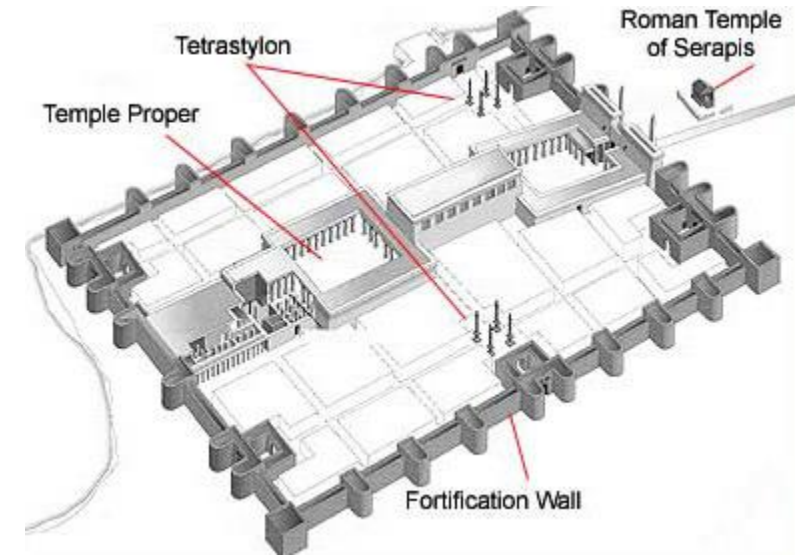
“The original part of the Temple of Luxor consisted of a large peristyle court and a complex of halls and chambers beyond. In one hall is a granite shrine of Alexander the Great. The great peristyle forecourt is surrounded on three sides by a double row of graceful papyrus-cluster columns, their capitals imitating the umbels of the papyrus plant in bud.”

Compare this technology with that of Stonehenge.

<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/352362/Temple-of-Luxor>

<http://www.touregypt.net/featurestories/luxortemple2.htm>

<http://www.museedelhistoire.ca/cm/exhibitions/civil/egypt/egca09e.shtml>



Aegean and Etruscan

Aegean Culture, “Pre-Greek” culture as we know it.

Cycladic- Harp Player, 2600-2300 BCE

<https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/ancient-art-civilizations/aegean-art1/cycladic/v/cycladic-harpist>

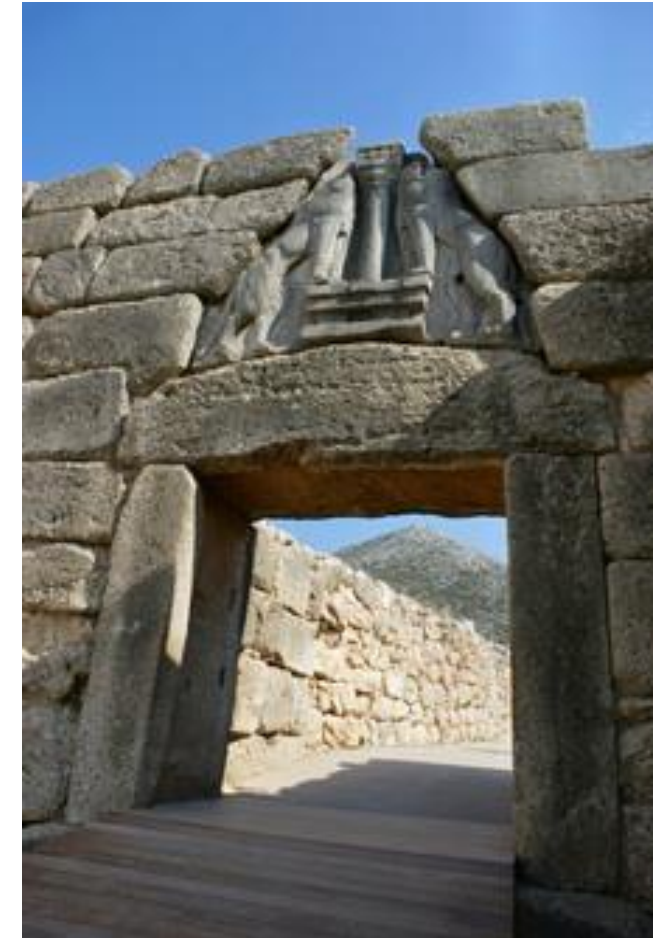
Mycenaean

Mask of Agamamnon, 1550-1500 BCE

<https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/ancient-art-civilizations/aegean-art1/mycenaean/v/agamemnon-mask>

