

Judith Leyster, Self-Portrait, 1633

AHST 2331-091 (53422)
Understanding Art
Dr. Charissa N. Terranova
Summer 2023
Second Session July 5 – August 8
Tuesdays and Thursdays 1:00-5:15 pm
ATC 1.305

Office Hours: By appointment Contact: <a href="mailto:terranova@utdallas.edu">terranova@utdallas.edu</a>

Introduction and Lecture 1 07/06/2023



Barbara Kruger, Untitled, 1997

#### **Description**

This course offers an introduction to the history of art told from the perspective of women. It focuses on goddesses, matriarchy, women artists, women patrons, and women collectors from prehistory to the present.

#### **Organization**

The class is organized around a close reading of the textbook, *Women Artists in History: from Antiquity to the Present* (Fifth Edition), by Wendy Slatkin. Each meeting is divided into lectures and in-class writing exercises. For the first part of class, Dr. Terranova gives lectures based on information in the textbook and reading assignments. For the second part of class, students engage in fun yet rigorous in-class writing assignments involving ChatGPT.

#### Requirements

Students are required to attend every class in person and on campus, complete all assignments (reading, watching, writing, and exams), and participate with candor, verve, and commitment. Students are allowed one unexcused absence after which each absence will result in the lowering of the final grade by one full place in the grading scale (scale: A [90-100], B [80-89], C [70-79], D [60-69], F [59-]). Students with illnesses that require extended periods of absence are encouraged to officially withdraw from the class.

#### **Reading Assignments**

The reading assignments come from the following textbook: Wendy Slatkin, *Women Artists in History: from Antiquity to the Present* (Fifth Edition). San Diego, CA: Cognella, 2020.

#### Writing with ChatGPT: Researching, End- or Footnoting, Editing, and Paraphrasing

After the first day of class, students should arrive to each class with a short essay (no more than 150 words) based on a question the professor has assigned each individual student during the prior class. This question will come from information in the "Name and Term Bank" for the coming class. To generate the short piece of writing, students enter the question (ex. What is the Venus of Willendorf?) into the artificial intelligence chatbot ChatGPT. Students then spend the last portion of the following class meeting (60 mins) editing, correcting, and paraphrasing the AI-written essay using information from the textbook and online. Students are required to cite their research sources using end- or footnotes formatted according to the *Chicago Manual of Style*. Professor Terranova will guide students in this endeavor.

Each assignment should be formatted according to the following requirements:

- Left-hand justified heading with name of student, course number, professor's name, date
- Followed by a title, center justified underlined or italicized. The title should be the original question assigned by Dr. Terranova.
- Double spaced
- 12 pt. font
- 150 words (give or take 10 words)
- End- or footnote citations of sources from the editing process

#### Tips:

- When paraphrasing ChatGPT, do not use hyperbole, as in, for example, "The artist is a genius."
- Avoid writing in the first-person point of view. Instead, use the third person.
- Do not use the passive voice. Write objectively using the active voice.
  - o Passive voice: "The lecture was given." No subject has been identified performing the action.
  - O Active voice: "Sarah gave the lecture." Sarah is the subject performing the action.

#### Submission:

- Students upload final edited and paraphrased ChatGPT essays from each meeting to elearning from class, on the day of class.
- Percentage of grade: 40%.

### **Mid-Term and Final Exam**

There are two exams in the class, a mid-term and final exam. Exam review sheets are distributed prior to both exams. Reviews contain a list of 30 slides to memorize and key terms and themes to study. From the slide list, 20 images are presented to identify from memory by the title of the work (spelled correctly), name of the artist (spelled correctly), and date within five years. Students are given four short essay questions taken from the terms and themes, which appear in the exam similar to the "name and term banks" of the syllabus. The exam information comes only from the exam review sheets, the information of which comes from the textbook and lectures. Percentage of grade: 60% (30% each).

