

Social history and contextual analysis of art



What is social history of art?

T. J. Clark and *Painting of Modern Life*

What do you see in the image?

Apart from line, shape, form, colour, what other aspects do you see there?

How does the image in left relate to the image in right?



Can you compare these images?

Impact of geography and location in art making



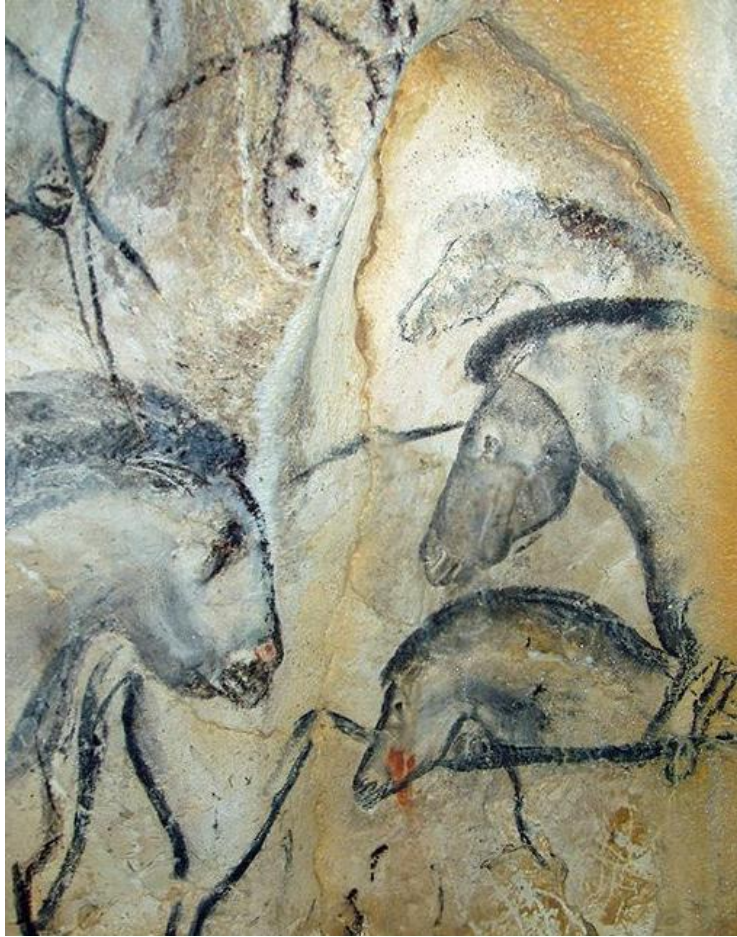


Left: Terracotta horse, Harappa, 2nd millennium BC, Right: Bulls and horses, Chauvet-Pont d'Arc, 20,000 BC,

Can you compare these images after knowing they belong to different time periods?

How do we compare them? Why is this important?

