

History of Greek Sculpture and Features

Ancient Greece made a significant contribution to the development of world culture. **Greek sculpture** The highly developed ancient civilization made it possible to demonstrate a holistic and harmonious view of the world by ancient peoples, reflecting the moral and physical perfection of a person in a three-dimensional model.



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greek sculpture

The Great Greek Civilization was later defined by historians as the Greek civilization that originated around the XNUMXth century BC from the union of some invading peoples, such as the Dorians, who, after barbaric and violent fighting, in the XNUMXth century The area was certainly settled in BC. The Greek peninsula and local residents gradually encountered in their way.

This ancient civilization formed over time began to grow and develop in many areas such as naval, commercial and social. Above all a great positive impulse was given by the art sector to the work and talent of renowned and unique artists.

In the artistic field, one of the most used forms of art, where Greek artists really stood at the point of perfection, was sculpture that, along with their famous sculptures, fortunately came to our days, the civilization of ancient Greece. brought to Olympus. Of art

The art of ancient Greece became the pillar and foundation on which the entire European civilization developed. Sculpture of ancient Greece is a special subject. Without ancient sculpture, there would be no spectacular masterpieces of the Renaissance, and it is difficult to imagine the further development of this art.

Sculptures have played an important role in the lives of people in Greece. They were placed in the most important places, they were used to decorate temples, they were built in honor of the winners of the Olympic Games. They were installed on graves in memory of the deceased, they were used to decorate public buildings. These classical and Hellenistic sculptures directly influenced Roman sculpture and even Western sculpture in fashion today.

Ancient Greece, like other cultures, went through different periods in its development. Each of them was characterized by transformation into all kinds of arts, including sculpture. Thus, briefly describing the features of ancient Greek sculpture in different periods of the historical development of this country, it is possible to trace the main stages of the creation of this art form.



An overview of sculptural work in the three major periods of Greek art history reveals a continuous improvement in style and technique of production, from stagnation to movement. It is a role model for sculptors who wish to find their way into the profession, taking lessons from the study of the vision of the human body by the ancient masters of Greek sculpture.

Most of the marble statues were destroyed, the bronze was melted down as Christians sought to free Greece from paganism. Four of the Seven Ancient Wonders of the World, the Statue of Zeus, the Temple of Artemis, the Colossus of Rhodes and the Lighthouse of Alexandria were Greek monuments. Today they do not exist, we cannot appreciate the greatness of these works of art. But many Greek sculptures remain in famous galleries around the world.

