

AP Art History



Unit 2A: Ancient Near East and Egypt

Image Set

Early important site in Mesopotamia (Iraq)

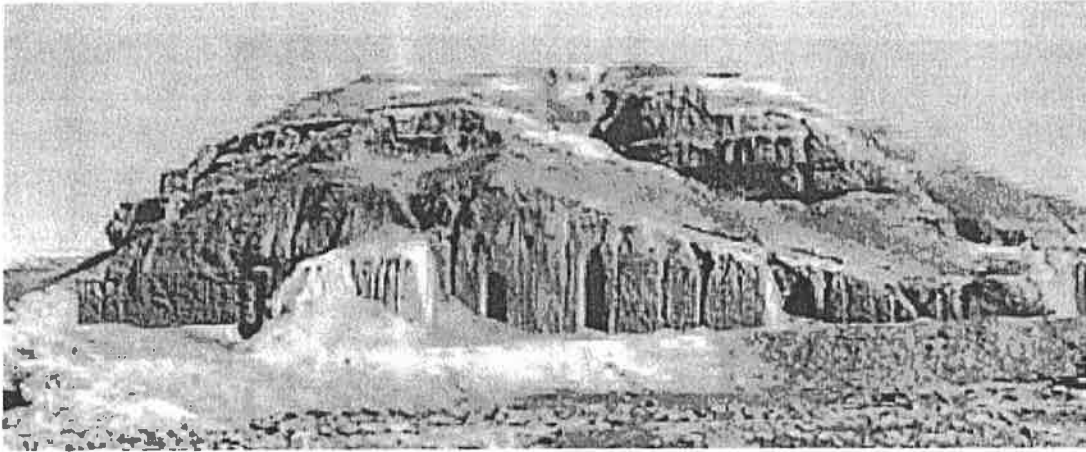
ANU Ziggurat & White Temple 3000 BCE

Ziggurat = raised platform, mud brick

White Temple = rectangular structure oriented to cardinal points.

Theocracy

- ziggurat & temple symbolized religious & spiritual authority.



- Center of gov. administration, religious functions, business transactions

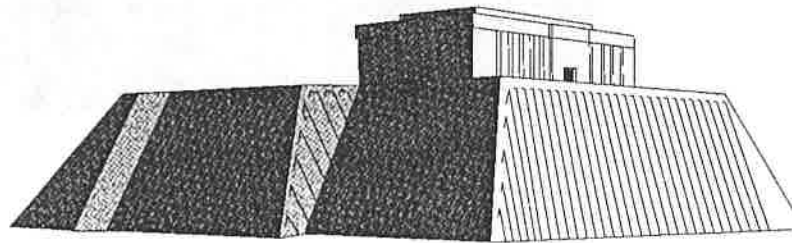
• Not intended for large groups of worshippers.

- Cella - Central room or hall.

- Significance of raised platform?
- Gods live above human world

- Non-linear approach to the temple

"Dent-Axis"



Content Area 2: Ancient Mediterranean. White Temple and its ziggurat. Uruk (modern Warka, Iraq). Sumerian. c. 3500-3000 B.C.E. Mud brick.

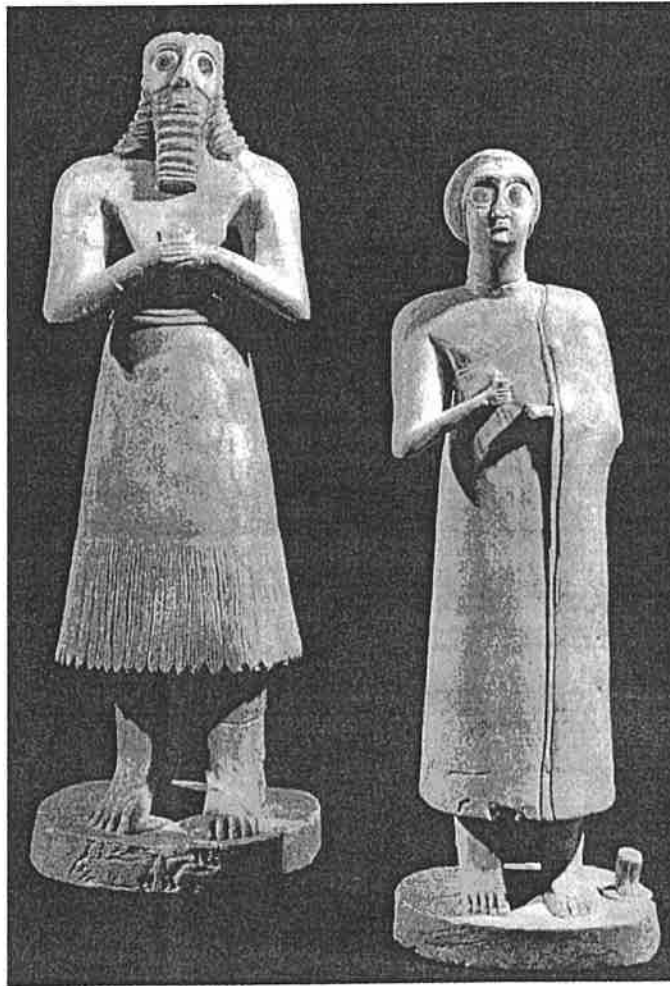
Votive Offerings - Representations of Worshipers

- stylized hair
- Large Eyes & Brow
- Abstract Features

- Placed in a shrine in front of / facing a larger image of a god.