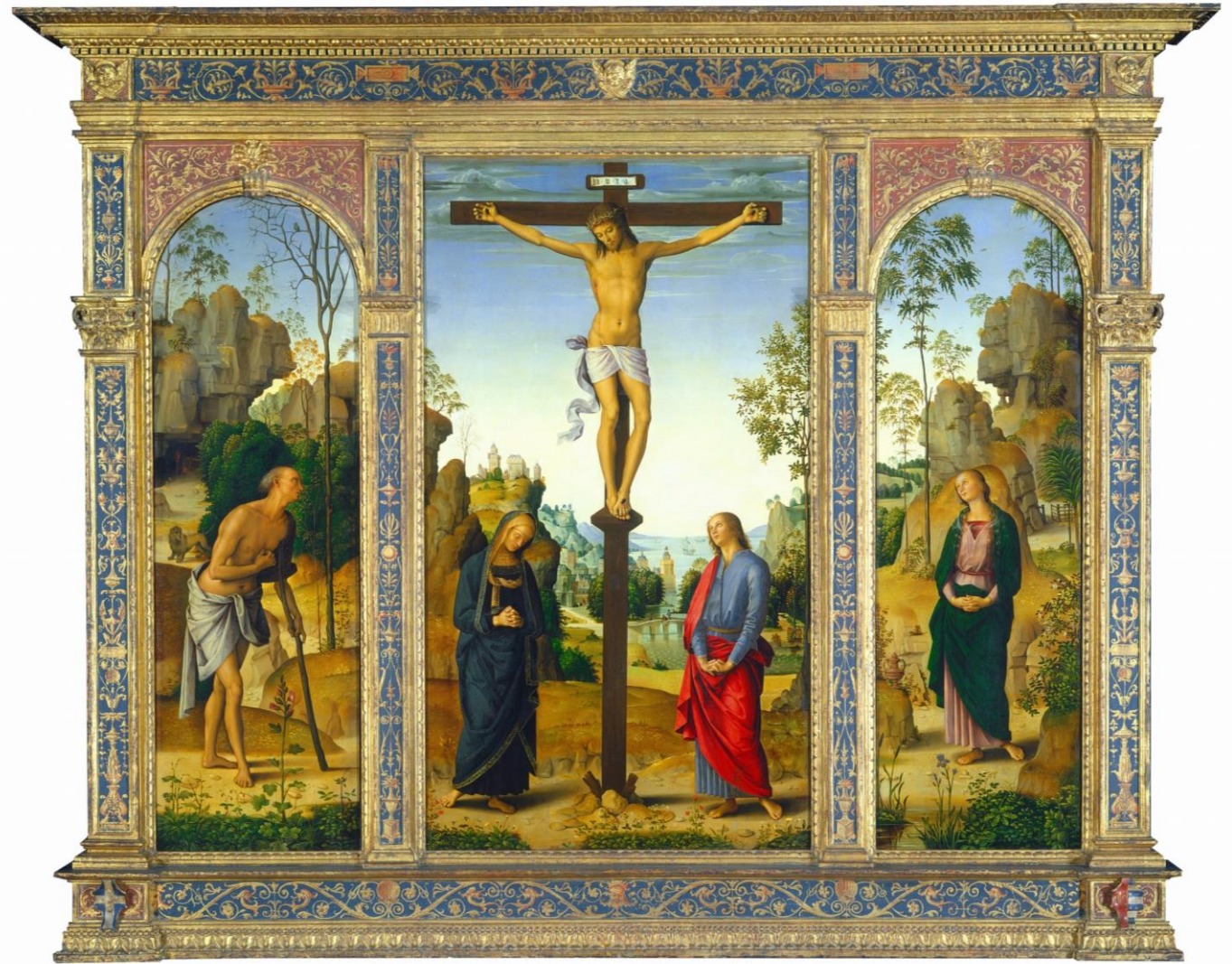
Cave and a place of refuge



Left: Drawings from Chauvet, 20000 BC, France Right: Michelangelo Buonarroti, drawings, Basilica di San Lorenzo, Italy 1520s

Understanding Material and Techniques

How do you describe this painting from the material perspective?



Pietro Perugino, *The Crucifixion with the Virgin, Saint John, Saint Jerome, and Saint Mary Magdalene*, c. 1482/1485



Material and Technical Perspectives

Oil on canvas as medium

Flemish painting and cultural exchanges

The history of oil painting

Arrival of oil painting in Italy

Frame as a later addition

How do you describe this sculpture from the material perspective?

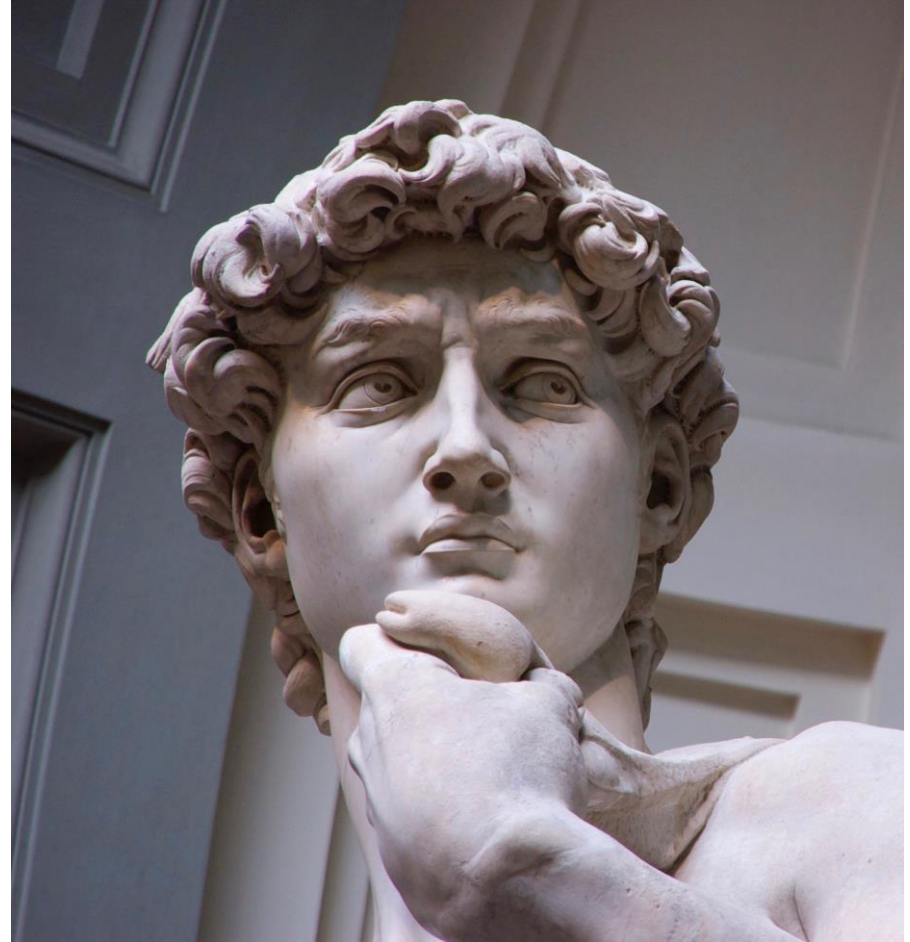


David, marble sculpture by Michelangelo, 1501–04; in the Accademia, Florence.