Lion Gate of Mycena, 1300-1250 BCE

<https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/ancient-art-civilizations/aegean-art1/mycenaean/v/mycenaean-lion-gate>



Aegean and Etruscan

Etruscan Culture, “Pre-Roman” culture as we know it.

Sarcophagus of the Spouses, c. 520 BCE, Etruscan, painted terracotta



Video link

<https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/ancient-art-civilizations/etruscan/v/sarcophagus-of-the-spouses-rome>

Aegean and Etruscan

Etruscan Culture, “Pre-Roman” culture as we know it.

Two dancers on the right wall (detail), *Tomb of the Triclinium*, c. 470 BCE., Etruscan

<https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/ancient-art-civilizations/etruscan/a/tomb-of-the-triclinium>



Greek Geometric

Dipylon Amphora, c. 755-750 B.C.E., ceramic

Classic example of the amphora (twin-handled vase) with bands of geometric patterns stacked horizontally on the surface of the vase. Also an example of black figure style.

<https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/ancient-art-civilizations/greek-art/greek-pottery/v/dipylon-vase>



Greek

Archaic period

600-480 BCE

Greek artists rapidly assimilated foreign styles and motifs into new portrayals of their own myths and customs, thereby forging the foundations of Archaic and Classical Greek art.

Red-Figure pottery was also invented. In addition, Pythagoras invented his theorem at this time!

http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/argk/hd_argk.htm



Octopus Vase, c. 1500 BCE. Terracotta with slip (Black-figure style), 11" high
Minoan – pre Archaic... more Aegean really



Amphora, 550–540 BCE, Terracotta storage jar (Black-figure style), Archaic



Amphora,
430 BCE,
Terracotta (red-figure style),

Greek Archaic

The Strangford Apollo, c. 500-490 B.C.E.

Kouros (the singular form) is a term used to describe a type of statue of a male figure produced in marble during the Archaic period of Greek art. Such statues can be colossal (that is larger than life) or less than life size. The female figures served similar functions, but differed from their male counterparts in that they were elaborately draped.

<https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/ancient-art-civilizations/greek-art/beginners-guide-greece/a/ancient-greece-an-introduction>



Greek

Classical

500-320 BCE

Greek artists of the fifth and fourth centuries B.C. attained a manner of representation that conveys a vitality of life as well as a sense of permanence, clarity, and harmony.

http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/tacg/hd_tacg.htm



The Parthenon, 432 BCE (completion date)
PHEIDIAS (c. 490-430 BC), Athenian sculptor, the artistic director of the construction of the Parthenon, who created its most important religious images and supervised and probably designed its overall sculptural decoration. It is said of Phidias that he alone had seen the exact image of the gods and that he revealed it to man. He established forever general conceptions of Zeus and Athena.

<http://www.ce.berkeley.edu/~filippou/Research/Fedeas/pheidias.htm>

Greek

Classical Period & the Parthenon

Central scene of the east frieze of the Parthenon, The Acropolis, Athens, Greece, about 438-432 BC

Relief or bas reliefs sculpture
(viewed from front only)

Figure of Dionysos (east pediment of the Parthenon), The Acropolis, Athens, Greece, about 438-432 BC

In the round sculpture placed into the pediment (triangular area between roof and lintels)



http://www.britishmuseum.org/explore/highlights/highlight_objects/gr/c/central_scene_-_east_frieze.aspx



http://www.britishmuseum.org/explore/highlights/highlight_objects/gr/f/figure_of_dionysos.aspx

[Did you know there is a replica of the temple in Nashville?
Isn't that where Percy Jackson fights the Hydra ?](#)

Greek

Hellenistic 320-30 BCE

“Hellenistic kings became prominent patrons of the arts, commissioning public works of architecture and sculpture, as well as private luxury items that demonstrated their wealth and taste. Hellenistic art is richly diverse in subject matter and in stylistic development. It was created during an age characterized by a strong sense of history.”

http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/haht/hd_haht.htm



Marble portrait of Alexander the Great, Hellenistic Greek, 2nd-1st century B.C.E.



