

# Download File PDF The Invention Of Art History In Ancient Greece Religion Society And Artistic Rationalisation

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GENERAL KNOWLEDGE IN ART FOR SHS



The highest artistic development was in sculpture, painting, architecture and pottery. The history of ancient Greek art can be divided into three important periods:

- (i) the archaic period (700-480 BC)
- (ii) the classical period (480-323 BC)
- (iii) the Hellenistic period (323-27 BC)

#### Archaic period

The term 'archaic' is a Greek word which means early. It is used to describe the many developments which occurred in the early stages of Greek culture. In sculpture, the Greeks produced images mainly of gods and goddesses in the likeness of men, women and children. They carved statues which they placed over graves and erected at other places to commemorate important events and the victors of national games and contests. They also carved reliefs to decorate public buildings.

When carving standing or seated statues, the Greeks studied and imitated Egyptian models or examples. The statues were characterized by symmetry and stiffness of forms. The female figures were fully clothed, and the male ones were naked with the left leg placed in front. The male figure shown in Figure 2.5 was called Kuros (youth) and it is naked because the Greek athletes and sportsmen performed naked in public. The female figure shown in Figure 2.6 was called Kore (maiden). The lips of the figures are curved and drawn into the expression commonly called the 'archaic smile' by art historians.

The Greeks mostly carved their statues in marbles which were abundant in their mountainous land. They smoothed and waxed the carvings in order to give to the surface the highest degree of perfection or painted the carvings in life-like colours. Other materials less used for sculpture were gold, ivory, timber and bronze.

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