Historicity of material and techniques

Why it matters



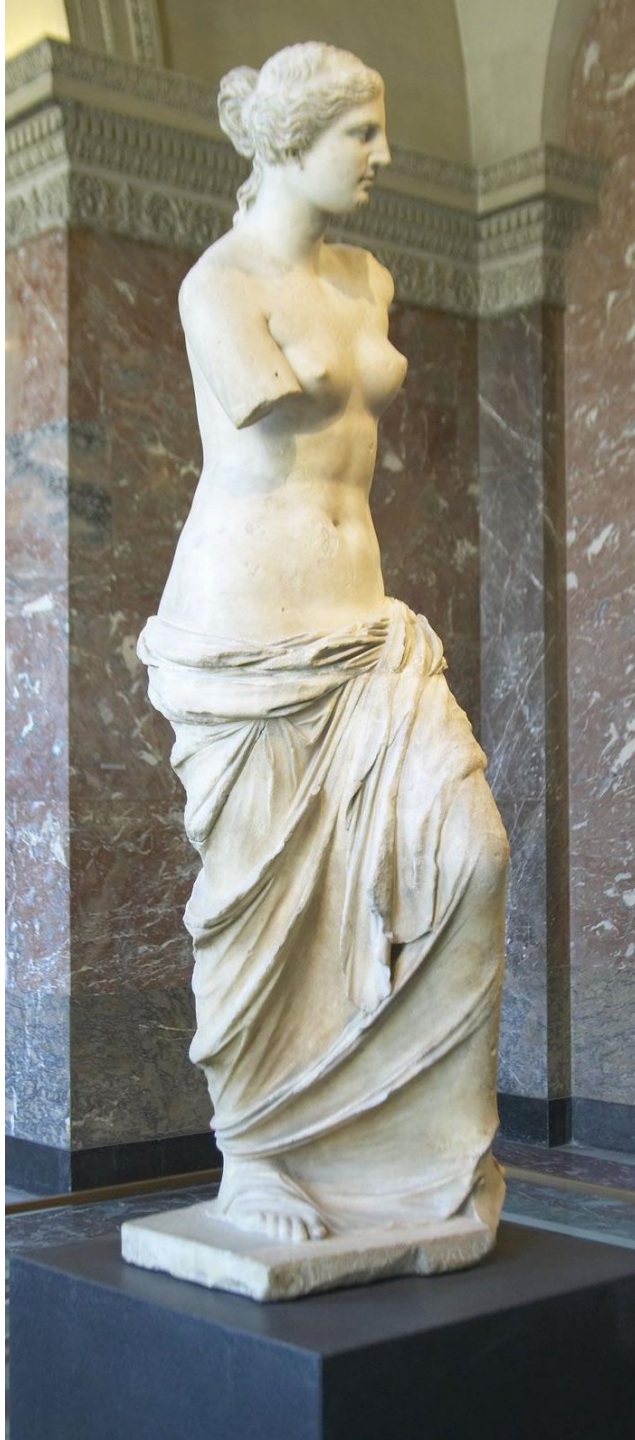
Venus de Milo, marble statue thought to be of Aphrodite, from Melos, c. 150 BCE



How do you describe this sculpture from the material perspective?

Is it similar to the stone sculpture from the previous slide?

Similarities and
Differences from the
Material
perspective?