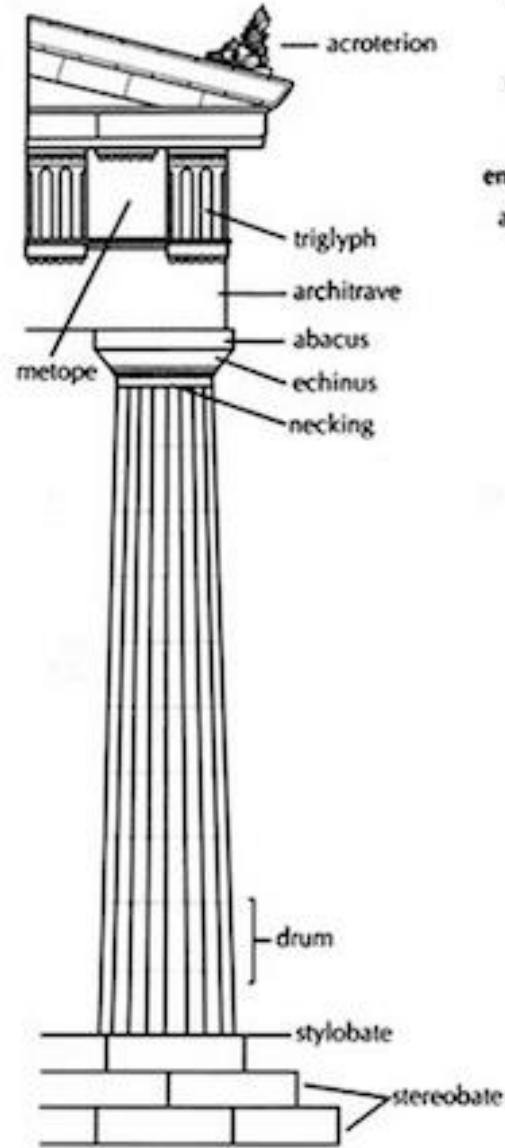
Dying Gaul, Roman copy of Hellenistic Greek original c. 100 CE, Pediment sculpture

Learn about the Dying Gaul @ <https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/ancient-art-civilizations/greek-art/hellenistic/v/dying-gaul-c-220-b-c-e-or-about-it>
about it @ http://www.washingtonpost.com/entertainment/museums/dying-gaul-on-view-at-national-gallery-of-art/2013/12/12/90ea4760-6358-191b3-f2bb96304e34_story.html

