CFLSAP Art History

Resource Book part 1: Prehistoric Art to Ancient Egyptian Art

Student name ______________________
Prehistoric Art

Bushel with ibex motifs, 4200–3500 B.C.E., Susa I period, necropolis, acropolis mound, Susa, Iran. Painted terracotta, 28.90 x 16.40 cm. Excavations led by Jacques de Morgan, 1906-08 (Musée du Louvre, Paris).

Apollo 11 Cave Stones, Namibia, quartzite, c. 25,500–25,300 B.C.E. Image courtesy of State Museum of Namibia.

Location of the Huns Mountains of Namibia, © Map Data Google

Left wall of the Hall of Bulls, Lascaux II (replica of the original cave, which is closed to the public). Original cave: c. 16,000-14,000 B.C.E., 11 feet 6 inches long.

Disembowelled bison and bird-headed human figure? Cave at Lascaux, c. 16,000-14,000 B.C.E.
Tassili n’Ajer is a Tamahq name meaning “plateau” of the Ajjer people (the Kel Ajjer is a group of tribes whose traditional territory was here). Much of the 1,500–2,100 meter high plateau is protected by an 80,000 square kilometer National Park.

Visible in this reproduction of the original rock painting are two groupings in red ochre of small human figures superimposed onto the horned goddess.

The Tassili plateau, hailed as “the greatest center of prehistoric art in the world”: undercuts at cliff bases have created rock shelters with smooth walls ideal for painting and engraving. The Tassili’s unique geological formations of eroded sandstone rock pillars and arches—“forests of stone”—resemble a lunar landscape.

Running Horned Woman, 6,000–4,000 B.C.E., pigment on rock, Tassili n’Ajer, Algeria

Sand and rocks, Tassili n’Ajer, Algeria (photo: Akli Salah, CC BY-SA 4.0)

Visible in this reproduction of the original rock painting are two groupings in red ochre of small human figures superimposed onto the horned goddess.

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While today Saudi Arabia is known for its desert sands and oil reserves, in prehistoric times the environment and landscape were dramatically different—more fertile and lush, and readily accessible to humans.

Three anthropomorphic stelae dating to the 4th millennium B.C.E. found in northwest Saudi Arabia, near Ha’il and in Tayma © Photo: Haupt & Binder

Rock engraving depicting an ostrich hunt: “Wadi Uqla horsemen and ostrich,” Tayma oasis site in northwestern Saudi Arabia

Stonehenge, Salisbury Plain, Wiltshire, England, c. 2550-1600 B.C.E., circle 97 feet in diameter, trilithons: 24 feet high (photo: Maedin Tureaud)

Aerial view, 2014, Stonehenge, Salisbury Plain, Wiltshire, England, c. 2550-1600 B.C.E., circle 97 feet in diameter, trilithons: 24 feet high (photo: timeyres, CC BY-SA 2.0)
Interior of the sarsen circle and bluestones in the foreground, Stonehenge, Salisbury Plain, Wiltshire, England, c. 2550-1600 B.C.E., circle 97 feet in diameter, trilithons: 24 feet high

Ambum Stone (detail), c. 1500 B.C.E., greywacke, 20 x 7.5 x 14 cm, Ambum Valley, Enga Province, Papua New Guinea (Australia National Gallery, Canberra)

Ambum Stone (detail), c. 1500 B.C.E., greywacke, 20 x 7.5 x 14 cm, Ambum Valley, Enga Province, Papua New Guinea (Australia National Gallery, Canberra)

Ambum Stone, c. 1500 B.C.E., greywacke, 20 x 7.5 x 14 cm, Ambum Valley, Enga Province, Papua New Guinea (Australia National Gallery, Canberra)

Double-faced female figurine, early formative period, Tlatilco, c. 1500–1200 B.C.E., ceramic with traces of pigment, 9.5 cm. high (Princeton University Art Museum)
Tlatilco figurine of a woman with a dog, Tlatilco, c. 1200–600 B.C.E., ceramic. (National Museum of Anthropology) (photo: Steven Zucker, CC BY-NC-SA 2.0)

Terracotta fragments, Lapita people, c. 1000 B.C.E., red-slip earthenware, Santa Cruz Islands, south-east of Solomon Islands (Department of Anthropology, University of Auckland, CC BY-NC-ND 3.0)

Terracotta fragments, Lapita people, red-slip earthenware, Watom Island, Bismarck Archipelago (photo: Merryjack, CC BY-NC-SA 2.0)

Painted Barkcloth (Masi kesa), late 19th–early 20th century, Lau Islands, Fiji, 85.1 x 419.1 cm (Metropolitan Museum of Art) “The repeating geometric motifs of many tapa cloths at times resemble those seen on pottery produced by the Lapita peoples, who were the ancestors of present-day Polynesians.”