#### **Schedule**

#### Thursday July 6

Course Introduction

Screening: PBS Art 21: Guerilla Girls, Anicka Yi, Tauba Auerbach, and Hand Willis Thomas (2022-23)

Discussion/Lecture Topics: Women in Prehistoric Art and First Civilizations in the West

Reading Assignment: Introduction and Chapter 1, xxiii - 18

#### Tuesday July 11

Discussion/Lecture Topic: Women in the Art of the Classical and Medieval World in the West

Reading Assignment: Chapters 2-3, 19-62

Name and Term Bank: Mother Goddess Debate, Venus of Willendorf, Enheduenna, Queen Khamerernebty, Hatshepsut, Nefertiti,

Panathenai, Aphrodite, Artemisia, Cornelia and the Paragon of Virtues, Livia – Wife of Augustus, Plancia Magna, Empress

Theodora, St. Hildegarde of Bingen, Christine de Pizan, Querrelle des Femmes

#### Thursday July 13

Discussion/Lecture Topic: Women in the Art of Italy 1400-1600 and Northern Europe during the Seventeenth Century

Reading Assignment: Chapters 4-5, 63-102

Name and Term Bank: male gaze, renaissance, baroque, Giovanna Tornabuoni, Botticelli's La Primavera, Isabelle d'Este,

Catherine de' Medici, Sister Plautilla Nelli, Properzia De'Rossi, Sofonisba Anguissola, Lavinia Fontana, Artemisia Gentileschi,

Elisabetta Sirani, Clara Peeters, Rachel Ruysch, Judith Leyster, Maria Sibylla Merian, Anna Maria van Schurman

#### Tuesday July 18

Discussion/Lecture Topic: Women in the Art of the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries in the West

Reading Assignment: Chapters 6-7, 103-140

Name and Term Bank: rococo, Académie des Beaux-Arts, bourgeois, third estate, Rosalba Carriera, Angelica Kauffman, Elisabeth Vigée-Lebrun, Adélaïde Labille-Guiard, Angelique Mongez, Adrienne Marie Louise Grandpierre-Deverzy, Rosa Bonheur, Emily Mary Osborn, Elizabeth, Thompson Butler, Julia Margaret Cameron, Sarah Miriam Peale, Lilian Martin Spencer, Harriet Hosmer, Elisabet Ney, Edmonia Lewis

#### Thursday July 20

Discussion/Lecture Topic: Women in the Art of the Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Centuries in the West

Reading Assignment: Chapters 8-9, 141-182

Name and Term Bank: the historic avant-garde, Maria Bashkirtseff, Louis Breslau, Berthe Morisot, Mary Cassatt, Sophia Hayden, Harriet Powers, Paula Modersohn-Becker, Gabriele Münter, Käthe Kollwitz, Marie Laurencin, Sonia Delaunay, Lyubov Popova, Varvera Stepanova, Anna Hyatt

#### Tuesday July 25

Mid-Term Exam

#### Thursday July 27

Discussion/Lecture Topic: Women and Modern Art in the West, 1920-45

Reading Assignment: Chapter 10, 183-212

Screening: The Eye Is the First Circle (2022)

Name and Term Bank: modernism, Equal Rights Amendment, Works Progress Administration (WPA), Modernism, Romaine Brooks, Hannah Höch, Marlene Dietrich, Lilly Reich, Charlotte Perriand, Gunta Stölzl, Anni Albers, Eileen Agar, Barbara Hepworth, Charlotte Salomon, Laura Knight, Florine Stettheimer, Georgia O'Keeffe, Dorothea Lange, Dorothea Tanning, Louise Bourgeois, Margaret Bourke-White, Julia Morgan, Emily Carr, Frida Kahlo, Meret Oppenheim

#### Tuesday August 1

Discussion/Lecture Topic: Women in the Art of Postwar America and Contemporary Feminisms in the West

Reading Assignment: Chapters 11-12, 213-258

Name and Term Bank: Ray Eames, Abstract Expressionism, Lee Krasner, Elaine de Kooning, Grace Hartigan, Joan Mitchell,

Helen Frankenthaler, Jay DeFeo, Elizabeth Catlett, Louise Nevelson, Eva Hesse, Alice Neel, Feminist Art Movement, Judy

Chicago, Miriam Schapiro, Faith Ringgold, Howardena Pindell, Senga Nengudi,

#### Thursday August 3

Discussion/Lecture Topic: Contemporary Global Feminisms

Reading Assignment: Chapter 13, 259-278.

