

Periods of Art History I: From Prehistory to Trajan

XI. Art of the Early Roman Empire



Augustus Prima Porta, marble, height: 2,08 m,
1000 kg, later than 20 BC, probably between 15–29
AD / Vatican, Musei Vaticani







Augustus portrait of
the Prima Porta type,
early 1st century AD
/ Paris, Musée du
Louvre





The bronze head of Augustus from Meroë, bronze, 27–25 BC, British Museum



Doryphoros (Spear bearer), copy of a greek original, Villa of the Papyri, Herculaneum, original c. 450–440 BC, ca. mid 1st c. BC to 79 AD (Roman copy) / Naples, Museo Archeologico Nazionale



Doryphoros, 120–50 BC?, mi-Augustean period? (Roman copy) / Minneapolis Institute of Art



Caelus



Sol



Aurora and Luna?
Pax Romana?



Female personification:
which province?



Female personification:
Germania?



Restitution of the
Roman eagle by the
Parthian king to a
Roman figure



Apollo



Diana



Tellus (Terra Mater)

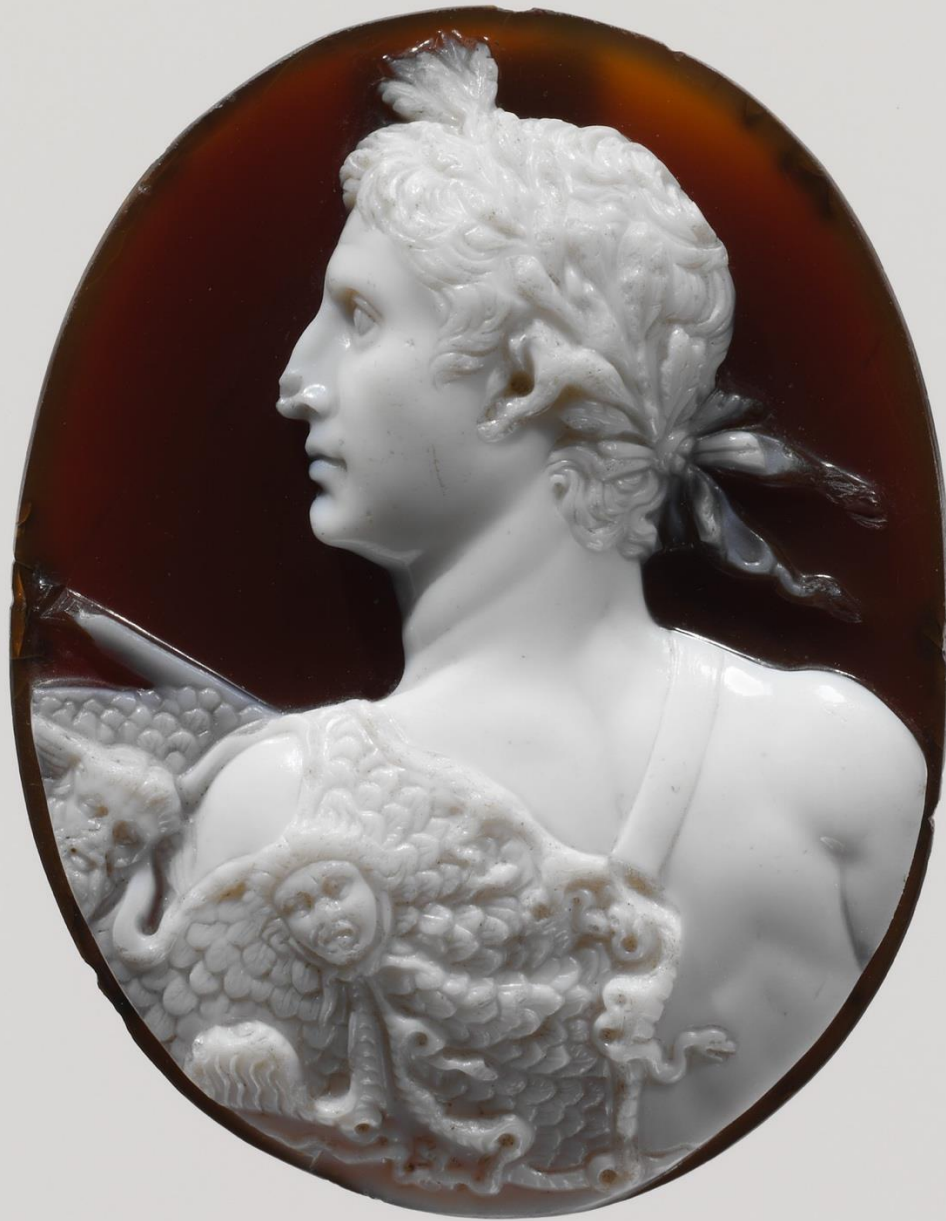


Video about Ara Pacis in Rome: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WCNz8sExxnM>