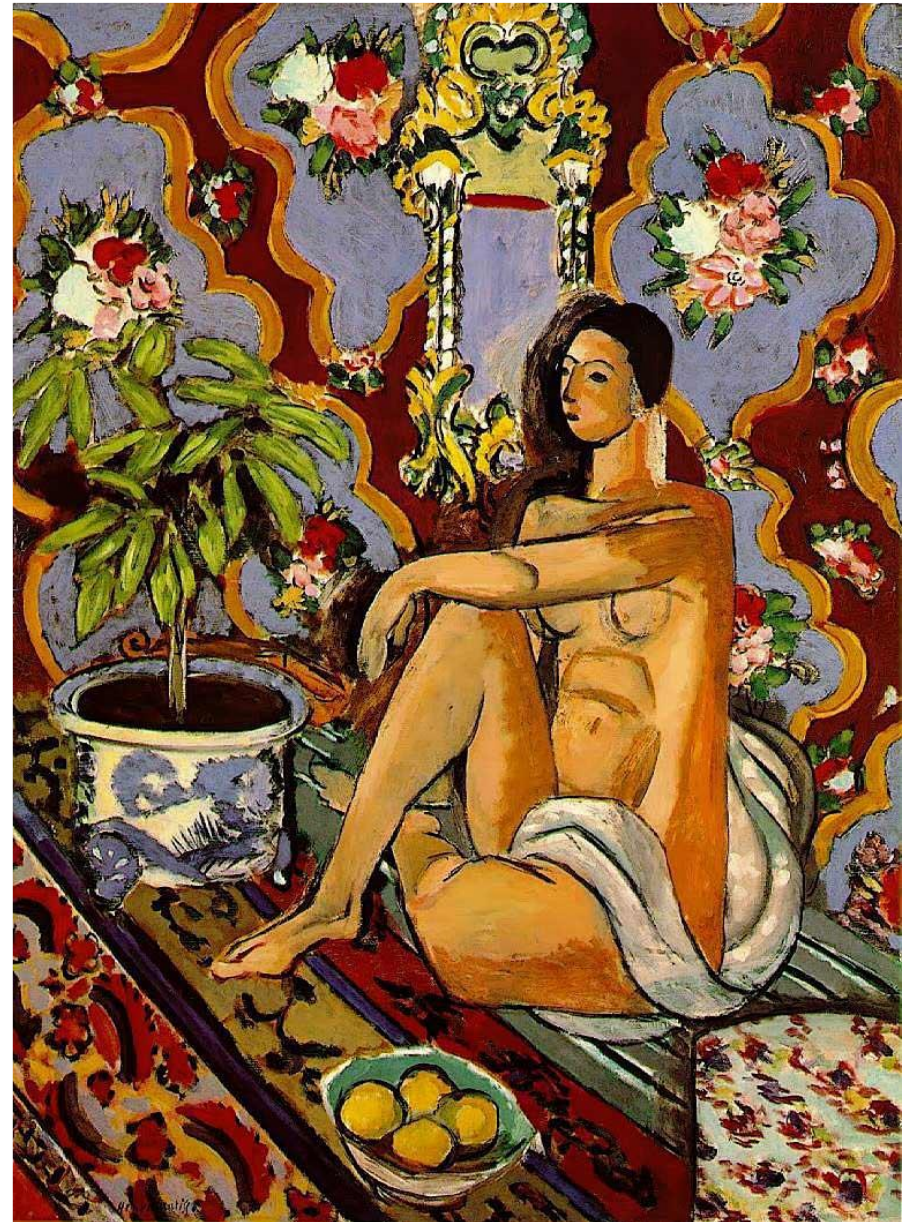


Culture and its impact on reading and appreciating Art

Culture as a manifestation of society

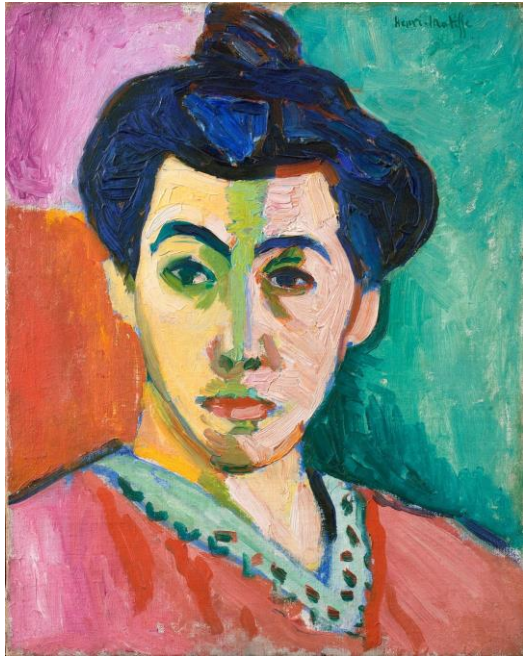
How do we read impact on culture here?

Why is that important?



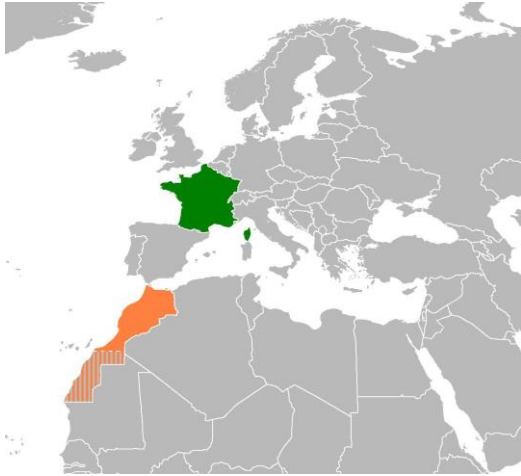
Henri Matisse, Decorative Figure, oil on canvas, 1925