- Commissioned by elites (patrons)
- Found buried in groups under temple floors

Geometric patterns?



— Hands clasped
— some held cups - Rituals?
— libations - Ritual pouring of liquid

Content Area 2: Ancient Mediterranean. Statues of votive figures, from the Square Temple at Eshnunna (modern Tell Asmar, Iraq). Sumerian. c. 2700 B.C.E. Gypsum inlaid with shell and black limestone.

"Royal Cemetery" of Ur

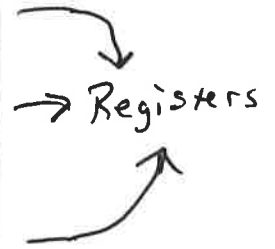
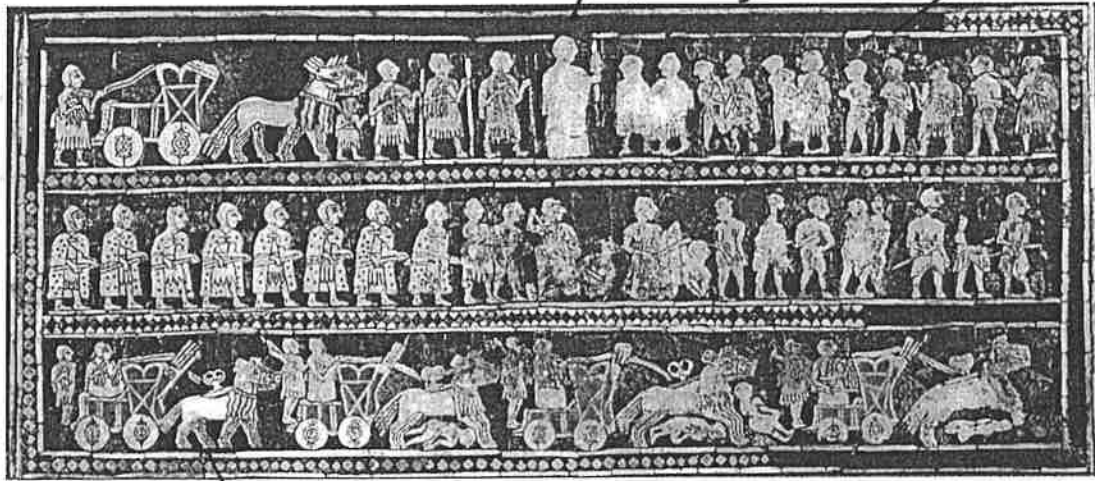
Human sacrifices to the dead

• Wealth & burials

King Figure

Hierarchy of Images

POWs



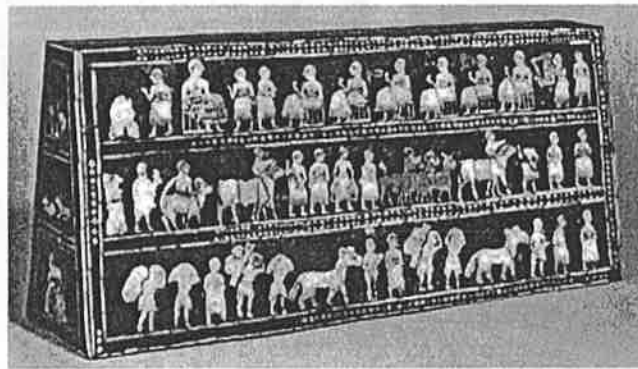
- Horses are progressively faster
- Look @ the gait

Early depiction of Sumerian army.

• Rectangular Box
• unknown function

Overlapping profiles

- War side vs. Peace side
- single narrative?
- War & Aftermath?
- Celebration?
- No inscription
- Narrative only



Hierarchical scale

- Larger figures = Greater status.

Reads from left to right
and bottom to top

Content Area 2: Ancient Mediterranean. Standard of Ur from the Royal Tombs at Ur (modern Tell el-Muqayyar, Iraq). Sumerian. c. 2600–2400 B.C.E. Wood inlaid with shell, lapis lazuli, and red limestone.