Augustus as *Pontifex Maximus*, after 12 B.C.E., marble, 208 cm high, found in the Via Labicana, Rome, Palazzo Massimo Alle Terme



Sardonyx cameo portrait of the Emperor Augustus, ca. 41–54 CE, MET



Gemma Augustea, 9–12 AD,
19 x 23 cm, sardonyx / setting
with gold and gilded silver: 17th
century, Kunsthistorisches
Museum, Wien, Inv.-Nr. IXa 79



Augustus as Jupiter,
Roman marble, c.
1st century AD



Capitoline Triad, c. 160–180
CE / Guidonia Montecelio,
Museo Civico Archeologico



Capitoline Triad on a gold
pectoral, 200–300 CE
(Cleveland Museum of Art)

Sculpture of Jupiter *Tonans* (Thundering Jupiter/Jove), reflection of the statue venerated in the Temple of Jupiter Tonans, vowed in 26 BC by Augustus, 1st century AD copy / Madrid, Museo del Prado



Jupiter/Zeus of Otricoli, roman copy of an original from the 4th century BC (?) / Vatican Museums, Pio Clementino, Inv. 257



Statuette of Anubis,
Ptolemaic Period,
332–30 BCE, MET



Hermanubis (Roman Anubis) marble statue,
1st–2nd century CE (Vatican Museums). He is
generally associated with Hermes or Mercury

Cybele



Seated Woman of Çatalhöyük, flanked by large felines as arm-rests, c. 6,000 BCE



Seated Cybele within a naiskos (4th century BCE, Ancient Agora Museum, Athens)



Cybele enthroned, with lion, cornucopia, and mural crown. Roman marble, c. 50 CE. Getty Museum



Seated Mercury (also known as *Hermes at Rest*), Roman copy of an ancient Greek bronze, 105 cm (Museo Nazionale, Naples)



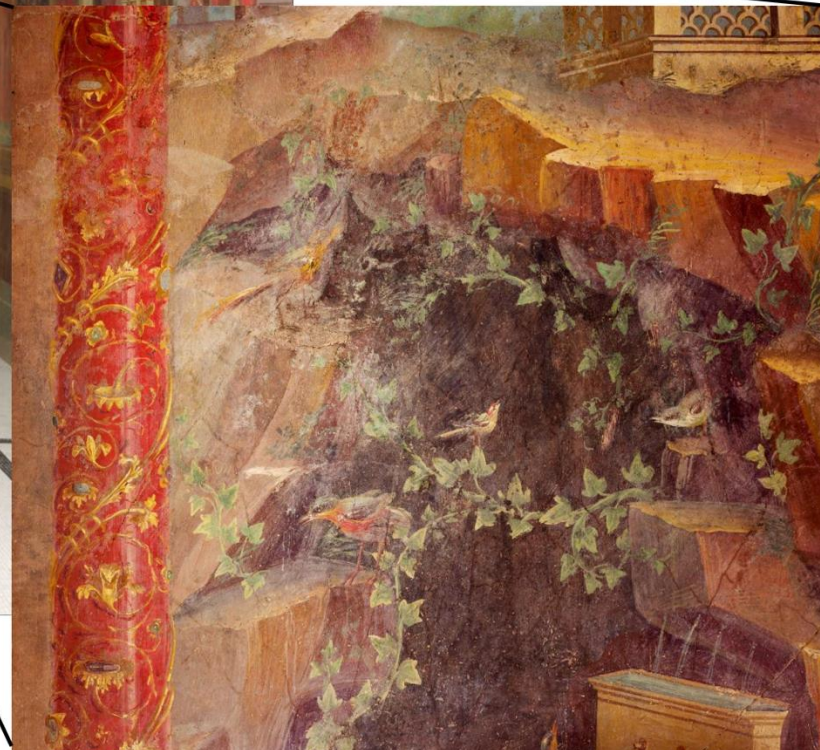




August Mau

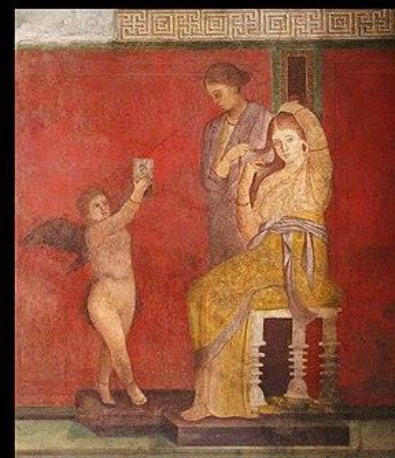
4 Styles of Roman
painting

cubiculum (bedroom), Villa of P. Fannius Synistor at Boscoreale, 50–40 B.C.E., fresco (The Metropolitan Museum of Art)



