

Roman, Early Christian & Byzantine art



Etruscan

- oCultural group from an area called Etruria: 950-300 BCE
- oFlourished between 2 rivers of Arno (Pisa and Florence region) and Tiber (Rome region)
- oCulture developed from a prehistoric group known as Villanovan
- oProsperous people who mysteriously disappeared
- o Influenced by Greeks colonized in the south
- oSkillful at utilizing natural resources: farmed, traded, merchants, sea faring, etc.
- oKnown for their bronze smith abilities, pottery known as Bucchero, cinerary urns and their terra cotta statuettes/statues
- oIt is believed there was no central leader....instead, autonomous regions
- oMuch of what is know today about the Etruscans is due to the art and funerary artifacts

Bronze chariot inlaid with ivory
6th century BC



Reclining Youth Cinerary Urn

Early 4th century BC Bronze



Etruscan, Vignagrande,
Cinerary Urn, mid-2nd
century BCE, terra cotta
with traces of polychrome,





**Vase in the shape of a
cock, second half of
7th century b.c.
Etruscan
Terracotta**

A bucchero vessel that
was suspended or
carried and contained
26 letters of Etruscan
alphabet carved onto
belly of rooster.
Thought it might have
been for a child



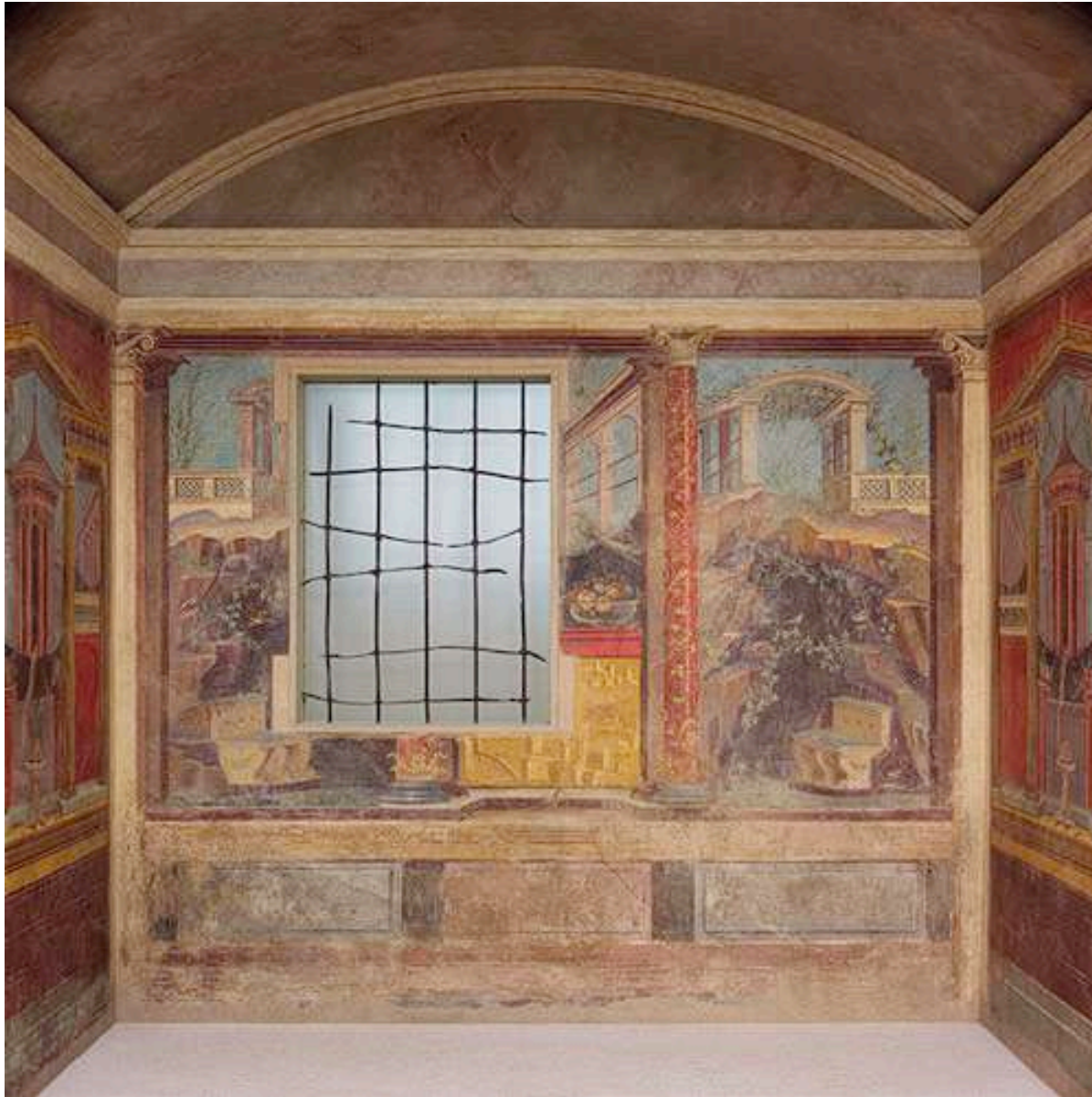
Statuette of a woman. Pose and garments show Greek influence from Archaic time period, but the details are incised or carved into the surface rather than modeled

Statuette of a kore, last quarter of the 6th century b.c.