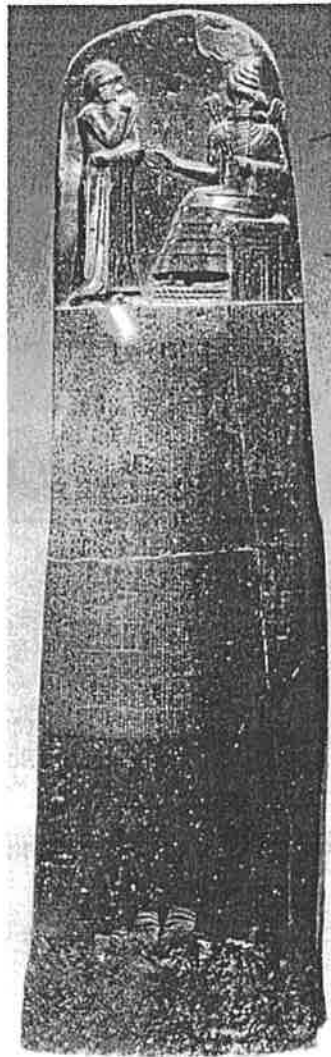
Evidence of Extensive Trade

Lapis - From Afghanistan
Red Limestone - India
shell - Persian Gulf

Stele - stone, Rectangular with images and/or text.

Function - written law code

Text & images to communicate with all people



shamash
size?
sun Rays

King is lower
than god but
still powerful

Hammurabi
- smaller
receiving laws
Hand up = honor
- Eye contact



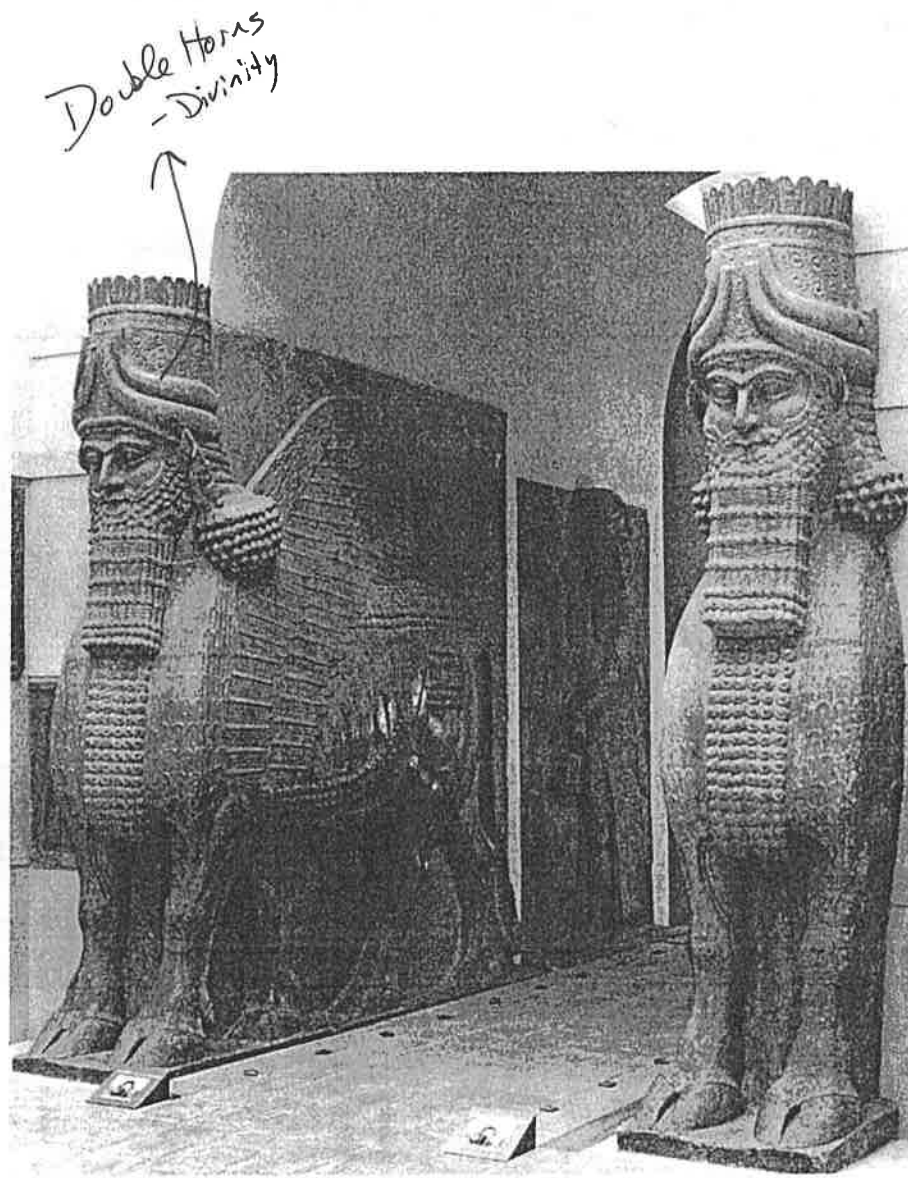
Scepter & Ring

- Babylonian symbols
of Kingship

Public work - Text & images communicate to all people

Content Area 2: Ancient Mediterranean. The Code of Hammurabi. Babylon (modern Iran), Susian. c. 1792-1750 B.C.E. Basalt.

Conquer most of Mesopotamia
under Hammurabi



Double Horns
- Divinity

Importance
of Bulls

Monumental sculpture
Architectural Role?