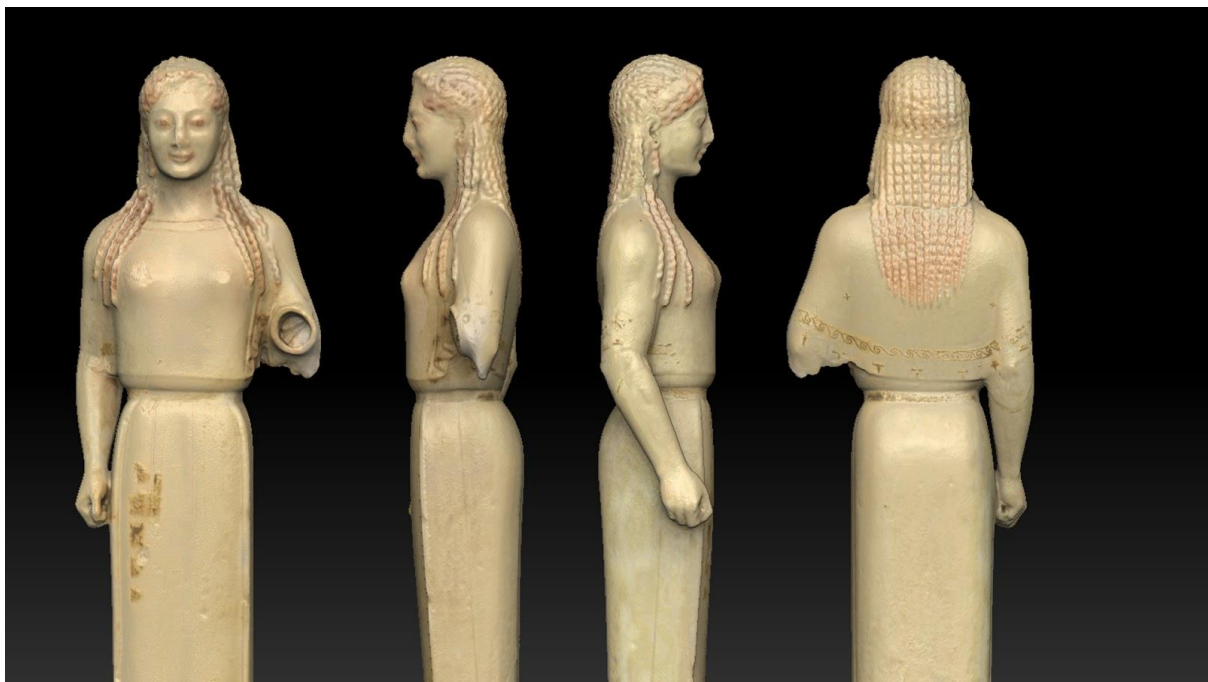
antiquity

The Archaic period is the first period in the history of ancient Greek art, beginning in 700 BC. c. and ended in 480 a. C. The word "archaic" is a Greek word meaning "early." It is used in art to describe several events that took place in the early stages of Greek culture. Thus, sculptures from this period reflect the early skill displayed by Greek sculptors. This stage is a steady state in which the pieces were created without movement or flexibility.

His sculptures were characterized by symmetry and rigidity of forms. The important features of the human figure are highlighted. Male figures were naked, the sculptures known as kuros were naked because athletes were naked during the Olympics.

His left leg was in front. On the other hand, female idols called korai (girls) were fully clothed. The poses for his sculpted figures included standing, kneeling and sitting postures. The Greeks mainly carved the figures of gods and goddesses in the likeness of men, women and children. Modern sculptors rarely use kuros and korai types of sculpture.

Due to lack of skill development, his sculptural figures were not painted realistically. In the desire to see a smile, the Greeks gave their lips a curved expression, which art critics call the "archaic smile". It was a form of artificially expressed smile on the faces of the idols as a result of their lack of sculpting skills.



The first era of historical Greek sculpture was influenced by ancient Egyptian sculpture. Traditional Greek sculptures of the time were considered unnatural and inflexible. The body of the sculpture of this time is criticized for being assembled from fragments.

It can be seen that the idols are carved out of a rectangular section. These were not images, but symbolic representations of a god. Sometimes, it also served as a statue of a dead person or as a memorial to the winners of the Olympic Games.

A notable example of archaic female figures are the pomegranate goddess (580–570 BC) and the green goddess (circa 560 BC). Among the male images, the sculptural group Cleobis and Bitan stands out, the creator of which is the famous sculptor Polymedes de Argos (late 560th-550th centuries BC). Lightness, sophistication and playfulness distinguish the works of the old

Ionian masters. The most famous example is considered to be the Shadow of Apollo, created in XNUMX-XNUMX BC

Monumental sculpture occupies an essential place in the art of that time. It was customary to display in relief the most curious and important myths of ancient Greece. A careful consideration of the composition of the pediment of the Temple of Artemis (about 590 BC) allows you to enjoy the spectacle of the rapidly developing and exciting plot of the famous myth of Medusa, the Gorgon and the glorious Perseus.

classical period

In the classical period (between the XNUMXth and 4th centuries BC) the images showed controlled motion and harmony between tension and relaxation. Contraposto was used for this: a relaxed, natural stance that keeps your weight on one leg so that the opposite hip is lifted to create a relaxed curve in the body.

In that case the back is slightly curved. Various perspectives were now taken into account: an image could be viewed from all sides, it was no longer intended to be viewed only from the front position. During this period, Greek art reached its peak. The sculpture was known for its flexibility and extensive study of the representation of movement.

