

Greek Architecture

Ancient Greek architecture is considered a fundamental and ideological foundation in the history of human civilization, because this architecture is not just a structure of brick, stone and wood, but rather a unique integrated expression of the philosophical thoughts, aesthetic sense, religious beliefs, political ideals and mathematical logic of the Greeks; Greek architecture, which developed from approximately the 9th century BC to the 1st century BC, is mainly based on three main column styles—Doric, Ionic and Corinthian, which provide architecture with a coherent aesthetic structure through proportion, ornamentation and structural differences; The Doric style is the most ancient and simple, with heavy columns, unadorned capitals, and strong bearing capacity symbolizing masculine strength and order, while the Ionic style, with its slender and tall columns, volutes, and relatively light structures, conveys the idea of feminine beauty and balanced balance, and the Corinthian style is the most ornate, with acanthus leaf designs, intricate carvings, and finesse representing royalty and grandeur; Temples were the main structures in Greek architecture, as the Greeks considered the gods to be human-like and believed that the gods preferred human dwellings, resulting in structures such as the Parthenon, Hephaestus, and the Temple of Apollo built with perfect proportions, symmetry, and perspective; The Parthenon in particular is an example of the highest excellence of Greek architecture, where the golden ratio, optical correction, and subtle curvature were used to eliminate the illusion of the human eye, which proves that Greek architects were not only craftsmen, but also skilled mathematicians and philosophers; Greek theater architecture is also very important, because these semicircular theaters built on mountain slopes under the open sky show the perfect application of acoustics, where even people sitting in the last row of the audience could clearly hear the actor's voice without any modern technology; In urban planning, the agora or public meeting place was the center of Greek civic life, where political discussions, trade, and social activities were carried out together, which is considered the architectural form of Greek democracy; The materials used in Greek architecture are mainly marble and limestone, which, in addition to being durable, react specifically to light, making the building alive and vibrant; Religious beliefs, humanism, and rationalism were the main driving forces of Greek architecture, as the Greeks believed that man was the measure of all things, and as a result, their architecture was dominated by moderation, harmony, and order rather than exaggeration; the influence of Greek architecture on later Roman, Renaissance, and modern Western architecture is immense, as columns, pediments, facades, and symmetrical designs are still used in government buildings, courthouses, and universities today, proving that Greek architecture has transcended time and become a lasting ideal of human civilization.

Greek Arts

Ancient Greek art is a unique milestone in the history of human civilization, because this art was not only a means of creating beauty, but also a philosophical attempt to accurately represent the human body, mind, reason and ideals; The Greeks believed that true art is art that imitates nature but expresses it in a more ideal form, and from this idea, the perfect proportion, balance and mobility of the human body are of particular importance in Greek art; Among the main branches of Greek art, sculpture, painting and pottery are particularly notable, where sculpture was the most developed medium, because through it it was possible to express the structure, muscle tension, posture and emotion of the human body in the most realistic way; Although the statues of Kouros and Kore in the early Archaic period were static and artificially smiling, gradually in the Classical period, Greek artists portrayed the natural balance and mobility of the body through the contrapposto pose, the best

examples of which are Miron's 'Discus Thrower' and Polycleitus' 'Doryphoros', where the human body is presented as an ideal based on mathematical proportions; In Greek art, the gods and goddesses were human-like, because the Greeks believed that the gods also carry feelings, beauty and weaknesses like humans, as a result, the statues of Zeus, Athena or Apollo express human glory rather than supernatural fear; Greek painting was mainly limited to pottery, where scenes of mythological stories, wars, sports and daily life were depicted through black-figure and red-figure techniques, which are one of the most important sources for understanding Greek society and culture today; The purity of line, movement, and storytelling are particularly striking in these works of art; beauty in Greek art is never exaggerated, but rather moderate and restrained, because the Greeks believed that excessive ornamentation destroys the purity of art; Greek art becomes more emotional and dramatic in the Hellenistic period, where pain, movement, and drama are strongly expressed in sculptures such as 'Laocoön and His Sons' or 'Winged Victory of Samothrace', which is a step forward from the previous classical restraint; the most important feature of Greek art is its anthropocentrism, because here people are the center of art, from gods to heroes - everyone reflects the ideal form of man; this humanistic perspective later formed the foundation of Roman art, Renaissance art, and modern Western art; the influence of Greek art is clearly seen in the representation of the human body by modern artists from Michelangelo onwards; Finally, it can be said that Greek art is not just the art of an ancient civilization, but rather it has established an eternal standard of beauty, reason, humanity, and ideals that continues to guide the artistic thought of human civilization even after thousands of years.