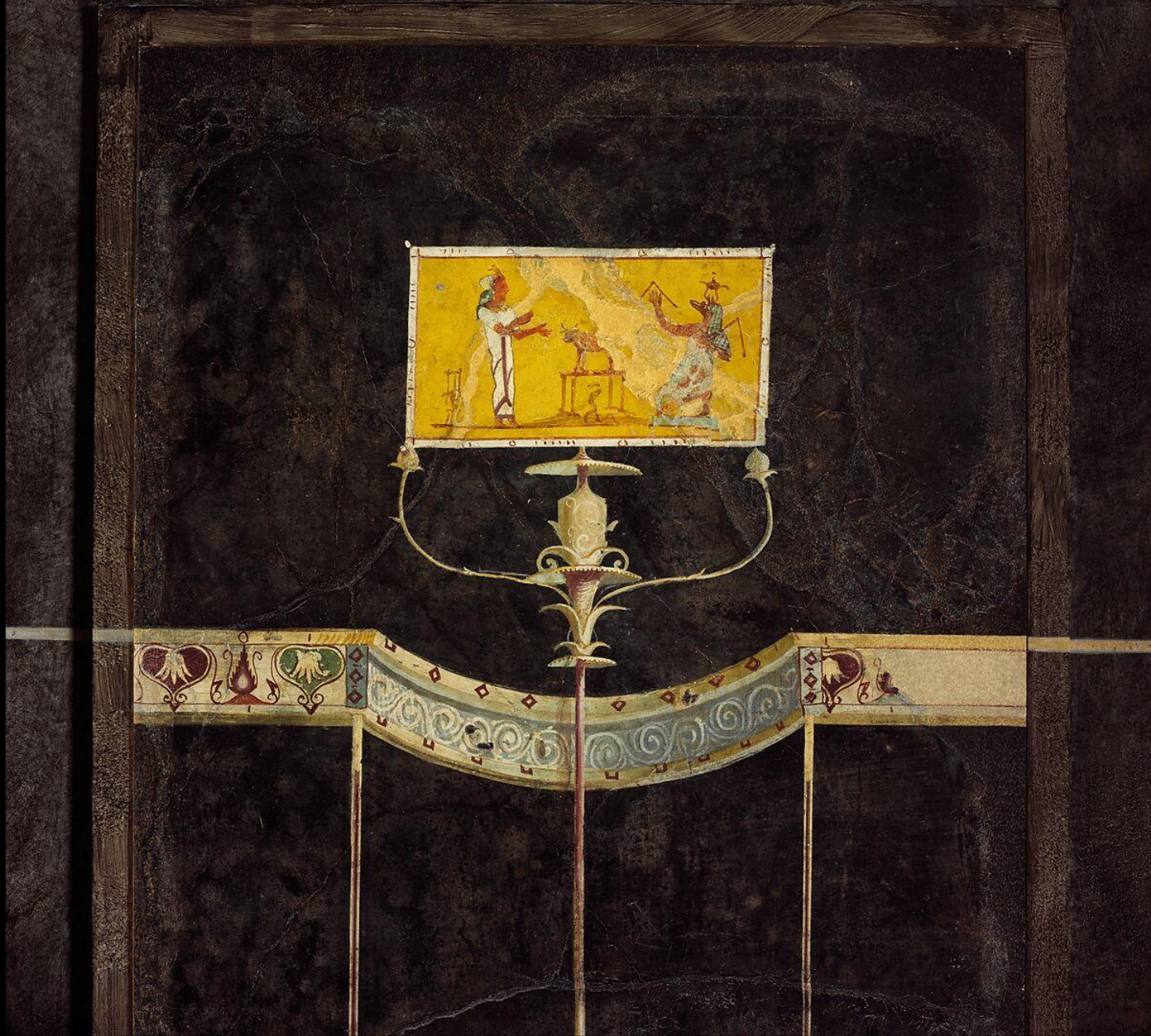


view of the Dionysiac frieze, Villa of the Mysteries,
before 79 C.E., fresco, 15 x 22 feet, just outside the walls of Pompeii on the Road to Herculaneum