Jade Cong, c. 2500 B.C.E., Liangzhu culture, Neolithic period, China (British Museum)
Ancient near East

Cylinder seal of Pu-abu, c. 2600 B.C.E., lapis lazuli, 4.9 x 2.6 cm, from Ur © Trustees of the British Museum

Peace (detail), The Standard of Ur, 2600-2400 B.C.E., shell, red limestone, lapis lazuli, and bitumen (original wood no longer exists), 21.59 x 49.53 x 12 cm, Ur © Trustees of the British Museum

War (detail), The Standard of Ur, 2600-2400 B.C.E., shell, red limestone, lapis lazuli, and bitumen (original wood no longer exists), 21.59 x 49.53 x 12 cm, Ur © Trustees of the British Museum

Queen’s Lyre (reconstruction), 2600 B.C.E., wooden parts, pegs and string are modern; lapis lazuli, shell and red limestone mosaic decoration, set in bitumen and the head (but not the horns) of the bull are ancient; the bull’s head in front of the sound box is covered with gold; the eyes are lapis lazuli and shell and the hair and beard are lapis lazuli; panel on front depicts lion-headed eagle between gazelles, bulls with plants on hills, a bull-man between leopards and a lion attacking a bull; edges of the sound-box are decorated with inlay bands; eleven gold-headed pegs for the strings, 112.5 x 73 x 7 cm (body), Ur © Trustees of the British Museum

Perforated relief of Ur-Nanshe, king of Lagash, limestone, Early Third Dynasty (2550–2500 B.C.E.), found in Tell O or Tello (ancient city of Girsu). 15-1/4 x 18-1/4 inches / 39 x 46.5 cm (Musée du Louvre)

Perforated relief of Ur-Nanshe (detail), king of Lagash, limestone, Early Third Dynasty (2550–2500 B.C.E.), found in Tell O or Tello (ancient city of Girsu). 15-1/4 x 18-1/4 inches / 39 x 46.5 cm (Musée du Louvre)

US soldiers descend the Ziggurat of Ur, Tell el-Mukayyar, Iraq

Woolley Photo of the Ziggurat of Ur with workers Ziggurat of Ur, c. 2100 B.C.E., Woolley excavation workers (Tell el-Mukayyar, Iraq)

Ziggurat of Ur, c. 2100 B.C.E. mud brick and baked brick, Tell el-Mukayyar, Iraq (largely reconstructed)
The cradle of civilization

Map of the Ancient Near East

The Euphrates River in 2005

Cuneiform tablet with observations of Venus, Neo-Assyrian, 7th century B.C.E., from Nineveh, northern Iraq, clay, 17.14 x 9.20 x 2.22 cm (The British Museum)

Digital reconstruction of the White Temple and ziggurat, Uruk (modern Warka), c. 3517-3358 B.C.E. © artefacts-berlin.de; scientific material: German Archaeological Institute

Digital reconstruction of the two-story version of the White Temple, Uruk (modern Warka), c. 3517-3358 B.C.E. © artefacts-berlin.de; scientific material: German Archaeological Institute

Cuneiform

Digital reconstruction of the Flood Tablet, relating part of the Epic of Gilgamesh, 7th century B.C.E., Neo-Assyrian, 15.24 x 13.33 x 3.17 cm, from Nineveh, northern Iraq © Trustees of the British Museum

Map of the World, Babylonian, c. 700-500 B.C.E., clay, 12.2 x 8.2 cm, probably from Sippar, southern Iraq © Trustees of the British Museum

Digital reconstruction of the Flood Tablet, relating part of the Epic of Gilgamesh, 7th century B.C.E., Neo-Assyrian, 15.24 x 13.33 x 3.17 cm, from Nineveh, northern Iraq © Trustees of the British Museum

Early Writing Tablet recording the allocation of beer, 3100-3000 B.C.E., Late Prehistoric period, clay, probably from southern Iraq. © Trustees of the British Museum. The symbol for beer, an upright jar with pointed base, appears three times on the tablet. Beer was the most popular drink in Mesopotamia and was issued as rations to workers. Alongside the pictographs are five different shaped impressions, representing numerical symbols. Over time these signs became more abstract and wedge-like, or “cuneiform.” The signs are grouped into boxes and, at this early date, are usually read from top to bottom and right to left. One sign, in the bottom row on the left, shows a bowl tipped towards a schematic human head. This is the sign for “to eat.”