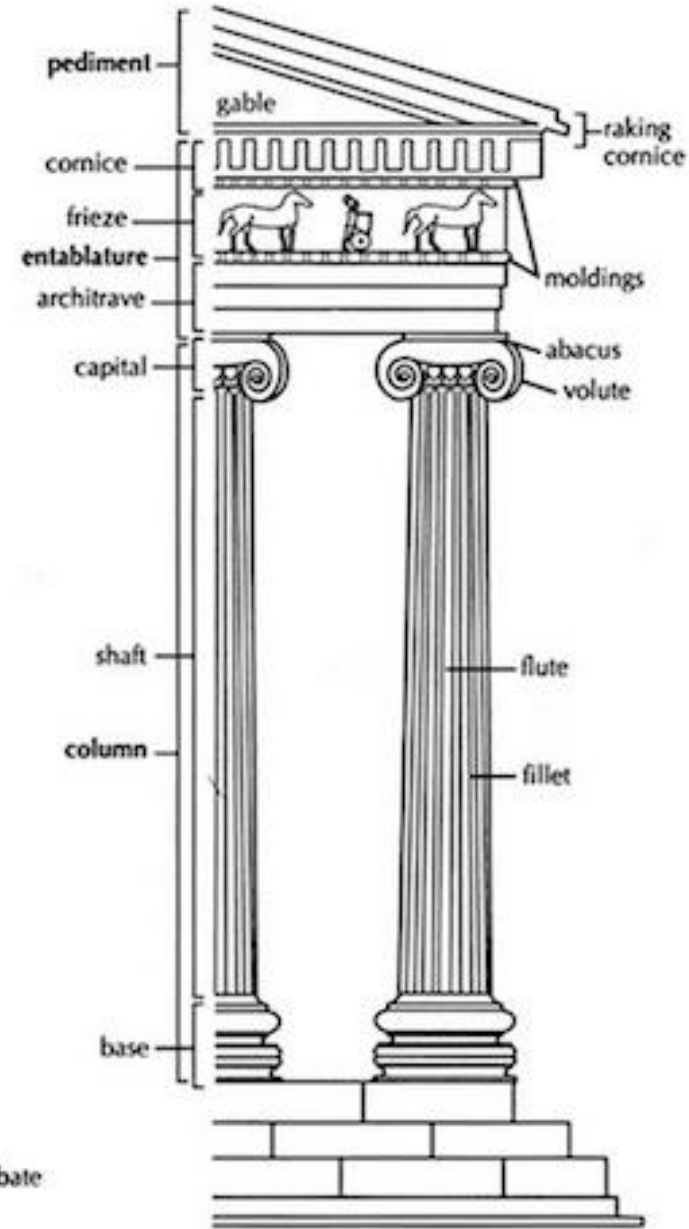
Greek

Greek Architectural orders

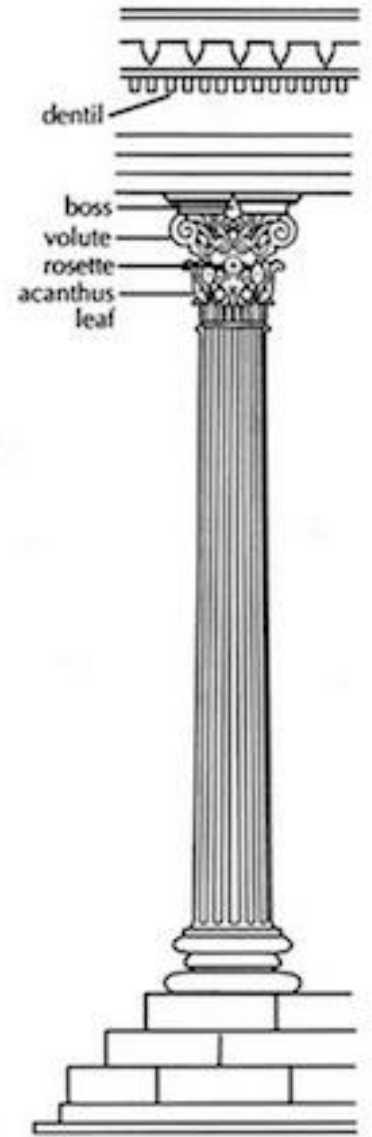
<https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/ancient-art-civilizations/greek-art/beginners-guide-greece/a/introduction-to-greek-architecture>