Screening: Women Art Revolution (2010)

Name and Term Bank: Betye Saar, Cindy Sherman, Barbara Kruger, Carolee Schneeman, Ana Mendieta, Kara Walker, Cecila Vicuña, Lygia Pape, Bridget Riley, Jasia Reichardt, Mary Kelly, Marina Abramovic, Pipilotti Rist, Simone Leigh, Shirin

Neshat, Mona Hatoum, Wangechi Mutu, Julie Mehretu, Yayoi Kusama, Mickalene Thomas, Njideka Akunyili Crosby, Zaha

Hadid, Jeanne Gang

#### <u>Tuesday August 8</u>

Final Exam

# Prehistory versus First Civilizations

Fig. 1.1 Venus of Willendorf front view, ca 28,000-25,000 BCE

## **NEOLITHIC PERIOD**



## Deep Time

How do we reconcile the time of individual human consciousness (80-90 years) with the age of planet earth (4.5 billion years)?

### TIME LINE OF STONE AGE

2.5 MILLION YEARS

15000 YEARS AGO

1 1000 YEARS AGO

#### PALEOLITHIC

MESOLITHIC

NEOLITHIC

OR

OLD STONE AGE

OR

MIDDLE STONE AGE

OR

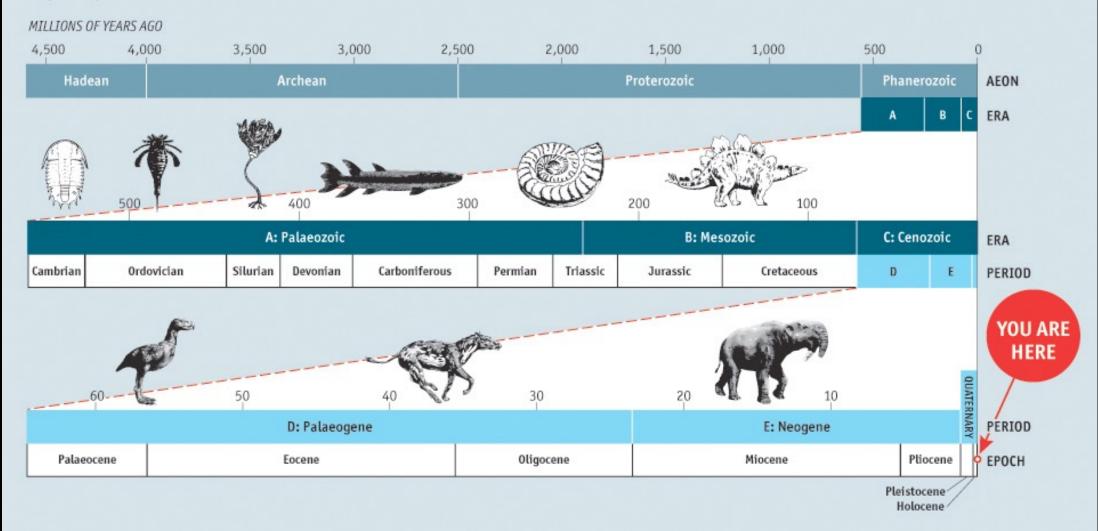
**NEW STONE AGE** 

IN THE PALEOLITHIC AGE,
HUMAN USED STONES FOR
HUNTING WHICH WAS FOUND IN
NATURE AND ALREADY HAD
CUTTING EDGE. THEY USED
TREE BRANCHES, LEAVES AND
STONES TO MAKE SHELTER FOR
LIVING. THEY ATE PLANTS AND
MEAT, GATHERED BERRIES.
THEY MAY HAVE EATEN FLESH
OF DEAD ANIMALS LEFT BEHIND
BY OTHER LARGER PREDATORS.
THEY USED FIRE BY RUBBING
STONES TOGETHER AND
ROASTED MEET.