Greek Literatures

Ancient Greek art is a unique and enduring chapter in the history of human civilization, because it is not only an expression of aesthetics, but also a comprehensive expression of human philosophical thought, religious beliefs, political ideals, anthropocentric philosophy and mathematical craftsmanship; The Greeks believed that true art is art that imitates nature, but presents it in a more perfect, restrained and ideal form, and thus they did not limit art only to beauty or chivalry, but rather it became a reflection of the human mentality and philosophy of life; Ancient Greek art can generally be divided into three main branches—Sculpture, Painting and Ceramics, each branch carrying its own style, technique and cultural significance; The proportion, balance and dynamism of the human body were of particular importance in sculpture, as the Greeks believed that the human body was the highest expression of beauty and balance, and therefore they sought to depict the human body in perfect, idealized, but natural poses; the Kouros and Kore statues of the Archaic period show expressions of stillness, rigidity and initial laughter, which gradually developed in the Classical period, where artists were able to naturally represent the balance, muscles and dynamics of the body using the contrapposto pose; the important artists of the Classical period, Myron and Polykleitos, were symbols of the proportion and physical perfection of the human body, where in particular Polykleitos' 'Doryphoros' sculpture was made according to the mathematical 'Canon', which is the ultimate example of proportion and symmetry; In this art, the human body was seen not only as a physical, but also as a symbol of moral and mental ideals, such as strength, beauty, honesty and patience; the appearance of the gods in sculpture was also anthropocentric—the statues of Zeus, Athena, Apollo and Artemis do not show supernatural powers, but a combination of human beauty, wisdom and strength; such sculpture carried not only religious, but also social and political messages, as it depicted the ideals and morality of Greek citizens.

Painting was also an essential part of Greek art; although much of Greek painting is now obsolete or extinct, it can be seen in detail in pottery painting; black-figure and red-figure techniques were used to depict sports, war, myths and everyday life; The black-figure style painted the figures and scenes on a red background with a black coating on the surface of the pottery, and the red-figure style painted the figures in reverse, which allowed for more delicate and detailed depictions; these depictions show subtle expressions of human posture, clothing, weapons, and emotions, which are important sources of understanding of the cultural, political, and religious aspects of Greek society; in particular, the black-figure vessels of Athena beautifully depict the relationship between gods and humans, war and peace, which express Greek philosophy and morality through art.

During the Hellenistic Period, Greek art became more dramatic, emotional, and dynamic; during this time, sculpture featured very lively poses, expressions of suffering, dramatic composition, and extreme use of sensitivity; For example, in the statues of Laocoön and His Sons and the Winged Victory of Samothrace, the physical movement, emotion, and drama are so evident that the viewer can immediately establish an emotional connection with the scene; Hellenistic artists sought to bring to life not only the beauty of people or gods, but also human experience, suffering, joy, and conflict through art.

Pottery was also an important medium in Greek art, depicting scenes from daily life, religion, war, and sports; the craftsmanship of the vessels, the use of color, and the restraint and balance of design demonstrate the aesthetic power and subtlety of the Greeks; Greek art was influential not only from the point of view of beauty, but also from political, social, and religious perspectives, as each work of art depicted important moments in city life, the worship of the gods, or civic ideals; The artists' skill, the combination of mathematics and philosophy, gave their work not only aesthetic, but also intellectual and cultural significance.

The influence of Greek art is clearly visible in later Roman, Renaissance, Neoclassical and modern Western art; Michelangelo, Leonardo da Vinci, Raphael and modern artists followed the principles of Greek art in the representation of the human body, physical proportions and aesthetic balance; even today, Greek art is considered an ideal symbol of the beauty, reason, humanity and morality of human civilization throughout time.