Doric order



Ionic order

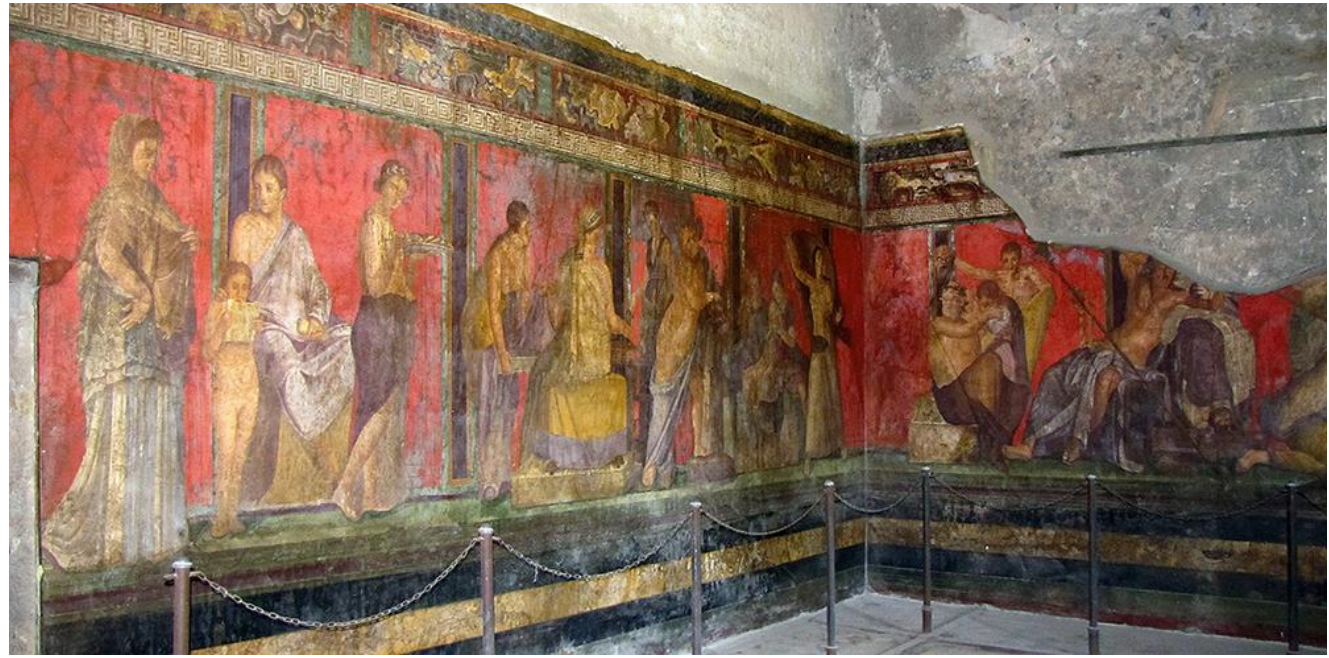


Corinthian order

Roman

Wall painting

Paintings from antiquity rarely survive—paint, after all, is a much less durable medium than stone or bronze sculpture. But it is thanks to the ancient Roman city of Pompeii that we can trace the history of Roman wall painting. The entire city was buried in volcanic ash in 79 C.E. when the volcano at Mount Vesuvius erupted, thus preserving the rich colors in the paintings in the houses and monuments there for thousands of years until their rediscovery.



Dionysiac frieze, *Villa of the Mysteries*, before 79 C.E., fresco, 15 x 22 feet, just outside the walls of Pompeii on the Road to Herculaneum