IN THE MESOLITHIC AGE,
HUMAN STARTED TO
SHARPEN THEIR STONE
TOOLS FOR HUNTING AND
LOOKED FOR STONES
(SUCH AS FLINT) THAT
WAS HARDER AND COULD
BE SHARPENED EASILY.
THEY STARTED TO SETTLE
IN ONE PLACE BUT STILL
REMAIN HUNTER AND
GATHERER OF MEET,
FISH, BERRIES, NUTS AND
FRUITS.

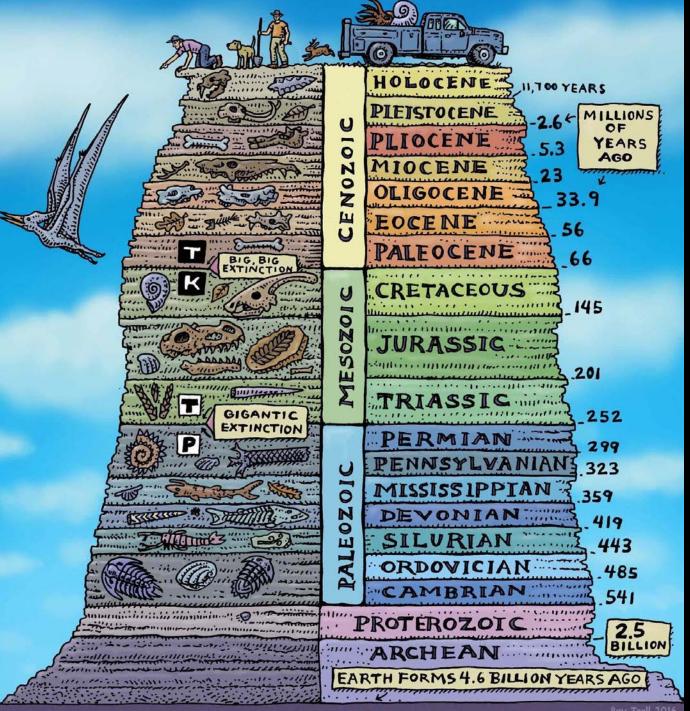
DURING THE NEOLITHIC AGE, GROUP OF HUNTERS LEARNED ABOUT AGRICULTURE. AT FIRST THEY COLLECTED WILD CROPS AND DOMESTICATED WILD ANIMALS. BY 10,000 YEARS AGO THEY STARTED TO PRODUCE GRAINS, FRUITS AND VEGETABLES FROM SEEDS. THEY MADE PLOW OUT OF ANTLERS, STONE AND WOOD AND STARTED TO CULTIVATE THE LAND WITH THE HELP OF HERDED ANIMALS. THEY USED STONE MORTARS AND PESTLES TO GRIND CEREALS AND GRAINS.

