

LECTURE 004

Roman art

- Roman art includes architecture, painting, sculpture and mosaic work.
- Luxury objects in metal-work, gem engraving, ivory carvings, and glass, are sometimes considered in modern terms to be minor forms of Roman art, although this would not necessarily have been the case for contemporaries.
- Sculpture was perhaps considered as the highest form of art by Romans, but figure painting was also very highly regarded.
- Roman painting provides a wide variety of themes: animals, still life, scenes from everyday life, portraits, and some mythological subjects.
- it evoked the pleasures of the countryside and represented scenes of shepherds, herds, rustic temples, rural mountainous landscapes and country houses.
- Erotic scenes are also relatively common.
- The main innovation of Roman painting compared to Greek art was the development of landscapes, in particular incorporating techniques of perspective, though true mathematical perspective developed 1,515 years later.
- Surface textures, shading, and coloration are well applied but scale and spatial depth was still not rendered accurately.
- Some landscapes were pure scenes of nature, particularly gardens with flowers and trees, while others were architectural vistas depicting urban buildings.
- Roman genre scenes generally depict Romans at leisure and include gambling, music and sexual encounters

SOCIETY, CULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT



- It is also important to distinguish two quite distinct 'markets' for Roman sculpture
 - the first was the aristocratic ruling class taste for more classical and idealistic sculpture
 - the second, more provincial, 'middle-class' market seems to have preferred a more naturalistic and emotional type of sculpture, especially in portraiture and funerary works



Sculpture on Roman buildings could be merely decorative or have a more political purpose, for example, on triumphal arches (which most often celebrated military victories) the architectural sculpture captured in detail key campaign events which reinforced the message that the emperor was a victorious and civilizing agent across the known world.

The music of ancient Rome was a part of Roman culture from earliest times. Music was customary at funerals, and the tibia (Greek aulos), a woodwind instrument, was played at sacrifices to ward off ill influences.

Song (carmen) was an integral part of almost every social occasion.

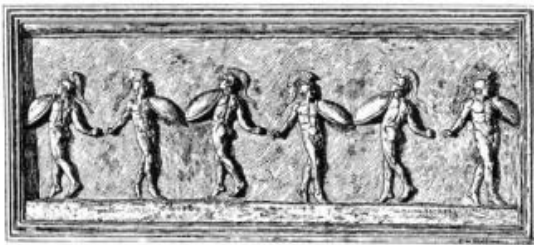
Roman art depicts various woodwinds, "brass", percussion and stringed instruments.

ROMAN ART CONTINUED



Dances were numerous

- rurally ritual
- serious dancing profession through fields and villages.



Indus valley civilization

Sculpture in Stone

Sculpture in Metal

Sculpture in Terracotta

Pottery and Painting

Pottery found in large quantities shows that with the potter's wheel the craftsman produced pottery of various artistic shapes. The special clay for this purpose was baked and the different designs on pots were painted. Figures of birds, animals and men were

depicted on the pots. Paintings on the pots show, that these men were equally good at painting.

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- The art of the earliest people in South Asia is of interest, this ranges from cave paintings (such as at Bhimbetka), Neolithic pottery glazed with patterns and decorations, terracotta figurines, cast bronze statuettes, seals and various figures ranging from priest figures to children's' toys.



- Painted pottery and copper tools originated along the banks of the Indus river
- Two types of pottery – monochromatic and multi colored
- Vessels were first painted with black outlines of design and after firing colored with yellow, white, blue and red.



- Along with pottery clay idols and animal figurines are characteristics for art of the Indus valley civilization
- Bumped bulls, birds, pumas, rams , fish etc were depicted.
Some of the figures are solid and some are hollow.



Mother Goddess, Bull, bird figurines

- Numerous square seals engraved with images of animals like bulls, rhinoceros, elephants etc, and unicorns, human or divine figures.

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Elephant and deer seal

A number of bangles, necklaces and pendants decorate the figures neck and arms, and the hair is coiled into a loose bun. Whether the figure actually represents a dancing girl is a matter of some conjecture, though certainly the restrained movement inherent in the pose, the provocative nature of the figure, and the numerous adornments indicate this profession.



Sculpture of Female Dancer