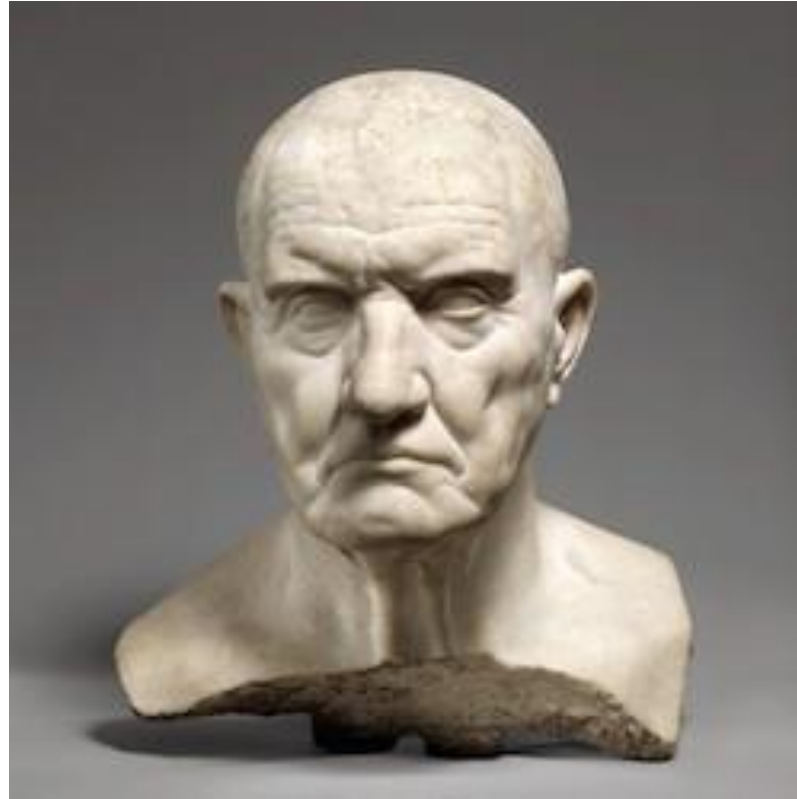


Villa of P. Fannius Synistor at Boscoreale, 50–40 B.C.E., fresco

Roman

Republic

In legend Rome was founded in 753 B.C.E. by Romulus, its first king. In 509 B.C.E. Rome became a republic ruled by the Senate (wealthy landowners and elders) and the Roman people. During the 450 years of the republic Rome conquered the rest of Italy and then expanded into France, Spain, Turkey, North Africa and Greece. Rome became very Greek influenced or “Hellenized,” filled with Greek architecture, literature, statues, wall-paintings, mosaics, pottery and glass. But with Greek culture came Greek gold, and generals and senators fought over this new wealth. The Republic collapsed in civil war and the Roman empire began.



Marble bust of a man, mid 1st century, marble, 14 3/8 inches
(The Metropolitan Museum of Art)

Roman

Early empire

In 31 B.C.E. Octavian, the adopted son of Julius Caesar, defeated Cleopatra and Mark Anthony at Actium. This brought the last civil war of the republic to an end. Although it was hoped by many that the republic could be restored, it soon became clear that a new political system was forming: the emperor became the focus of the empire and its people. Although, in theory, Augustus (as Octavian became known) was only the first citizen and ruled by consent of the Senate, he was in fact the empire's supreme authority. As emperor he could pass his powers to the heir he decreed and was a king in all but name.



Relief from the Ara Pacis Augustae (***Altar of Augustan Peace***), 9 B.C.E. monument is dedicated, marble (Museo dell'Ara Pacis, Rome), photo: Steven Zucker (CC BY-NC-SA 2.0)

Roman

Augustus of Prima Porta,
1st century C.E. (Vatican
Museums), photo: Steven
Zucker (CC BY-NC-SA 2.0)



Roman

Middle empire

The imperial system of the Roman Empire depended heavily on the personality and standing of the emperor himself. The reigns of weak or unpopular emperors often ended in bloodshed at Rome and chaos throughout the empire as a whole. In the third century C.E. the very existence of the empire was threatened by a combination of economic crisis, weak and short-lived emperors and usurpers (and the violent civil wars between their rival supporting armies), and massive barbarian penetration into Roman territory.



Pair of Centaurs
Fighting Cats of Prey
from *Hadrian's Villa*,
mosaic, c. 130 B.C.E.
(Altes Museum, Berlin)

Chariot procession of Septimus
Severus, relief from the arch of
the Arch of Septimus Severus,
Leptis Magna, Libya, 203 C.E.,
marble, 5; 6" high, Castle
Museum, Tripoli



Roman

Late empire

Financial pressures, urban decline, underpaid troops and consequently overstretched frontiers - all of these finally caused the collapse of the western empire under waves of barbarian incursions in the early fifth century C.E. The last western emperor, Romulus Augustus, was deposed in 476 C.E., though the empire in the east, centered on Byzantium (Constantinople), continued until the fifteenth century.