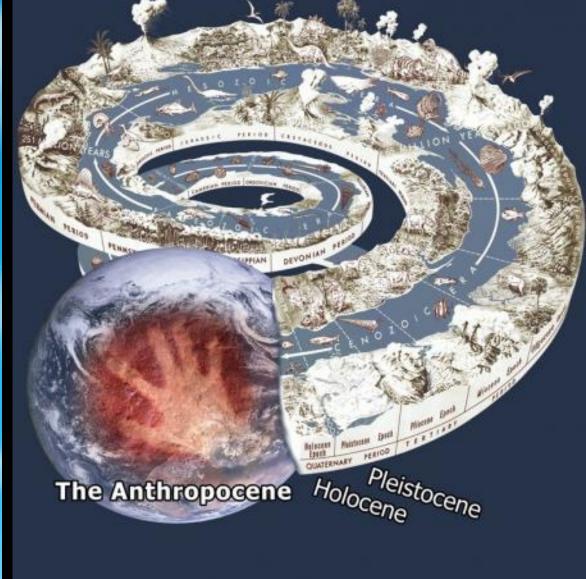
#### A geological timeline of the Earth



## Deep Time

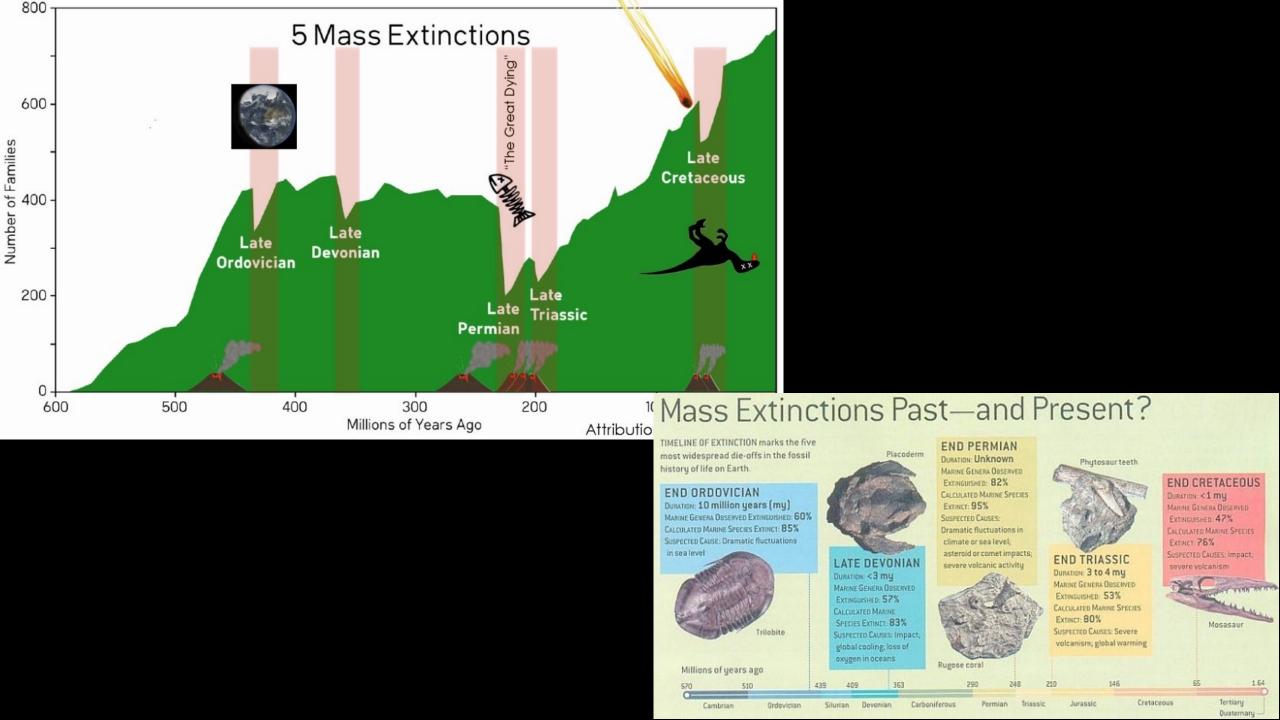
How do we reconcile the time of individual human consciousness (80-90 years) with the age of planet earth (4.5 billion years)?





**Anthropocene**: relating to or denoting the current geological age, viewed as the period during which human activity has been the dominant influence on climate and the environment.

Anthropocene: relating to or denoting the current geological age, viewed as the period during which human activity has been the dominant influence on climate and the environment.



## WE ARE IN THE MIDST OF A 6TH MASS EXTINCTION



Ordovician-Silurian extinction 450-440 million years ago



Late Devonian extinction 375-360 million years ago



Permian–Triassic extinction 251 million years ago

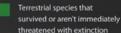


Triassic–Jurassic extinction 205 million years ago

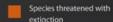


Cretaceous–Paleogene extinction 65 million years ago









Species estimated to be extinct 100-500 years from now

A mass extinction is the extinction of a large number of species within a relatively short period of geological time.

The Earth has known five great mass extinctions in the past that each wiped off 50 to 85% of the species that were alive at that time. Some of these events were preceded by a huge disaster, such as a meteorite hitting the surface of the Earth or a supervolcano erupting, while others were caused by the shifting of the continents.

**But** the sixth mass extinction isn't like the ones that killed the dinosaurs; this one is entirely man-made. If we continue the precedent we have set up to this point, this exctinction event could be the fastest and one of the most devastating ones we have seen, yet.