Profile & Frontal
view

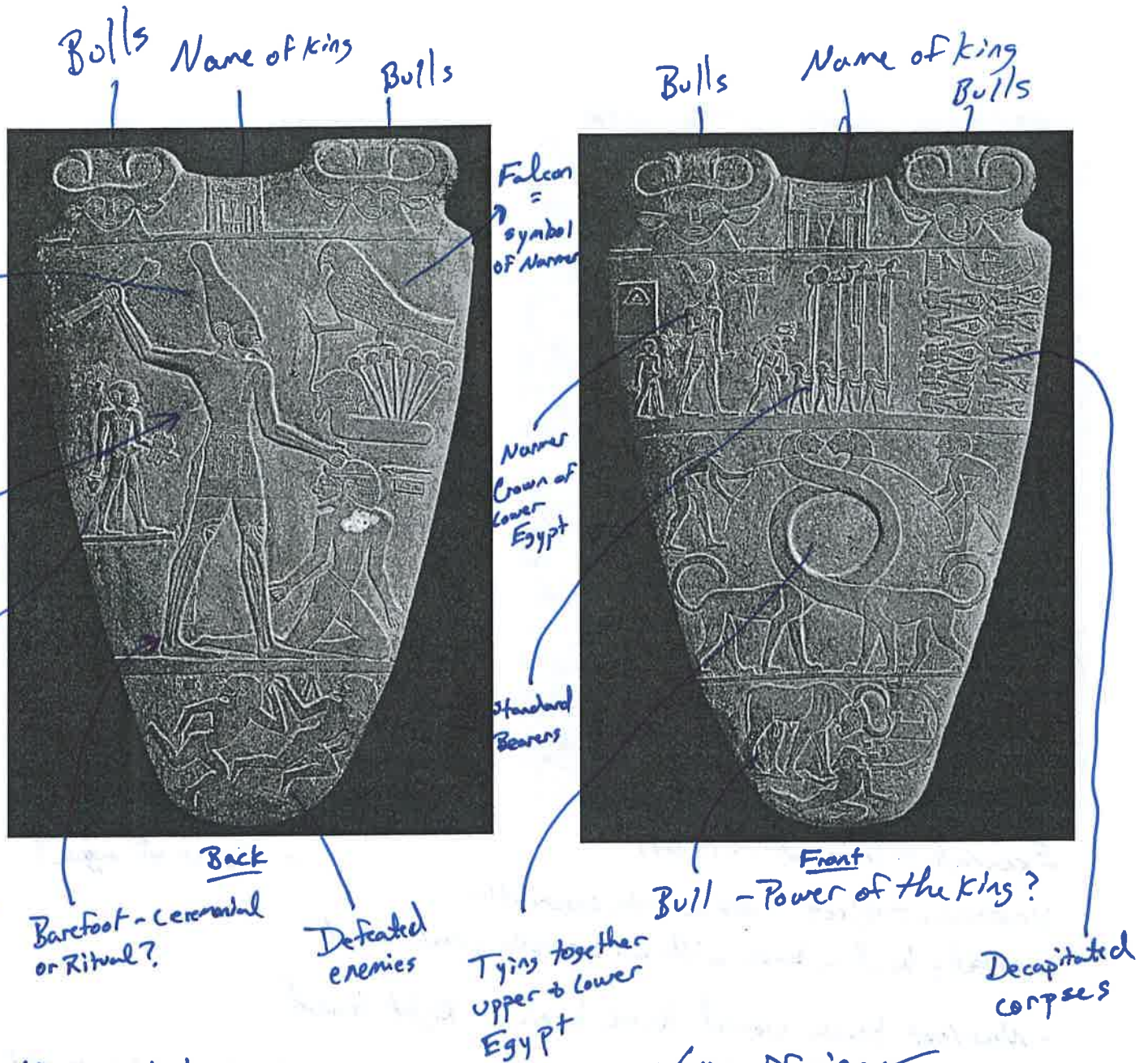
Composite creature

- protective or harmful spirits
- Intimidation

Naturalism vs abstract

5 legs?

Content Area 2: Ancient Mediterranean. Lamassu from the citadel of Sargon II, Dur Sharrukin (modern Khorsabad, Iraq). Neo-Assyrian. c. 720–705 B.C.E. Alabaster.



Military symbolism

Ritual purpose or Recorded History?

