

## **Part 1**

### **Statue of a priest of Amun**

This sculpture dated back in the Late period. It belongs to the Egyptian culture. The sculpture has physical evidence such as hieroglyphics, materials and color that are proof that its indeed an African sculpture. In addition, the statue posture and articulation make it an interesting piece to analyze.



*Figure 1: Statue of a Priest of Amun,*

**Donation stela**

The donation stela is an artwork that depicts a commemorative inscription. The inscriptions are words that record of a gift of land given to a member of a temple staff. This record acts as a guideline and conditions related to the gift which incur a punishment if they were not followed. The piece is interesting to focus because it gives basic example of constitution during these early times as well the history and cultural aspects of the community.



*Figure 2: The Donation Stela*

## **Part 2**

### **Art Formal Analysis**

The statue of a priest of Amun is an Egyptian sculpture dating back in 381-362 BCE which is the Late Period. This statue measures 51cm by 15.9cm by 14cm. It is carved from Diorite. The statue was made in Thebes Egypt. This statue like any other artistic work has visual qualities which are the elements and principles of art and design that helps us analyze artwork. Visual analysis of the sculpture reveals the history, context and the purpose of the artwork in the Egyptian culture.

The statue portrays the elements of art and design which include lines and contours, shape, form, color, value, space and texture. There are various lines varying in characteristics and representation. For instance, curved lines define the contours of the robes worn by the priest, the facial characteristics and other features of the statue. Contours are also used to separate the planes in the statue to enable the artist to represent distinct shapes and parts of the statue. In addition, the writings in the

statue are the known hieroglyphics that represents cultural symbols of communication and language. The statue also uses form as an element of art. The statue is a three-dimensional artwork. this is achieved by creating illusion of space and depth. Light and shadows also play a crucial role in representing the artwork. Form helps us to learn that the statue is indeed a priest based on the appearance and characteristics which are achieved by the form. The shape of the statue represents a human form. Each of the facial features are shaped with a lot of details to depict an idealized and distinctive feature of the Amun priest. The statue also depicts the element of color. Like many other existing Egyptian statues, the statue has a monochromatic. Black is the major color of this statue which gives the statue an African sense of identity. The black color reflects light giving it a smooth shiny effect. Value is evident in the sculpture. The statue has a variation of dark and light areas to give it a three-dimensional effect and also to create space and depth within the sculpture. Texture is also evident on the sculpture. The sculpture has both actual and implied texture. The body of the sculpture is soft and smooth we

can feel that by looking at the sculpture from a distance. The head of the sculpture has some patterns and also the back side which has hieroglyphics making it rough.

Moreover, statue of a priest of Amun portrays various principles of design which include balance, contrast, emphasis, movement, rhythm and unity. The statue has a symmetrical balance since elements on one side are copy of the other. The statue uses this kind of balance for stability. Like many sculptures in this period symmetrical balance was common to give the statue a fixed appearance and stability. The principle of proportion is used in this sculpture where the body parts are in relation to the size of the sculpture. It is also important to note that the statue is scaled down perhaps for the purpose of placement and complexity. Emphasis has been used to bring attention for the viewers on certain aspects of the statue. For instance, the priest's facial characteristics, robes and hieroglyphic depicts religious characteristics which gives as an idea that the statue represents a priest. The use of patterns is evident in this artwork. For instance, the priest's attire and symbols on the headdress and

hieroglyphics brings a sense of aesthetic and cultural significance of the statue. Rhythm is achieved through repetition of various patterns for instance the head of the statue has circular patterns that fills the entire headdress of the statue. The statue is static and rigid. Just like archaic statues, this artwork has a rigid stance. It lacks movement and therefore it is stylized. Lastly the statue portrays the principle of unity by bringing together all the principles and elements of design to stand as a complete work on its own. The principle of unity helps us to know what the statue represents and more details related to the artwork related to culture and the significance.

This statue belonged to the Egyptian culture and more specifically Thebes it represents a religious statue of a priest of Amun. The face of this statue is idealized and its size scaled down. In addition, this statue plays both religious and cultural significance. Egyptians were known to be a polytheist society in early periods and therefore Amun was one of their deities. The inscriptions on the statue contains symbols or rather hieroglyphics which represent language used in Near Eastern

culture. the statue also displays aesthetic qualities through the techniques used in creating the artwork, the colors and material. These techniques and style reflect the Egyptian culture and the artistic conventions during the late period.

In conclusion, sculptures play a significant role in many cultures ranging from religious, cultural and history of the people. Statue of a Priest of Amun reflects some of these roles and through studying its elements and principles we have succeeded in revealing these roles and the importance of the statue in Egyptian culture.

### **References:**

<https://www.brooklynmuseum.org/opencollection/objects/3574#:~:text=The%20statue%20of%20a%20priest,inspired%20by%20much%20earlier%20works.>