#### WHY DOES THIS MATTER?

Ecosystems are fragile. Every animal, insect and plant species fulfills one or more invaluable roles to sustain the ecosystem it lives in. If one of those species goes extinct, the ecosystem needs time to adjust and restore. If several species go extinct in rapid succession, the consequences could be dire.





Ecosystems are valuable, and they provide us with resources and "services" free of charge. For instance, the total economic value of pollination by insects worldwide was estimated to be \$200 billion in 2005.

#### We depend on ecosystems to survive.

The environment provides us with clean air, fresh water, ores and fuel. It provides us with the fertile soil we need to build our crops. It regulates climates and functions as a natural buffer against floods and storms.



## How old is art?



First Sculpture: Handaxe to Figure Stone January 27, 2018 - April 28, 2018 An exhibition at the Nasher Sculpture Center

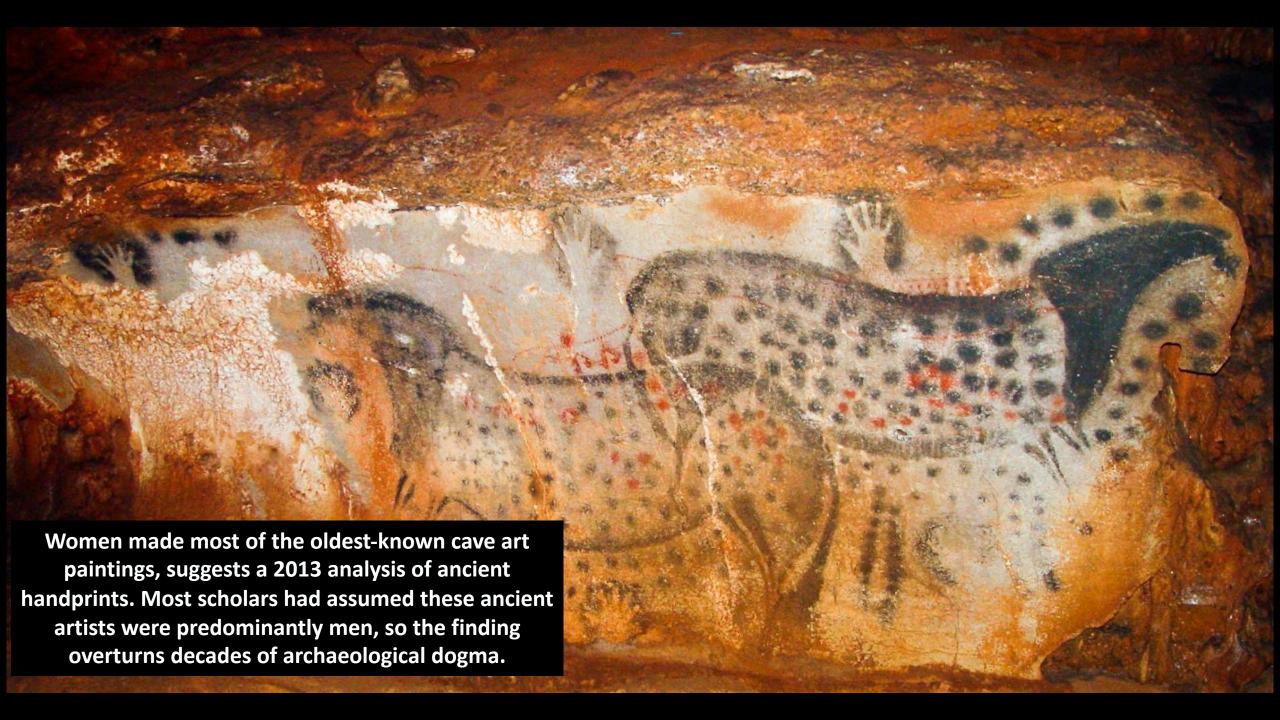
This exhibition focused on ancient handaxes and figure stones as works of art. Traditionally understood as the longest-used tool in human history, with examples dating back more than two million years, some handaxes are equally fascinating for their non-utilitarian, aesthetic qualities.