Ritual burial of the object in temple of Horus

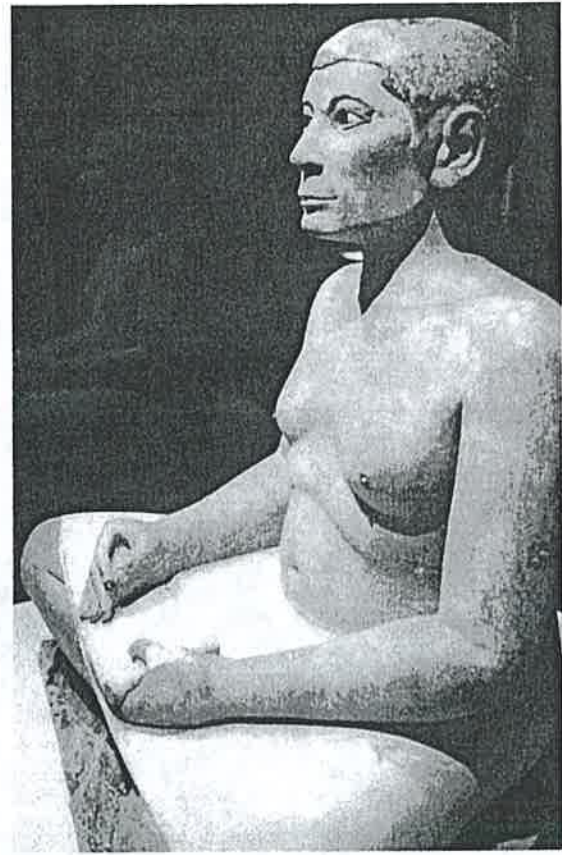
Votive offering ✓

Egyptian Artistic Conventions

Content Area 2: Ancient Mediterranean. Palette of King Narmer. Predynastic Egypt. c. 3000–2920 B.C.E. Greywacke.

- Ceremonial Palette

- Menes / Narmer 1st Ruler of upper & lower Egypt
Unification of Egypt



Excavation information is lost

- Signs of age?

Unknown subject - No surviving inscriptions

- Likely had a base with an inscription, Not Found

- Now lost brush would have been in right hand

- Other scribe statues exist, some are of the Royal family or high ranking official

- Discovered at Saqqara

- Old Kingdom - Era of the pyramids

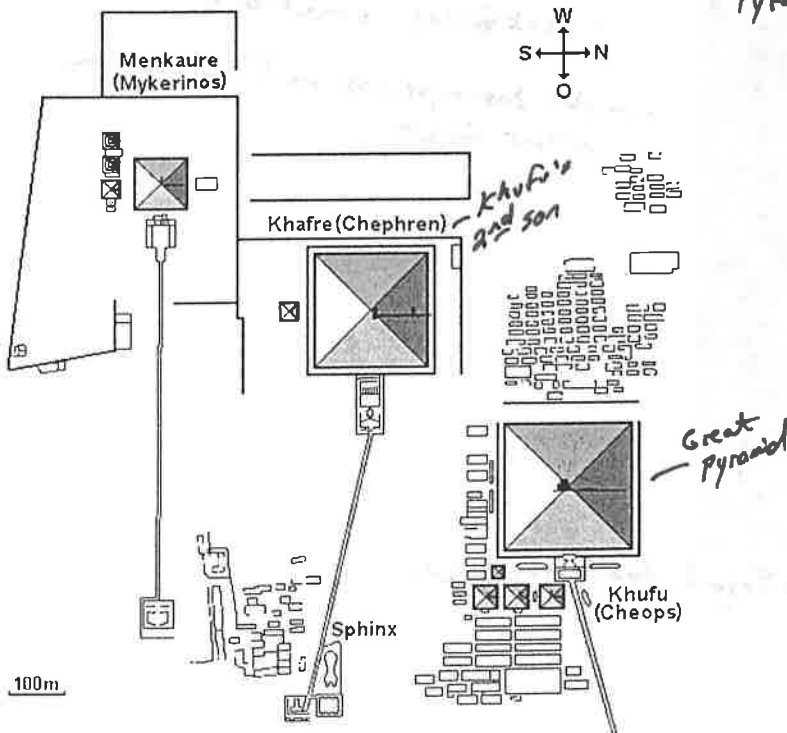
As status of person lowers formality of Egyptian art lessens & Realism increases

- Carefully crafted, inlaid eyes

Content Area 2: Ancient Mediterranean. Seated scribe. Saqqara, Egypt. Old Kingdom, Fourth Dynasty. c. 2620-2500 B.C.E. Painted limestone.



Pyramids part of Royal mortuary complex



Content Area 2: Ancient Mediterranean. Great Pyramids (Menkaure, Khafre, Khufu) and Great Sphinx. Giza, Egypt. Old Kingdom, Fourth Dynasty. c. 2550–2490 B.C.E. Cut limestone.