Etruscan
Bronze

Roman Republic 509 – 27 BC

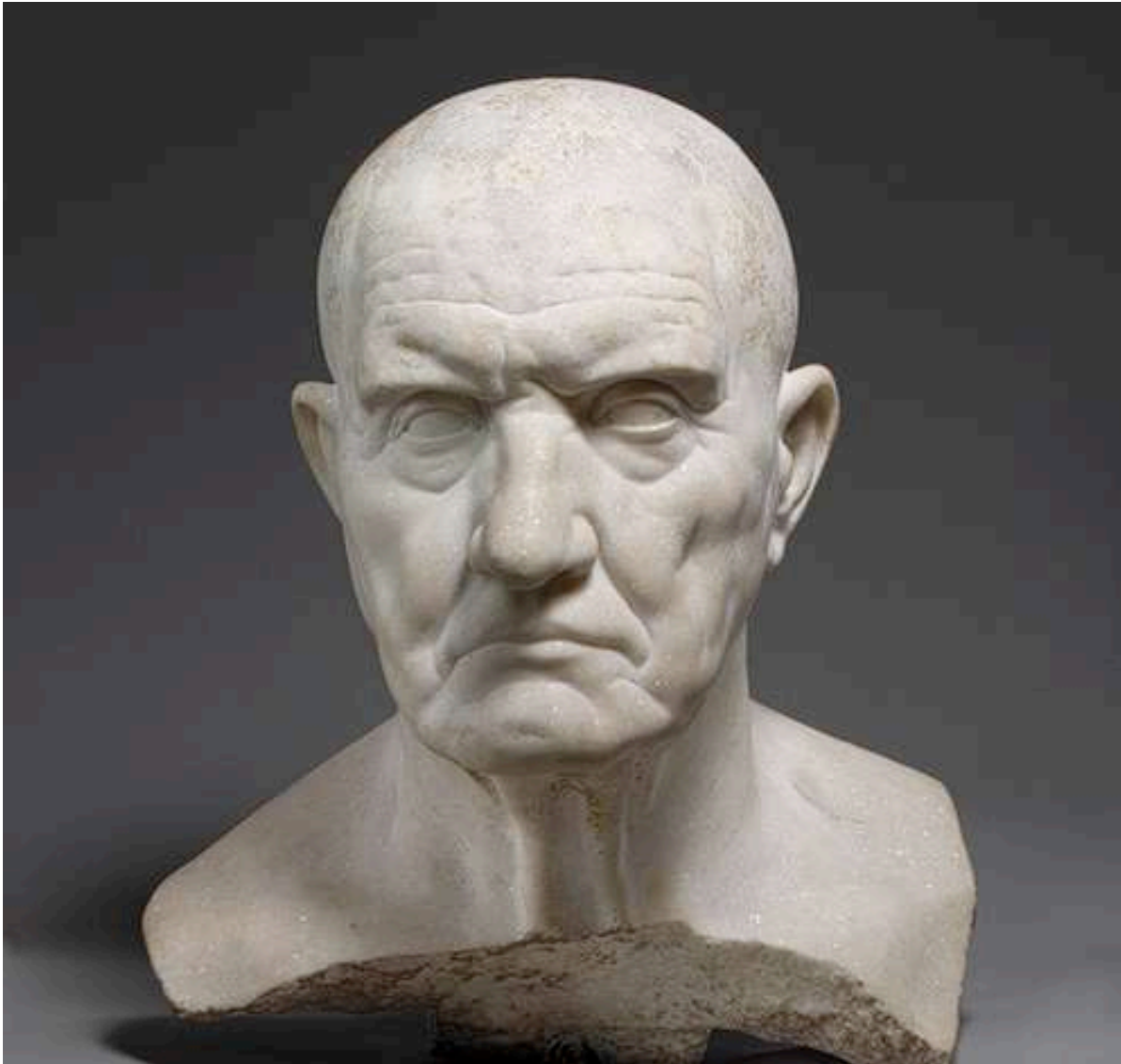
- Entire culture ruled by wealthy Patricians, born into role
- Unequal distribution of land and resources prompted the lower class citizens known as plebians to organize their own territories
- Soon patricians and plebians joined forces to create an aristocracy of ruling people
- Rome was the capital and a thriving metropolis
- Ruled over vast area: Sicily, Sardinia, parts of Africa, Crete, Spain, and parts of Asia
- Strain of governing such an area caused civil war and strife for many years and the collapse of the Republic
- Ceasar's grand nephew eventually gained control of area and was given the supreme title of "Augustus"