Matisse and the Culture of “Representation”: Form and Colour



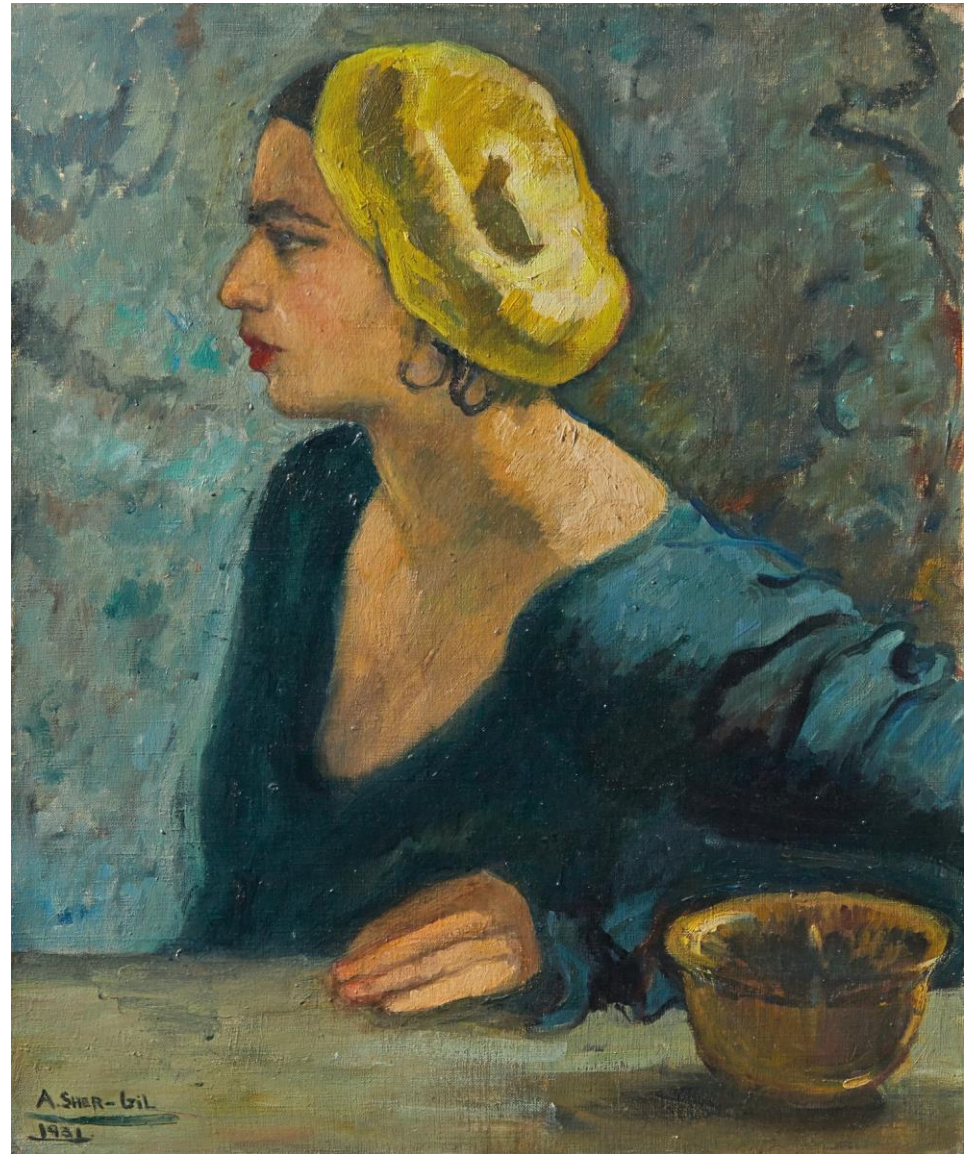
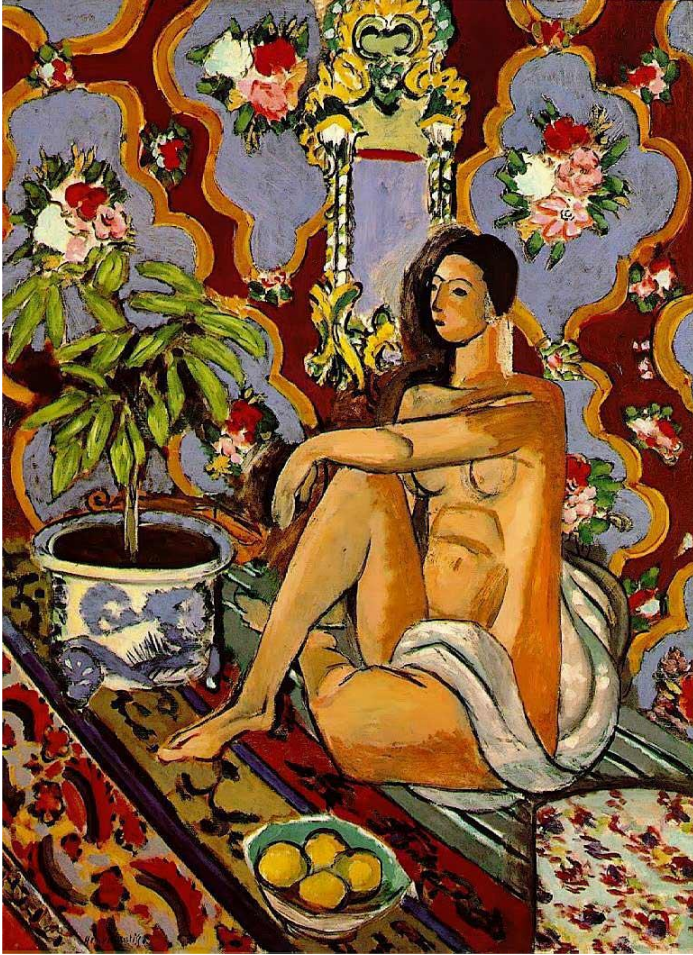
Upper left: Henri Matisse, *The Green Line*, 1905, oil on canvas; right: Paul Cezanne, *Bathers*, 1890, oil on canvas;

Matisse and the Culture of “Representation”: Geography and “Oriental” rugs



Upper left: France and Morocco in map; right: Detail from a Kashmiri rug, early 21st century

Culture and Hierarchy: Whose Culture? Why does that matter?



Right: Amrita Sher-Gil, Self portrait, oil on canvas, 1931

Art Appreciation: Network of Queries

Location?

Why was it made?

What is specific about it?