Wall painting on black ground: Aedicula with small landscape, from the imperial villa at Boscotrecase, last decade of the 1st century BCE, MET





Obelisk in Piazza del Popolo





Panel with candelabrum (detail with Egyptian motif), Villa Agrippa Postumus, Boscotrecase, last decade of the 1st century B.C.E. (The Metropolitan Museum of Art)



House of the Vettii VI 15,1 Pompeii, 1st century CE

August Mau (1840–1909) produced what remains the scheme that underpins all stylistic analysis of Pompeian decor: he divided the wall painting into four 'Styles,' each representing a phase in the chronology of Pompeian painting, from the second century BCE to the final eruption in 79 CE.



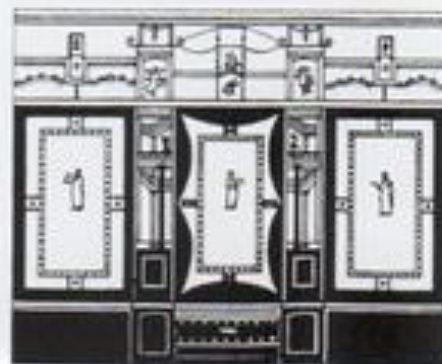
1. 'The First, or Incrustation, style': the wall is painted (and moulded in stucco) to imitate masonry blocks, no figured scenes. Second century BCE.



2. 'The Second, or Architectural, style': characteristically featuring illusionistic architectural vistas. c.100–15 BCE.



3. 'The Third, or Ornate, style': the vistas here give way to a delicate decorative scheme, concentrating on formal ornament. c.15 BCE–50 CE.



4. 'The Fourth, or Intricate, style': a more extravagant painterly style, parading the whole range of decorative idioms. c.50 CE.



Frescos from the Villa of Livia, at Prima Porta nera Rome, today housed in Palazzo Massimo, Rome



MGM+ ORIGINAL SERIES

DOMINA

MGM+





Painted stucco
decoration,
Stabian Baths,
Pompeii



The Alexander Mosaic, c. 120–100 BCE, 272 cm × 513 cm, National Archaeological Museum Naples





Glass mosaic,
Herculaneum.
Neptune and
Aphrodite. 1st
century CE

Medusa as an apotropaic symbol



Mosaic Floor with Head of Medusa, about 115–150 A.D., Roman, made in Italy. Stone tesserae, 106 1/2 × 106 1/2 in. The J. Paul Getty Museum, 71.AH.110.





Horse-bodied Gorgon (Medusa) being decapitated by Perseus with averted gaze; Boetian relief pithos, Louvre CA 795 (mid-seventh century BC)



Preserved metopes from the Temple C of Selinunte, Castelvetro, Sicily, half of the 6th century BCE
National Archaeological Museum "Antonio Salinas", Palermo





Gorgoneion; silver didrachm issued by Athens (mid-late sixth century BC)

Athena wearing her snake-fringed Gorgon aegis; plate attributed to Oltos, Munich, Staatliche Antikensammlungen (c. 525–475 BC)



Antefix with the head of Medusa, terracotta, 6th century BCE,
from Tarentino, Southern Italy
Metropolitan Museum, New York

Medusa, painted terracotta plaque, 56 x 50 cm, from the Athena
Sanctuary, Syracuse, c. 575-550 BCE
Regional Archaeological Museum Paolo Orsi, Syracuse



Perseus about to behead a "beautiful" sleeping Medusa; Pelike, attributed to Polygnotos, Metropolitan Museum of Art 45.11.1 (mid-fifth century BC)



"Beautiful" gorgoneion, with small head wings and two snakes twined under her chin; the Medusa Rondanini, Munich, Staatliche Antikensammlungen GL 252 (first-second century AD, Roman copy of a Greek original?)



Bronze ornament from a chariot pole, Roman, 1st–2nd century CE , MET



Benvenuto Cellini, Perseus with
the head of Medusa, Florence,
Piazza della Signoria, 1545-1554



Head of Medusa, 1617–1618, oil on oak by Peter Paul Rubens (1577–1640)



Garabati, Luciano. *Medusa
with the Head of Perseus*. Clay.
2008

BE THANKFUL WE ONLY WANT
EQUALITY AND NOT REVENGE



Additional resources for the exam preparation

Heilbrunn Timeline of Art History

Discover the story of art and global culture through The Met collection. Funded by the Heilbrunn Foundation, New Tamarind Foundation, and Zodiac Fund.



Ancient Mediterranean



Modernisms 1900-1980