Cuneiform tablet with observations of Venus, Neo-Assyrian, 7th century B.C.E., from Nineveh, northern Iraq, clay, 17.14 x 9.20 x 2.22 cm (The British Museum)

Digital reconstruction of the White Temple and ziggurat, Uruk (modern Warka), c. 3517-3358 B.C.E. © artefacts-berlin.de; scientific material: German Archaeological Institute

Digital reconstruction of the two-story version of the White Temple, Uruk (modern Warka), c. 3517-3358 B.C.E. © artefacts-berlin.de; scientific material: German Archaeological Institute

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Section through the central hall of the “White Temple,” digital reconstruction of the interior of the two-story version White Temple, Uruk (modern Warka), c. 3517-3358 B.C.E. © artefacts-berlin.de; scientific material: German Archaeological Institute

Interior view of the two-story version of the “White Temple,” Digital reconstruction of the White Temple, Uruk (modern Warka), c. 3517-3358 B.C.E. © artefacts-berlin.de; scientific material: German Archaeological Institute

Remains of the Anu Ziggurat, Uruk (modern Warka), c. 3517-3358 B.C.E. (photo: Geoff Emberling, by permission)

Remains of Building C in Uruk. Only a couple of mud-brick rows have survived to offer a basic ground plan. The building dates into the 4th millennium B.C.E. © German Archaeological Institute, Oriental Institute, W 10767, all rights reserved.

Technical reconstruction of Building C in Uruk. The southwestern part of the building is artificially cut open so we can see the inside (for example, the staircase). © artefacts-berlin.de; Material: German Archaeological Institute

Cylinder Seal with Kneeling Nude Heroes, c. 2220-2159 B.C.E., Akkadian (Metropolitan Museum of Art) Cylinder Seal (with modern impression), showing Kneeling Nude Heroes, c. 2220-2159 B.C.E., Akkadian (The Metropolitan Museum of Art)

Cylinder Seal (with modern impression), royal worshipper before a god on a throne with bull’s legs; human-headed bulls below, c. 1820-1730 B.C.E. (The Metropolitan Museum of Art)

Cylinder Seal (with modern impression), royal worshipper before a god on a throne with bull’s legs; human-headed bulls below, c. 1820-1730 B.C.E. (The Metropolitan Museum of Art)
Art of Akkad

Map showing the approximate extension of the Akkad empire during the reign of Narām-Sîn, yellow arrows indicate the directions in which military campaigns were conducted, photo (CC BY-SA 3.0)

Victory Stele of Naram-Sin

Code of Hammurabi stele. Louvre Museum, Paris

Kassite Art

Top level: Mesopotamian Gods in symbolic form, second level: animals and deities playing musical instruments (detail), “Unfinished” Kudurru, Kassite period, attributed to the reign of Melishipak, 1186–1172 B.C.E., found in Susa, where it had been taken as war booty in the 12th c. B.C.E. (Louvre)

Assyrian art

Map of the Neo-Assyrian Empire and its expansions.

Ashurbanipal sitting the throat of a lion from his chariot (detail), Ashurbanipal Hunting Lions, gypsum hall relief from the North Palace, Ninevah, c. 645-635 B.C.E., excavated by H. Rassam beginning in 1853 (British Museum)

Lion pierced with arrows (detail), Lion Hunts of Ashurbanipal (ruled 669-630 B.C.E.), c. 645 B.C.E., gypsum, Neo-Assyrian, hall reliefs from Palace at Ninevah across the Tigris from present day Mosul, Iraq (British Museum)
Assyrian art

Winged human-headed bull (lamassu or shedu), Neo-Assyrian Period, reign of Sargon II (721-705 B.C.E.) Khorsabad, ancient Dur Sharrukin, Assyria, Iraq, gypseous alabaster, 4.20 x 4.36 x 0.97 m, excavated by P.-E. Botta 1843-44 (Musée du Louvre) (photo: Dr. Steven Zucker, CC BY-NC-SA 2.0)

Protective Spirit Relief from the North-West Palace of Ashurnasirpal II, 883-859 B.C.E., Neo-Assyrian, alabaster, 224 x 127 x 12 cm (extant), Nimrud (ancient Kalhu), northern Iraq © Trustees of the British Museum. One of a pair which guarded an entrance into the private apartments of Ashurnasirpal II. The figure of a man with wings may be the supernatural creature called an apkallu in cuneiform texts. He wears a tasselled kilt and a fringed and embroidered robe. His curled moustache, long hair and beard are typical of figures of this date. Across the body runs Ashurnasirpal’s “Standard Inscription,” which records some of the king’s titles.

