

# THE ART OF ANCIENT GREECE AND ROMAN ART



# KEY WORKS

## GREEK

- ◉ Geometric Krater Vase (Geometric) 1000-700 BC
- ◉ Parthenon (Classical) 480 - 300 BC
- ◉ Nike of Samothrace (Hellenistic) 300 - 100 BC

## ROMAN

- ◉ Augustus Prima Porta
- ◉ Arch of Titus
- ◉ Pantheon
  
- ◉ GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE - Life of Buddha frieze from Gandhara

# MAJOR POINTS

- ◉ Depictions of the human figure are emphasized and change throughout the various stylistic time periods as a reflection of the philosophies of the time.
- ◉ As the Greeks lean towards the philosophy of humanism, particularly in the Classical Period, the Greek desire for perfection is reflected in the art and architecture.
- ◉ Although the architecture of the Roman temples was strongly influenced by Greek temples, there are some distinct differences. The Romans will also use the arch and invent concrete, and that will further differentiate their architecture from that of the Greeks.
- ◉ There will also be differences in the function and purpose of Roman architecture from that of Greek architecture. Roman architecture, and even Roman sculpture, often promoted a political agenda.
- ◉ Realistic depictions dominate in Roman sculpture and even Hellenistic Greek sculpture, whereas idealism is dominant in Classical Greek works

# THEOLOGY

- Some gods were specifically associated with a certain city. Athena was associated with the city of Athens, Apollo with Delphi, Zeus with Olympia and Aphrodite with Corinth.
- Other deities were associated with nations outside of Greece; Poseidon was associated with Ethiopia and Troy.



# RELIGION - THEOLOGY

- Theology: The ancient Greeks believed there were many gods and goddesses.
- There was a hierarchy of deities, with Zeus, the king of the gods
- Some deities had dominion over certain aspects of nature. For instance, Zeus was the sky-god, sending thunder and lightning, Poseidon ruled over the sea and earthquakes, Hades projected his remarkable power throughout the realms of death and the Underworld, and Helios controlled the sun. Other deities ruled over an abstract concept; for instance Aphrodite controlled love.

# RELIGION - MYTHOLOGY

- ◉ Greek religion had an extensive mythology. It consisted largely of stories of the gods and of how they affected humans on Earth.
- ◉ Myths often revolved around heroes and their actions, such as Heracles, and his twelve labors, Odysseus and his voyage home, Jason and the quest for the Golden Fleece.
- ◉ Many of the myths revolved around the Trojan War between Greece and Troy. For instance, the epic poem, *The Iliad*, by Homer, is based on the war.

# ATHENA AND ZEUS



Zeus

# RELIGION - CEREMONIES

- Greek ceremonies and rituals were mainly performed at altars. These typically were devoted to one, or a few gods, and contained a statue of the particular deity upon it.
- Votive deposits would be left at the altar, such as food, drinks, as well as precious objects. Sometimes animal sacrifices would be performed here





# TIME PERIODS WITHIN GREEK ART

- ◉ **Geometric** 1000 - 700 BC  
Krater Vase
- ◉ **Archaic** 700 - 480 BC  
(no examples of artwork)
- ◉ **Classical** 480 - 300 BC  
Parthenon
- ◉ **Hellenistic** 300 BC - 100 CE  
Nike of Samothrace or Winged Victory

# GEOMETRIC - 1,000 - 700 BC

## KRATER VASE

- ◉ Pottery ornamented with geometric banding and friezes of simplified animals or humans
- ◉ Vase paintings told stories about gods and heroes of Greek myths.
- ◉ Kraters were placed in the center of the room. They were quite large, so they were not easily portable when filled.