Her hairline is shown below a wig

Canon
- system of art style



- Statically Frontal view
- Rigid stance

- Power & Authority

- squared knees

- Idealized Figures

- Queen is more naturalistic

- "wet drapery" style of clothing

- statue was originally painted

- the dress would have had painted shoulder straps

- likely had painted jewelry

- statue was unfinished

- Look @ legs & feet of queen

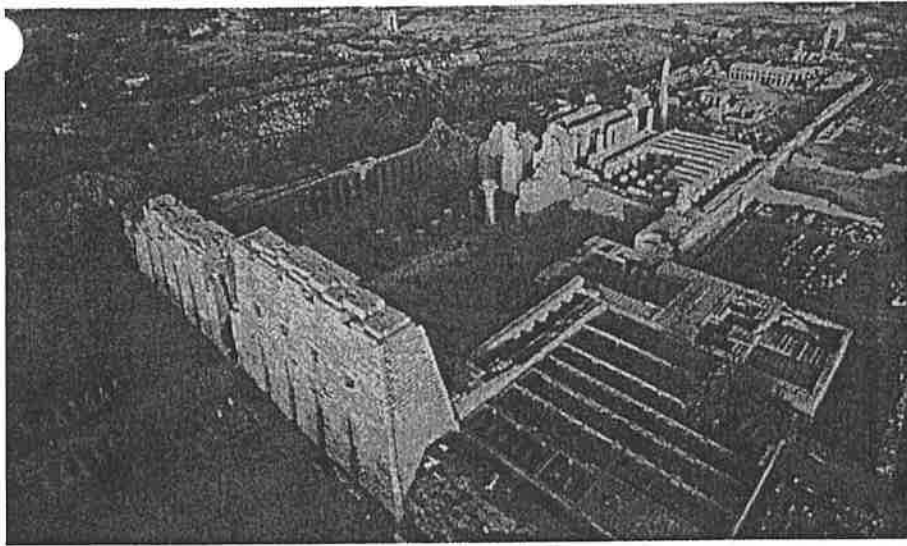
- No inscriptions on flat area near feet

