Courtney Thurston

AP Art History

Mrs. Eckel

U3L8 Journal Entry

1. *Consider the classical Greek point of view on the representation of the human body in art. What connections might you make about form and religious influences on art during this period?*

The Greeks worshipped numerous gods and goddess, chronicling their adventures and myths both in literature and art. The Greeks were also known for their idealized representations of the human body, and it has been said by art historians that the Greeks were most likely reflecting their concepts of that the Gods looked like onto the human form. Because of the belief that gods and goddesses can and often did exist in human forms, Greek sculptures of the human body were often crafted to be “perfect” in honor of the gods.

1. *Explain how the art and architecture of Rome reflect its status as an imperial power.*

The Romans produced many statutes, sculptures, and other forms of art to depict their conquests in war. Additionally, their construction of altars to worship their gods and goddesses is also fascinating. For instance, in the last lesson, we were shown a photograph of an altar constructed for the goddess of peace—even though the Romans were engaged in warfare at the time. In this way, the Romans hoped to atone for their imperialist sins through worship, which was facilitated primarily through art with utility (altars, other ceremonial items, etc).

1. *Summarize the main identifiers of Mesoamerican art and architecture.*

As demonstrated throughout the lessons in this unit, Mesoamerican art often focused on the human head and facial expressions. Most Mayan carvings, for instance, shied away from depicting all of the human form, and instead simply focused on realistic representations of the human face. As far as architecture goes, the Maya had their own form of pyramids, but these pyramids were not primarily used as tombs (unlike the Egyptian culture). The Maya pyramid structures were often used as temples for ceremonies—including human sacrifice—as the Maya people believed that height correlated to favor with the gods.