# EXAMPLES OF GEOMETRIC KRATERS



# CLASSICAL 480 - 300 BC

## PARTHENON TEMPLE & SCULPTURES

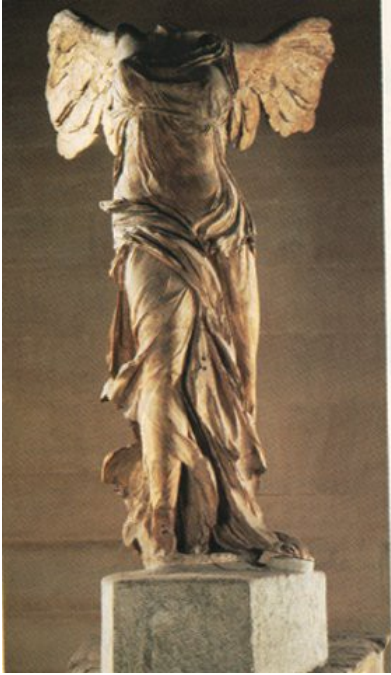
- ◉ A perfect example of the desire for perfection and incorporation of the mathematical principles of Classical Architecture.
- ◉ Sculptures represented the perfection of the human form
- ◉ Bodies were not stiff, they looked fully alive and movable
- ◉ Parthenon - symbol of Ancient Greece and of Athenian democracy and one of the world's greatest cultural monuments.



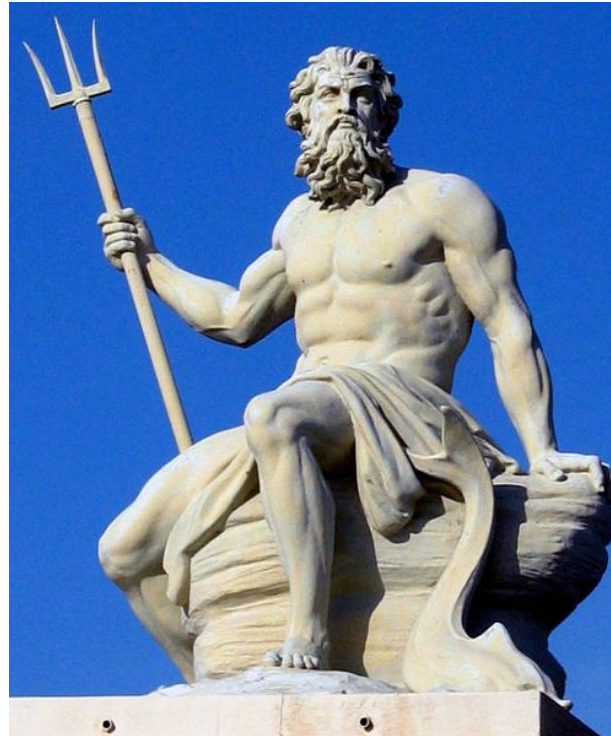
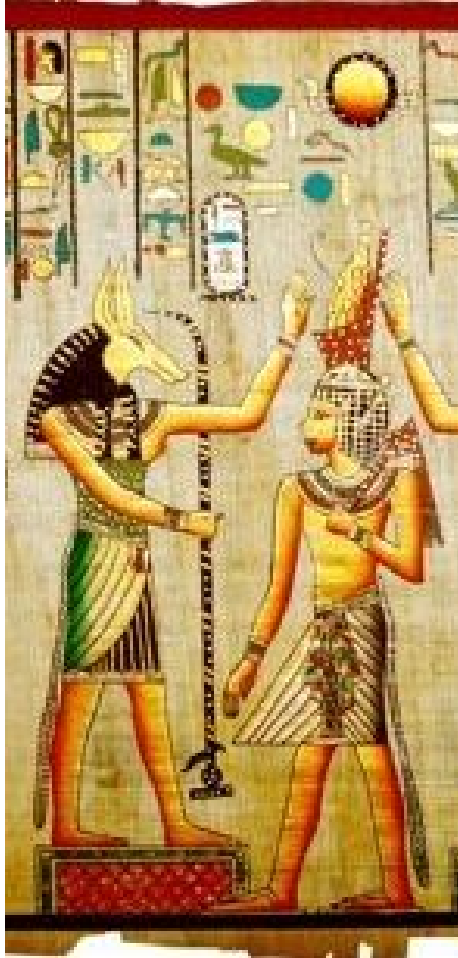
# HELLENISTIC 300 BC - 100 AD