Traditional pose

- left foot forward
- clenched fists

Old Kingdom Royal tomb sculpture

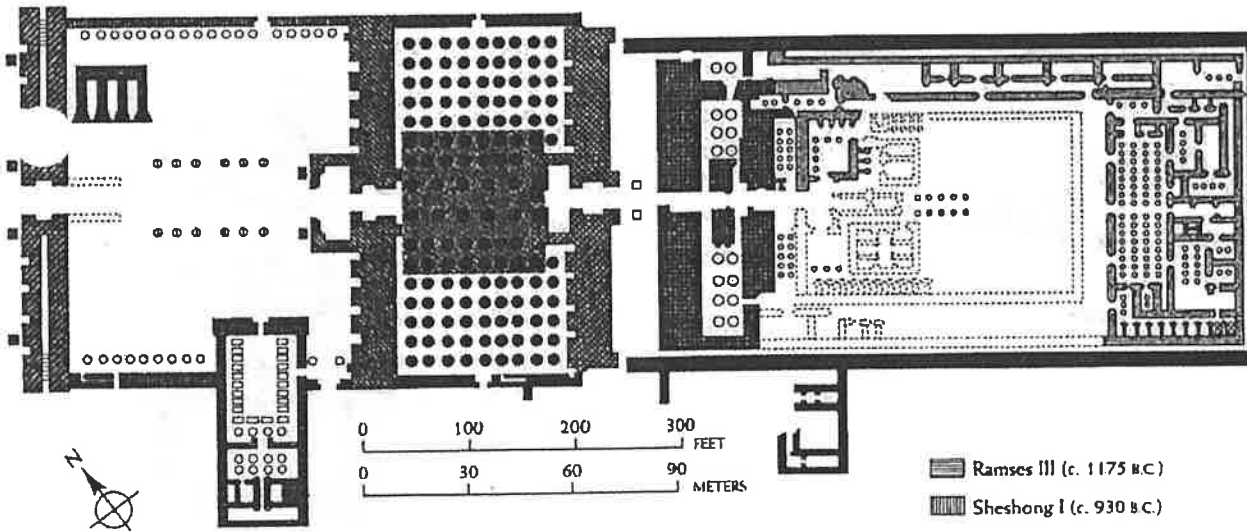
Thebes = Religious center



Temple complex
East/West Axis -
North/South Axis

Ceremonial entrance
Hypostyle Hall - Raised nave held by
sandstone columns

Southern ceremonial entrance



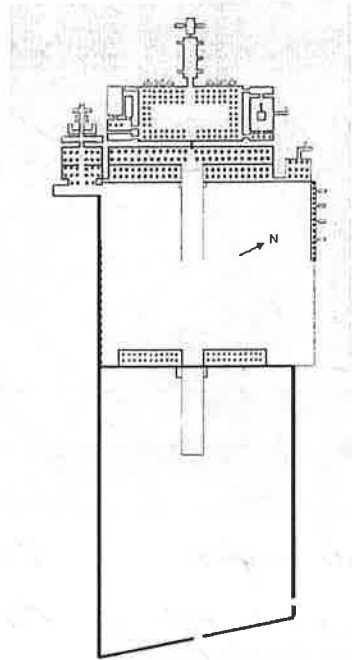
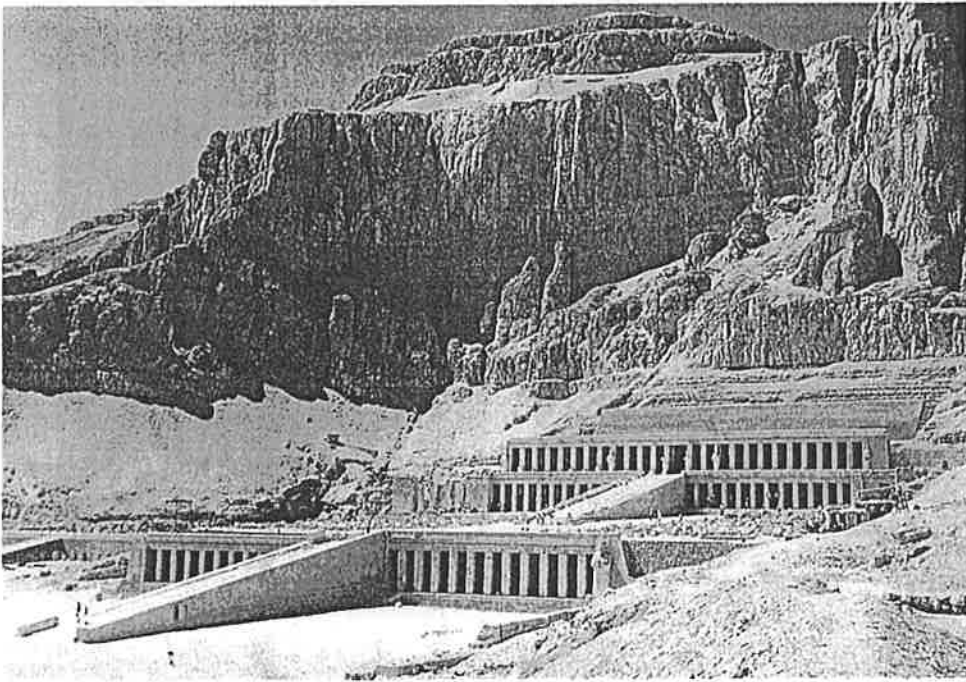
Temple required
vast supplies for
god & priests
Characteristics of
a house.

Central sanctuary holds statue of Amun-Re
Naos = shrine

Parts of temple only open to priests

"Divine Mansion"
Hypostyle Hall columns resemble papyrus reeds
Capitals appear as buds or flowers
Center of the temple = beginning of time.

Content Area 2: Ancient Mediterranean. Temple of Amun-Re and Hypostyle Hall. Karnak, near Luxor, Egypt. New Kingdom, 18th and 19th Dynasties. Temple: c. 1550 B.C.E.; hall: c. 1250 B.C.E. Cut sandstone and mud brick.



Long entrance ramps = Rising sun
Designed to impress - why important to Hatshepsut?
Carved into cliffs
Dedicated to Hatshepsut & her father Thutmose I
Reinforces her position of successor
- Not a tomb



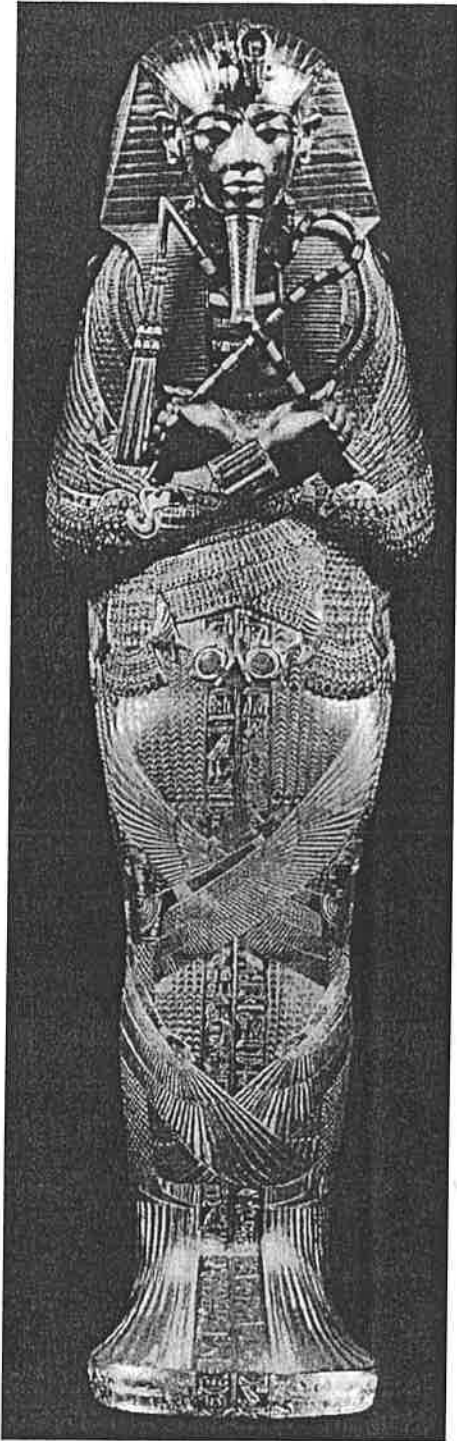
Content Area 2: Ancient Mediterranean. Mortuary temple of Hatshepsut. Near Luxor, Egypt. New Kingdom, 18th Dynasty. c. 1473–1458 B.C.E. Sandstone, partially carved into a rock cliff, and red granite.