The Siege and Capture of the City of Lachish in 701 B.C.E., panel 8-9, South-West Palace of Sennacherib, Nineveh, northern Iraq, Neo-Assyrian, c. 700-681 B.C.E., alabaster, 182.880 x 193.040 cm (The British Museum)
Part of a series which decorated the walls of a room in the palace of King Sennacherib (reigned 704-681 B.C.E.). The Assyrian soldiers continue the attack on Lachish. They carry away a throne, a chariot and other goods from the palace of the governor of the city. In front and below them some of the people of Lachish, carrying what goods they can salvage, move through a rocky landscape studded with vines, fig and perhaps olive trees. Sennacherib records that as a result of the whole campaign he deported 200,150 people. This was standard Assyrian policy, and was adopted by the Babylonians, the next ruling empire.

Persian art

Protective Spirit Relief from the North-West Palace of Ashurnasirpal II, 883-859 B.C.E., Neo-Assyrian, alabaster, 224 x 127 x 12 cm (extant), Nimrud (ancient Kalhu), northern Iraq © Trustees of the British Museum. One of a pair which guarded an entrance into the private apartments of Ashurnasirpal II. The figure of a man with wings may be the supernatural creature called an apkallu in cuneiform texts. He wears a tasselled kilt and a fringed and embroidered robe. His curled moustache, long hair and beard are typical of figures of this date. Across the body runs Ashurnasirpal’s “Standard Inscription,” which records some of the king’s titles.

The Persian Empire, 490 B.C.E.

The Apadana staircase, Persepolis, Iran

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The Persian Empire, 490 B.C.E.
Persepolis: The Audience Hall of Darius and Xerxes

Growth of the Achaemenid Empire under different kings

An Armenian tribute bearer carrying a metal vessel with Homa (griffin) handles, relief from the eastern stairs of the Apādana in Persepolis: (Fars. Iran), c. 520-465 B.C.E. (photo: Aryamahasatva, CC BY-SA 3.0)

Bull Capital from Persepolis, Apādana, Persepolis (Fars, Iran), c. 520-465 B.C.E. (photo: Alan Cordova, CC BY-NC-ND 2.0) (Fars, Iran) (National Museum of Iran) (photo: [s1ingshot]

East stairway, Apādana, Persepolis (Fars, Iran), c. 520-465 B.C.E.

19th century reconstruction of the Apādana, Persepolis (Fars, Iran) by Charles Chipiez

Kyla depicting a Greek hoplite slaying a Persian inside, by the Triptolemos painter, 5th century B.C.E. (National Museums of Scotland)
Ancient Egypt

**Palette of King Narmer**, from Hierakonpolis, Egypt, Predynastic, c. 3000-2920 B.C.E., slate, 2' 1" high (Egyptian Museum, Cairo)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Old Kingdom (the 'pyramid age')</td>
<td>c. 2649 – 2150 B.C.E.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Intermediate Period</td>
<td>c. 2150 – 2030 B.C.E.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle Kingdom</td>
<td>c. 2030 – 1640 B.C.E.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Intermediate Period (Northern Delta region ruled by Asians)</td>
<td>c. 1640 – 1540 B.C.E.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Kingdom</td>
<td>c. 1550 – 1070 B.C.E.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third Intermediate Period</td>
<td>c. 1070 – 713 B.C.E.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Late Period (a series from foreign dynasties, including Nubian, Libyan and Persian rulers)</td>
<td>c. 712 – 332 B.C.E.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ptolemaic Period (ruled by Greco-Romans)</td>
<td>c. 332-30 B.C.E.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The areas in green show the habitable regions of Egypt. Note the locations of the Nile Delta, Upper and Lower Egypt, the Sinai Peninsula, and Kush—Nubia. Image courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

Seated Scribe, c. 2500 B.C.E., c. 4th Dynasty, Old Kingdom, painted limestone with rock crystal, magnesite, and copper/arsenic inlay for the eyes and wood for the nipples, found in Saqqara.