Critical observation and study of human anatomy made the sculptural figures in perfect realism and their correct proportions. During the classical period of Greek sculpture, the most famous ancient works were made. Stone and bronze became popular material choices during this time. The ancient Greeks attributed many active postures to these idols.



Ancient Greek sculpture of the classical period may have focused on movement, but the faces on these sculptures were largely stoic. It was believed that only barbarians showed their feelings publicly. Humanity was idealized in ancient Greek art sculptures. The masterpieces of classical Greece are distinguished by harmony, ideal proportions, which speaks of an excellent knowledge of human anatomy, as well as internal content and dynamics.

In the era of classics, such famous sculptures as Athena Parthenos, Olympian Zeus, Discobolus, Doryphoros and many others were created. History has preserved for the future the names of the most outstanding sculptors of that time: Polyclitos, Phidias, Myron, Scopos, Praxiteles and many others. The classical period is characterized by the appearance of the first nude female figures (the Wounded Amazon, the Aphrodite of Cnidus), which give an idea of the ideal of female beauty in the heyday of antiquity.

The pediments of the temple of Athena Aphaia (500–480 BC) allow one to trace the transition from the archaic (Western pediment) to the new ideals (Eastern pediment), as particularly impressive examples of compositions created in the Early Classics. are recognized in. Forum. The harmonious combination of the energy of the movement and the majesty of the figure marks the moment when the era of the great classics overtook the archaic classical period.

The most important milestone of this transition is the construction of the statue of Poseidon (circa 450 BC). Perhaps one of the world's best-known and celebrated sculptures from classical times is that of Myron's discus thrower, the ideal embodiment of the ideal athlete model envisioned by the ancient Greeks.

The statue depicts a young athlete about to throw a discus. You can see the tension of all the body parts before the actual shot. Correct physical balance should reflect the moral value of the athlete himself, willing to go beyond his limits and enhance his qualities.

Hellenistic period

This is the third and final period in the history of ancient Greek sculpture, beginning in 323 BC. C. and ended in the first century. The term "Hellenistic" refers to the arts that developed under the influence of Greece on the Mediterranean countries during the reign of Alexander the Great. Within the cultural centers of the Hellenistic world, several academies dealt with critical analysis of many fields, including art, literature, and medicine.

The canons were designed to judge the quality of the sculpture. This increased interest in proportion systems in sculpture. The works were characterized by realism, extreme emotions, extraordinary gestures, muscles and figures. The dynamics of motion are precise, the wind blowing through the wings of the wings and the folds of organization can be seen in indescribable detail. Sculptors discovered three-dimensional movements.

One of the first advances in sculpture during this period was the great interest in portraiture. Individual resemblance was absent in both Archaic and Classical sculpture, but was prominent in Hellenistic Greek sculpture. Not everyone can see the difference between ancient Greek sculpture of the classical period and traditional Greek art sculptures of the Hellenistic period.

Late Greek antiquity is characterized by a strong oriental influence in all the arts in general and sculpture in particular. Intricate foreshadowing, exquisite drapery, are visible in its many details. Sentimentality and oriental flair permeate the calm and splendor of the classics. Aphrodite of Siren, full of sensuality, even some coziness, a copy can be admired in the Vatican Museums.

The most famous sculptural composition of the Hellenistic era by Laocoon and his son Aegisander of Rhodes (the masterpiece is preserved in one of the Vatican museums). The composition is full of drama, the plot itself suggests strong emotions. The astonishing accuracy and realism, as well as the strong emotion, fascinate and captivate modern audiences.

All this is aimed at giving functions of emotion and temperament, which was completely unusual for the art of ancient Greece in earlier times. This famous sculpture seems to have touched even the great Michelangelo Buonarroti on an intimate level in recent times.

In fact, Laocoon's sculpture was found during archaeological excavations in Rome and the young Michelangelo was so fascinated by the statue and its actual movements that it expresses strong feelings that he became interested in classical Greek sculpture. And we can see these effects when we admire some of the works of the great sculptor.