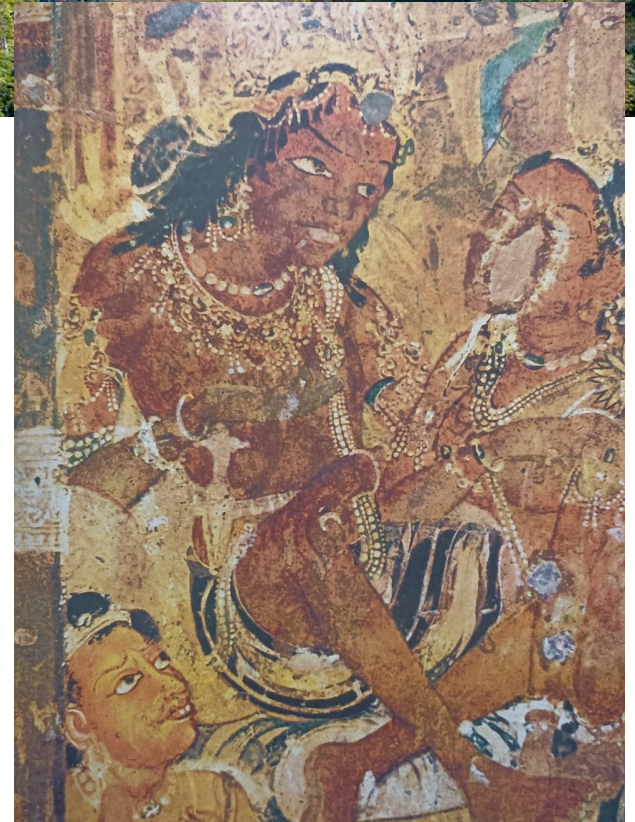
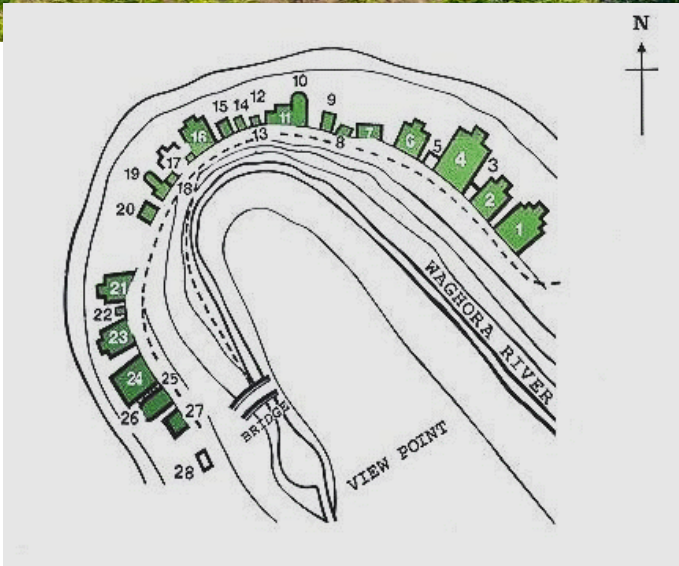
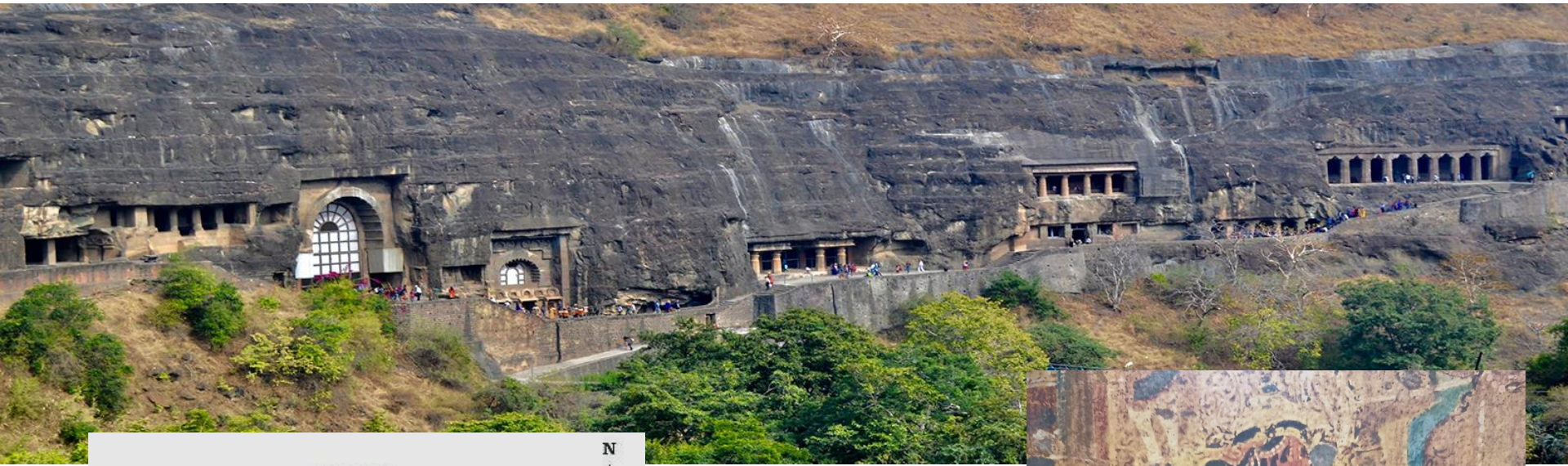
Who all are represented here?

Technique and Making?

Lines, colour, rhythm?

Composition: who is pictured where?