Pyramid of Khafre (Photo: Amy Calvert)

View up the side of Khufu’s pyramid showing scale of the core blocks (Photo: Amy Calvert)

Diagram of the interior of the Pyramid of Khufu

Giza Pyramid Complex

Entrance, Pyramid of Khufu (Photo: Olaf Tausch)
Pyramid of Khafre and the Great Sphinx

Pyramid of Khafre, c. 2520-2494 (photo: Dr. Amy Calvert)

Size and appearance

Pillars in Valley Temple of Khafre (photo: Dr. Amy Calvert)

King Menkaure (Mycerinus) and queen, 2490–2472 B.C.E., greywacke, 142.2 x 57.1 x 55.2 cm (Museum of Fine Arts, Boston), photo: tutincommon (CC BY-NC 2.0)

Menkaure flanked by Hathor (left) and nome goddess (Egyptian Museum, Cairo)

Heads and torsos (detail), King Menkaure (Mycerinus) and queen, 2490–2472 B.C.E., greywacke, 142.2 x 57.1 x 55.2 cm (Museum of Fine Arts, Boston), photo: 1910 (The Giza Archives)

Heads (detail), King Menkaure (Mycerinus) and queen, 2490–2472 B.C.E., greywacke, 142.2 x 57.1 x 55.2 cm (Museum of Fine Arts, Boston), photo: 1910 (The Giza Archives)

Page from the Book of the Dead of Ani, c. 1275 B.C.E., 19th Dynasty, 44.5 x 30.7 cm, Thebes, Egypt © Trustees of the British Museum

Page from the Book of the Dead of Hunefer, c. 1275 B.C.E., 19th Dynasty, 45.7 x 83.4 cm, Thebes, Egypt © Trustees of the British Museum

Page from the Book of the Dead of Ani, c. 1275 B.C.E., 19th Dynasty, 44.5 x 30.7 cm, Thebes, Egypt © Trustees of the British Museum
Temple of Amun-Re and the Hypostyle Hall, Karnak

View of sphinxes, the first pylon, and the central east-west aisle of Temple of Amun-Re, Karnak at Luxor, Egypt (photo: Mark Fox, CC: BY-NC 2.0)

Model of the Precinct of Amun-Re, Karnak (photo: Rémih, CC: BY-SA 3.0)

Hypostyle Hall, c. 1250 B.C.E. (hall), 18th and 19th Dynasties, New Kingdom, sandstone and mud brick, Karnak at Luxor, Egypt (photo: Blalonde, public domain)

"Tent pole" columns, Festival Temple of Thutmose III, c. 1479-25 B.C.E., sandstone, mud brick, paint, Karnak, at Luxor, Egypt
Mortuary Temple of Hatshepsut and Large Kneeling Statue, New Kingdom, c. 1473-1458 BCE Egypt

Large Kneeling Statue of Hatshepsut

Hatshepsut’s Mortuary Temple

Death Mask from innermost coffin, Tutankhamun’s tomb, New Kingdom, 18th Dynasty, c. 1323 BCE, gold with inlay of enamel and semiprecious stones (Egyptian Museum, Cairo) (photo: Bjørn Christian Tørrissen, CC BY-SA 3.0)

Tutankhamun’s tomb

Valley of the Kings, Egypt (photo: Troels Mostrup, CC BY-NC-ND 2.0)

Thutmose, Model Bust of Queen Nefertiti, c. 1340 BCE, limestone and plaster, New Kingdom, 18th dynasty, Amarna Period (Egyptian Museum and Papyrus Collection/Neues Museum, Berlin) (photo: Jean-Pierre Dalbéra, CC BY 2.0)

Akhenaton, Nefertiti, and three daughters

Tutankhamun, Howard Carter with Innermost Coffin of Tutankhamun, 1922 (Tutankhamun Archive, Griffith Institute, University of Oxford)

Valley of the Kings, Egypt (photo: Troels Mostrup, CC BY-NC-ND 2.0)
Howard Carter, Drawing of Tutankhamun's tomb (Tutankhamun Archive, Griffith Institute, University of Oxford)

Tutankhamun's tomb, innermost coffin, New Kingdom, 18th Dynasty, c. 1323 B.C.E., gold with inlay of enamel and semiprecious stones (Egyptian Museum, Cairo)

Egyptian crook and flail (image: Jeff Dahl)