Relief from the Arch of Constantine, 315 C.E., Rome, photo: F. Tronchin (CC BY-NC-ND 2.0)



Arch of Constantine

Flavian Amphitheater, aka Roman Coliseum

Roman

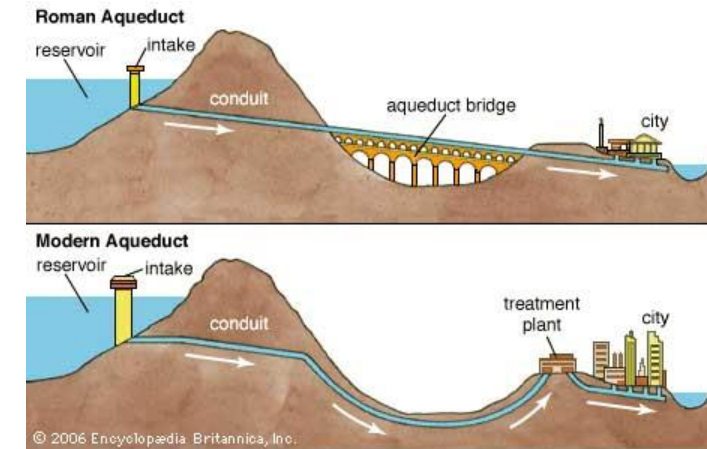
Architectural achievements

Concrete

Appian way & Aqueducts

Roman concrete (*opus caementicium*), was developed early in the 2nd c. BCE. The use of mortar as a bonding agent in ashlar masonry wasn't new in the ancient world; mortar was a combination of sand, lime and water in proper proportions.

<https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/ancient-art-civilizations/roman/beginners-guide-rome/a/roman-architecture>



Roman

Architectural achievements

Arch/Dome

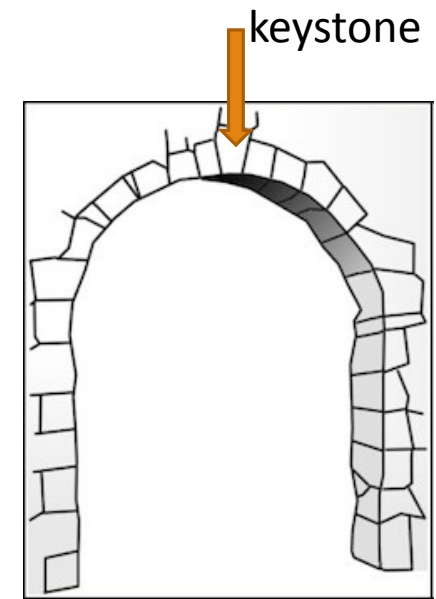
Arch of Constantine, Flavian Amphitheater, Pantheon, 125 CE

Multi storied structures with airy and light interiors

<https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/ancient-art-civilizations/roman/beginners-guide-rome/a/roman-architecture>

Video

<https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/ancient-art-civilizations/roman/middle-empire/v/the-pantheon-rome-c-125>



Giovanni Paolo Panini, Interior of the Pantheon, c. 1734, oil on canvas, 128 x 99 cm (National Gallery of Art)

Roman

Architectural achievements

Forum Romanum

Latin playwright Plautus describes the Forum Romanum. In his summary, Plautus gives the reader the sense that one could find just about every sort of person in the forum—from criminals and hustlers to politicians and prostitutes. His summary reminds us that in the city of Rome the Forum Romanum was the key political, ritual, and civic center. Located in a valley separating the Capitoline and Palatine Hills, the Forum developed from the earliest times and remained in use after the city's eventual decline; during that span of time the forum witnessed the growth and eventual contraction of the city and her empire.



<https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/ancient-art-civilizations/roman/beginners-guide-rome/a/forum-romanum-the-roman-forum>

Middle Ages

Fall of Roman Empire (440 CE to about 1250 CE)

Two periods

Early – Romanesque

Late – Gothic

<http://www.the-art-minute.com/book-of-kells/>



Book of Kells,
Genesis Page
6th century monks
Northwestern
Europe (Scotland,
Ireland)

How to make an
illuminated page of
manuscript

Romanesque

Literally means “like the Romans” but it really wasn’t. The architecture was thick walled, little light and nowhere near as skillfully made.

The artwork was symbolic, stylized and formulaic... With the Holy Roman Church and the Pope being the main supporter of the arts, religion was the main subject matter. Without centralized, stable government, people left cities and chose more rural areas. There they worked hard to support smaller communities and very few people had the luxury of making art



Kilpeck Church, England, 1140 CE

<http://kilpeckchurch.org.uk/the-church/the-history-of-kilpeck-church/>