Relationship between these images? Geography and Location



Left and centre: Ajanta Caves, Maharashtra; Right: Detail from Mahajanaka Jataka, Cave 1, Image source: A. Ghosh, *Ajanta Murals*, ASI



Ajanta Caves, Video link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kgu6vcNLEC0&t=334s>

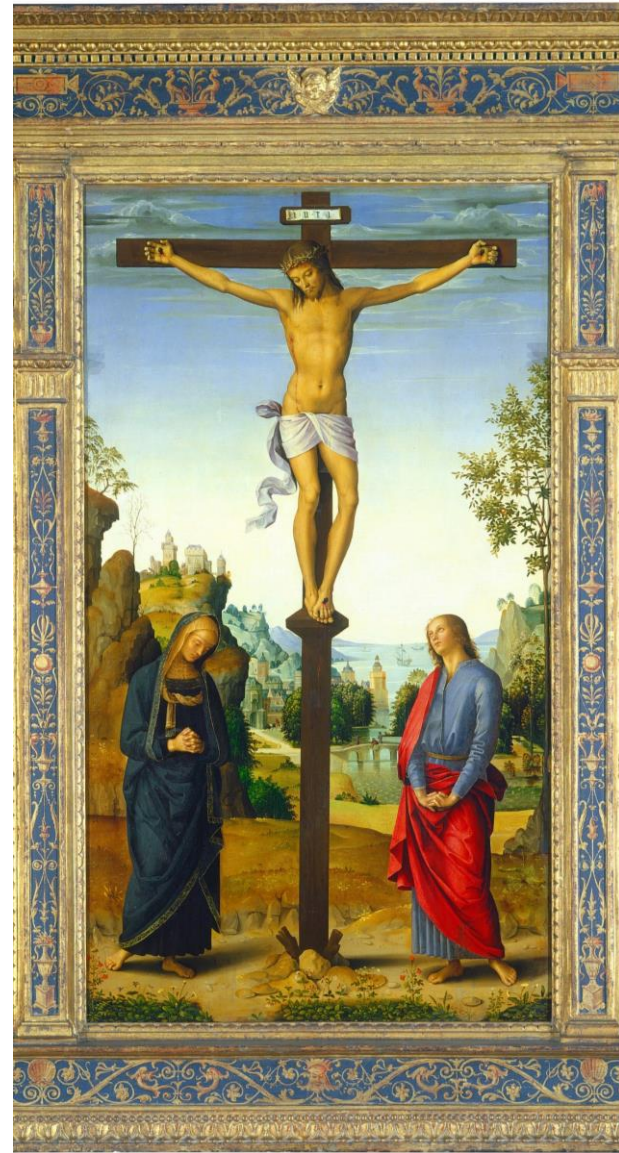
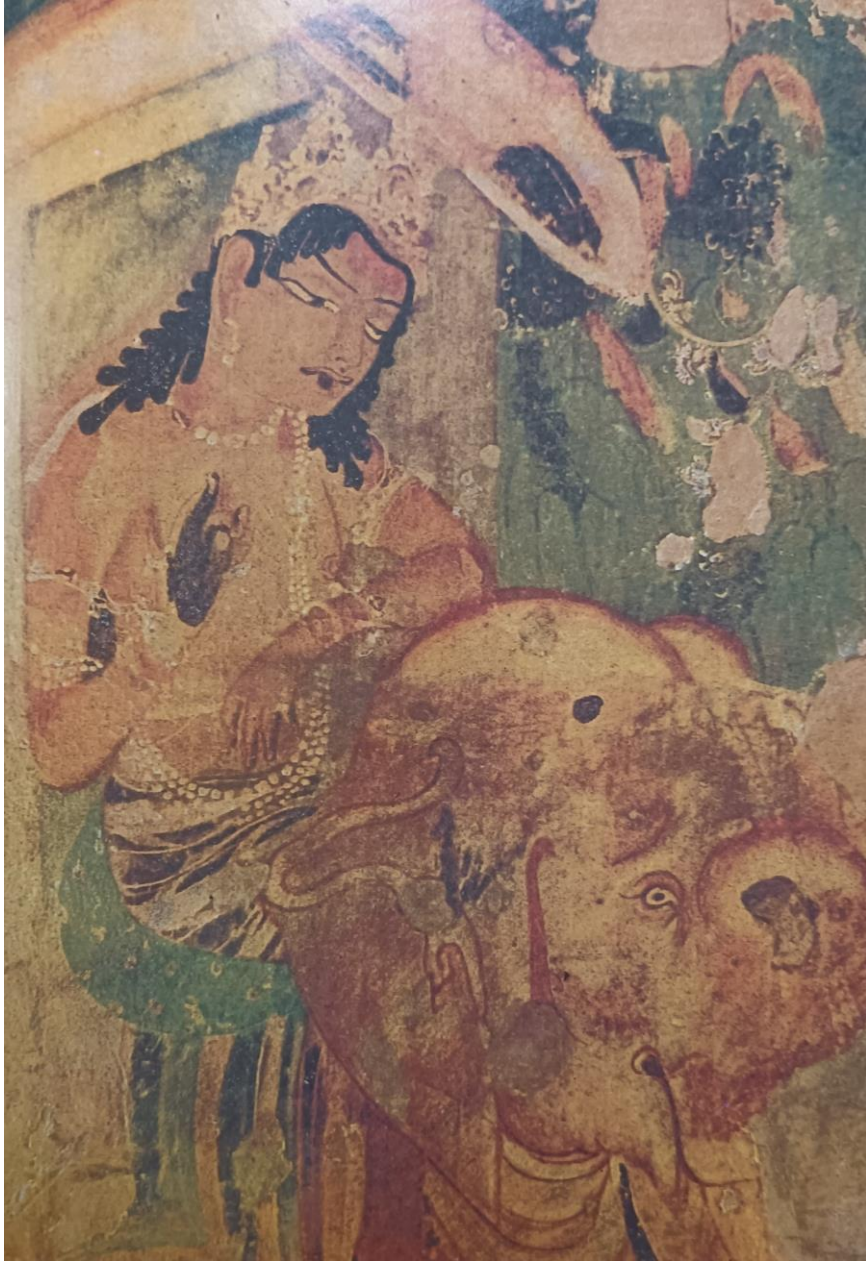
Focus on Materials:
their character and
histories