**Fresco wall
painting in a
cubiculum
(bedroom) from
the Villa of P.
Fannius Synistor
at Boscoreale, ca.
40–30 b.c.; Late
Republican
Roman
Plaster**

Portrait bust of a man, 1st century b.c.; Republican

Roman
Marble



Romans valued morals, wisdom from experience, & courage. These values were best depicted in the marble busts of middle aged men. At funerary rites, wax busts of family members, called imagines, were displayed to show prestige and the family history of public service. Influenced by



**Tivoli
Hoard**, mid-
1st century
b.c.; Late
Republican
Roman;
Italy, said to
have been
found at
Tivoli or
Boscoreale
Silver

Roman Empire 27 BC to 393 AD

- A time period of many rulers
- Territorial shift in governing locale to Constantinople in 330 AD, enabled the Church to come to power in Rome
- A time of great artistic achievement



**So-called Antioch
Mosaic**, second half
of 2nd century; Late
Antonine
Roman
Mosaic
Larger, more
expressionistic tile
work: almost 3-d
interpretation of cubes
as background design



Portrait of a Boy, Roman
period, 2nd century
Egyptian
Encaustic on wood

Called Faiyum portraits from
multiethnic Roman Egypt
Style of painting originated in
Greece in 5th and 4th centuries
BC



Vase, 3rd century
Provincial Roman
Champlevé
enamel, copper
alloy

Used Champlevé
technique and was
found in the area
of Limoges,
known for their
expertise in
enameling.



Roman, *Augustus of Prima Porta*, early 1st century

Posed in traditional *contrapposto* manner: right leg forward with left leg slightly bent, heel up. Arm outstretched in a regal manner which is balanced by bent leg.

Roman, *Pont du Gard Aqueduct*, near Nîmes, France,
c. 20-10 BCE

31 miles in length

engineering expertise allowed for only a slope of 17 m
overall

said to have carried 44 million gallons of water each day



The Colosseum 70-82 AD

<http://www.artlex.com/ArtLex/r/roman.html>



Early Christian

Due to persecution, Early Christian art went underground
Artworks created by every day people, not specialized



Christ and the Christian as a philosopher is an important theme in Early Christian art. For example in a catacomb painting Christ as the philosopher is flanked by his disciples much like a representation of Socrates surrounded by his students:



Notice here how Christ is given authority by being represented with the gesture of authority while holding onto a scroll. Even his dress, a toga, is the dress associated with authority. A fourth century painting of St. Paul already has his characteristic pointed beard and dark hair with receding hairline:



Byzantine 476-1400 AD

- Great use of color
- Figures appear stiff and flat and floating with large eyes
- Imagery often gilded to glow and be heavenly
- Impart stories of Christianity in order to educate

Focus on how to get to afterlife, not on realism





Byzantine
(Constantinople or
Sinai?), second half of
the 13th century, *Icon
with the Archangel
Gabriel*, tempera and
gold on wood panel



The Cambrai Madonna,
c. 1340,
Notice that the baby
Christ is almost a small
full grown human



"Last
Judgment" ca.
1440, part of
the Robert
Parsons
collection

resources

- <http://www.artlex.com/ArtLex/e/etruscan.html>
- <http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/works-of-art/17.190.2066>
- http://employees.oneonta.edu/farberas/arth/arth212/Early_Christian_art.html
- http://www.google.com/imgres?imgurl=http://www.dukenews.duke.edu/2009/02/images/nasher-last-judgment.jpg&imgrefurl=http://www.dukenews.duke.edu/2009/01/illuminate.html&usg=__rISKpyM7h1KgLRxp-o20b_88eY=&h=360&w=280&sz=53&hl=en&start=6&zoom=1&um=1&itbs=1&tbnid=yG9MHGeYXqa8TM:&tbnh=121&tbnw=94&prev=/images%3Fq%3Dilluminated%2Bmanuscripts%26um%3D1%26hl%3Den%26safe%3Dactive%26sa%3DN%26rlz%3D1W1ADSA_en%26tbs%3Disch:1

Critique: choose one and describe, analyze, interpret & judge the work