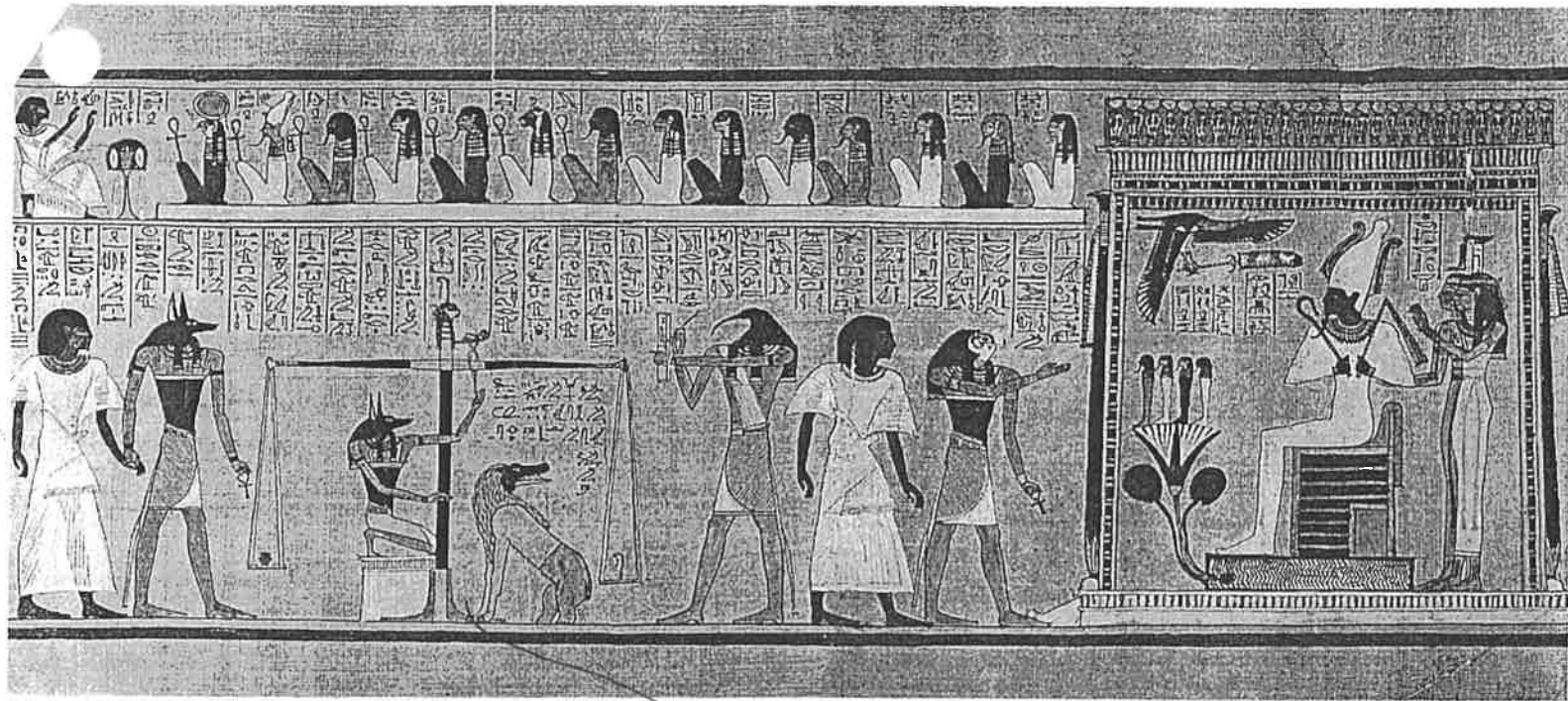
Home Altar
shown with family
Aten - center
monotheism

Body proportions
sunken relief
limited size hierarchy

Content Area 2: Ancient Mediterranean. Akhenaton, Nefertiti, and three daughters. New Kingdom (Amarna), 18th Dynasty. c. 1353-1335 B.C.E. Limestone.



Content Area 2: Ancient Mediterranean. Tutankhamun's tomb, innermost coffin. New Kingdom, 18th Dynasty. c. 1323 B.C.E. Gold with inlay of enamel and semiprecious stones.



Spells for the afterlife

Wealthy/high status of owner.

Osiris - God of the underworld

Heart weighed by Feather of Truth

Flattened perspective

Profile & Frontal poses

Content Area 2: Ancient Mediterranean. Last judgment of Hu-Nefer, from his tomb (page from the *Book of the Dead*). New Kingdom, 19th Dynasty. c. 1275 B.C.E. Painted papyrus scroll.



The first part of the report
 was devoted to a general
 description of the
 project and its objectives.
 The second part
 dealt with the
 methodology used
 in the study.
 The third part
 presented the
 results of the
 investigation.
 The fourth part
 discussed the
 conclusions
 drawn from the
 study.