Technique and
Making

Jataka stories (Mahajanaka
Jataka) from the walls of
Cave 1, 4th-5th century,
Ajanta



Cultural contexts: Hierarchy and Scale



Left: Representation of Mahajanaka from Mahajanaka Jataka, Cave 1, Image source: A. Ghosh, *Ajanta Murals*, ASI; Right: Pietro Perugino, *The Crucifixion with the Virgin, Saint John, Saint Jerome, and Saint Mary Magdalene*, c. 1482/1485

Socio-Cultural and Contextual Analysis of Art

What role does Society play in Art? What role does Art play in Society?

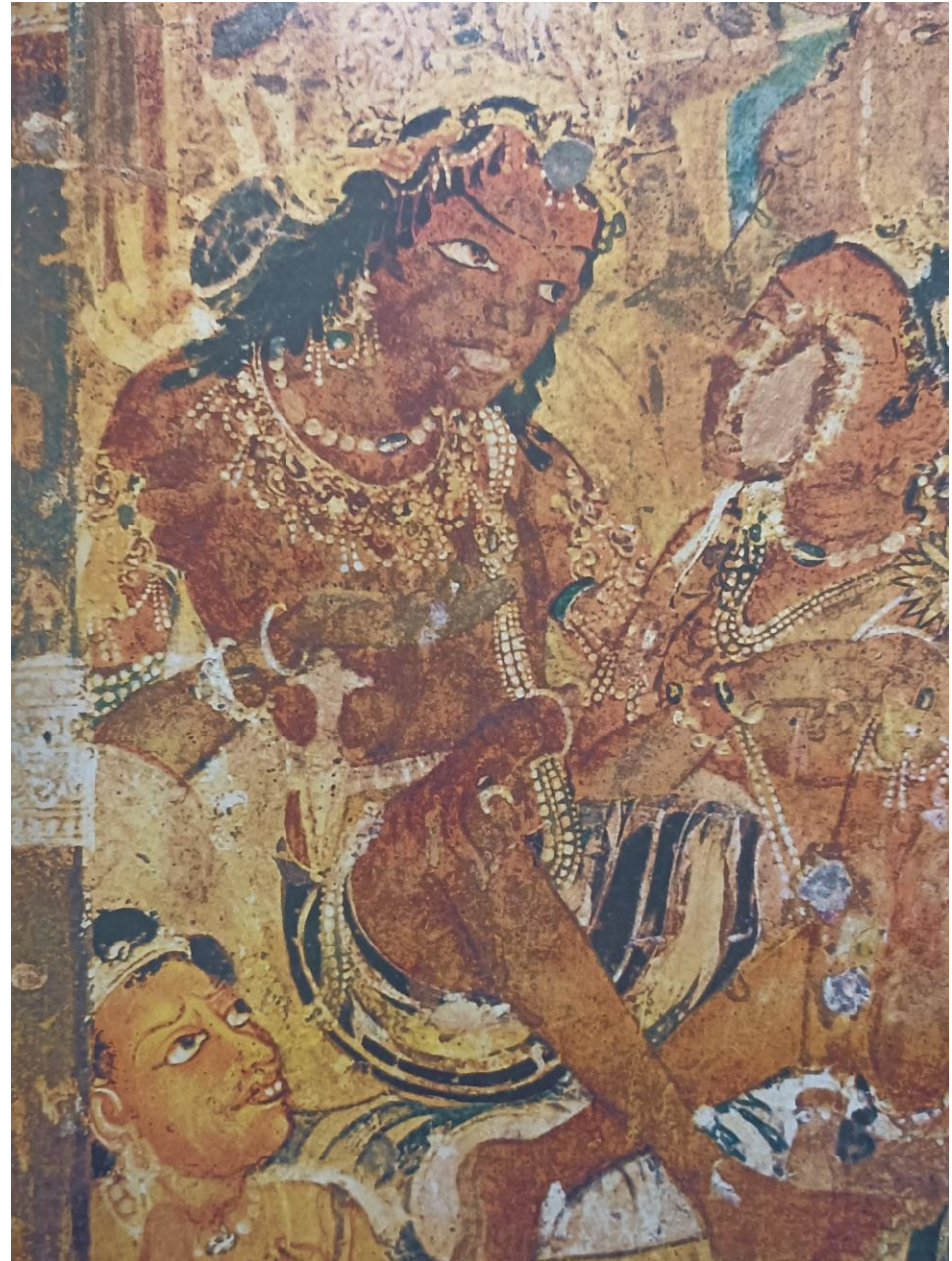
Focus on Materials: their character and histories

Technique and Making

Geography and Location

Cultural contexts

Socio-cultural Hierarchy



Detail from Mahajanaka Jataka, Cave 1, Image source: A. Ghosh, *Ajanta Murals*, ASI