## NIKE OF SAMOTHRACE

- ◉ Marble sculpture of the Greek goddess, Nike
- ◉ The Nike of Samothrace, discovered in 1863, is estimated to have been created around 190 BC. It was created to not only honor the goddess, Nike, but to honor a sea battle. It conveys a sense of action and triumph as well as portraying artful flowing drapery through its features which the Greeks considered ideal beauty



# DIFFERENCES IN BODY





# ROMAN ART

- ◉ Augustus Prima Porta
- ◉ Arch of Titus
- ◉ Pantheon

# ROMAN ART VS. GREEK ART

- ◉ Often borrowed and copied from Greek precedents. It also encompassed Etruscan and Egyptian art.
- ◉ Owing in part to the fact that the Roman cities were far larger than the Greek city-states in power and population, art in Ancient Rome took on a wider, and sometimes more utilitarian purpose.
- ◉ Roman art was commissioned, displayed, and owned in far greater quantities, and adapted to more uses than in Greek times. Wealthy Romans were more materialistic.

# ROMAN ART VS. GREEK ART

- ◉ Roman temples were distinctly different from Greek Temples. The Romans used the arch and invented concrete. This will further differentiate their architecture from that of the Greeks.
- ◉ There is also a different function and purpose of Roman architecture from that of Greek architecture.
- ◉ Roman architecture and sculpture often promoted a political agenda.

# AUGUSTUS PRIMA PORTA

- ◉ This marble statue of Augustus Caesar was discovered on April 20, 1863, in the Villa of Livia at Prima Porta, near Rome.
- ◉ Augustus is shown in this role of "Imperator", the commander of the army, or commander-in-chief of the Roman army.
- ◉ During his lifetime, Augustus did not wish to be depicted as a god (unlike the later emperors who embraced divinity), but this statue has many thinly-veiled references to the emperor's "divine nature",



# ARCH OF TITUS

- The **Arch of Titus** is a 1st-century honorific arch located on the Via Sacra, Rome, just to the south-east of the Roman Forum. It was constructed in c.82 AD by the Roman Emperor Domitian shortly after the death of his older brother Titus to commemorate Titus' victories, including the Siege of Jerusalem in 70 AD.
- Based on the style of sculptural details, Domitian's favored architect Rabirius, sometimes credited with the Colosseum, may have executed the arch. Without contemporary documentation, however, attributions of Roman buildings on basis of style are considered shaky.

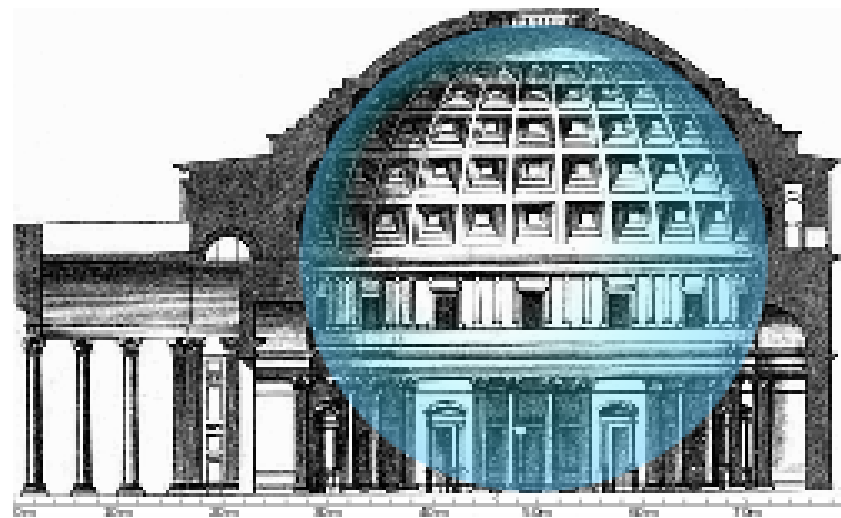




# THE PANTHEON

- ◉ The Pantheon was originally built in 27-25 BC in Rome, Italy to all the gods of Ancient Rome.
- ◉ It is one of the best-preserved of all Roman buildings. It has been in continuous use throughout its history.
- ◉ Since the Renaissance the Pantheon has been used as a tomb.
- ◉ It took 732 construction workers over 3 years to construct the Pantheon because of its many features





# GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE - LIFE OF BUDDHA FRIEZE FROM GANDHARA

- ◉ **Gautama Buddha** was a spiritual teacher from the Indian subcontinent, on whose teachings Buddhism was founded
- ◉ The word **Buddha** is a title for the first awakened being in an era. In most Buddhist traditions, Siddhartha Gautama is regarded as the Supreme Buddha
- ◉ The time of Gautama's birth and death are uncertain: most early-20th-century historians dated his lifetime as circa 563 BC to 483 BC

# GANDHARA

- ◉ **Gandhāra** is the name of an ancient kingdom located in parts of modern-day northern Pakistan and eastern Afghanistan.
- ◉ Evidence of Stone Age human inhabitants of Gandhara, including stone tools and burnt bones, was discovered in area caves. The artifacts are approximately 15,000 years old. More recent excavations point to 30,000 years before present.

# LIFE OF BUDDHA FRIEZE FROM GANDHARA - 1 BIRTH AT LUMBINI



# LIFE OF BUDDHA FRIEZE FROM GANDHARA - 2 ENLIGHTENMENT AT BODH GAYA



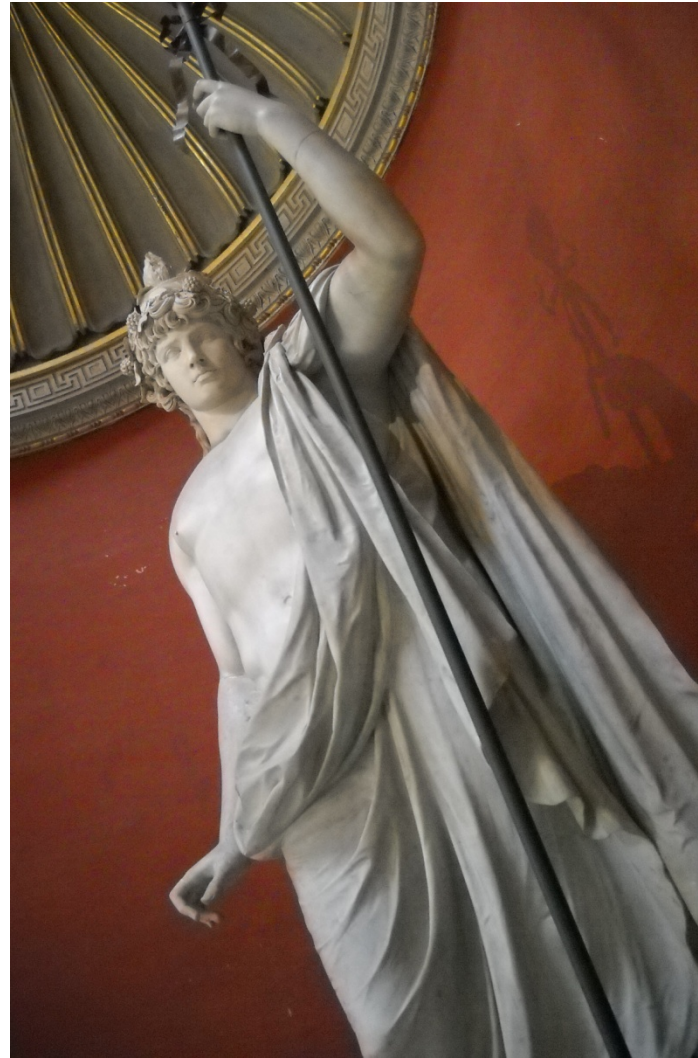
# LIFE OF BUDDHA FRIEZE FROM GANDHARA - 3 FIRST SERMON AT SARNATH



# LIFE OF BUDDHA FRIEZE FROM GANDHARA - 4 PARINIRVANA DEATH



# MY PHOTOS OF ROME, ITALY









REGIO  
DIONYSIACA

REGIO  
DIONYSIACA