- Caves of Lascaux France
- It is famous renowned for its over 600 excellently detailed parietal wall paintings, that decorate the interior walls and ceilings of the cave in impressive compositions.
- Upper Paleolithic art (10,000-40,000 years old)



Analysis of Late Pleistocene and Early Holocene burial practices throughout the Americas situate the archeological site of Wilamaya Patjxa in Peru as the earliest and most secure hunter burial of female hunters. The findings are consistent with nongendered labor practices in which early hunter-gatherer females were big-game hunters.



Fig. 1.1 Venus of Willendorf front view, ca 28,000-25,000 BCE

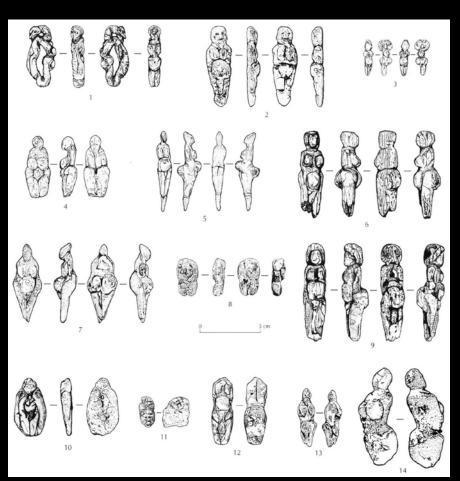
- What is this?
- How big is this?
- Where was it found?
- Is it the only figure like this or are there more?
- What are some of the hypotheses on how this stone figure functioned?



Fig. 1.1 Venus of Willendorf front view, ca 28,000-25,000 BCE









- When scholars discovered the sculpture in Willendorf, they
  mistakenly identified the figure as Venus, a Roman Goddess. Why did
  they decide to keep the name Venus of Willendorf if the figure dates
  back before Roman times?
- What is the "Mother Goddess" theory and did it lead to statues like the "Venus of Willendorf" being used as an object of worship? The book states that religions based on personified deities were very rare in the small, hunter/gatherer, paleolithic tribes, so why was the "Mother Goddess" theory discussed?



The ancient Greeks called them *kyklades*, imagining them as a circle (*kyklos*) around the sacred island of Delos, the site of the holiest sanctuary to Apollo.



Fig. 1.2 Cycladic, c. 2500-2400 B.C.E., White marble with traces of polychrome

### **BRONZE AGE**

- What is the difference between matriarchy and patriarchy?
- What does Slatkin say is the cause for the fall of matriarchy and rise of patriarchy? pp. 6-7
- How does the advent of agricultural practices change society? pg. 7

• Slatkin writes that women can be credited with the discovery of agriculture. The book is unsure whether or not women are responsible for making the fertility figures, pottery, or basket weaving. However, researchers do know that women were involved in crafting what?

"Brilliantly original." — Katha Pollice, Washington Post Book World

# Women's Work

THE FIRST 20,000 YEARS



Women, Cloth, and Society in Early Times

ELIZABETH Wayland barber







Fig. 1.2 Cycladic, c. 2500-2400 B.C.E., White marble with traces of polychrome

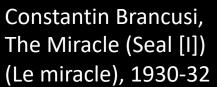
Early Cycladic sculpture comprises predominantly female figures that range from simple modification of the stone to developed representations of the human form, some with natural proportions and some more idealized. Many of these figures, especially those of the Spedos type, display a remarkable consistency in form and proportion that suggests they were planned with a compass. (from the Met.org)

Male marble seated harp player, 2800–2700 B.C.











Constantin Brancusi., Bird in Space, 1928

Fig. 1.2 Cycladic, c. 2500-2400 B.C.E., White marble with traces of polychrome





Male marble seated harp player, 2800–2700 B.C.

Cycladic female sculptures often symbolized fertility, while Cycladic male sculptures often displayed them sitting and playing a musical instrument. What do we make of this distinction?

Fig. 1.2 Cycladic, c. 2500-2400 B.C.E., White marble with traces of polychrome

 Cycladic female sculptures often symbolized fertility, while Cycladic male sculptures often displayed them sitting and playing a musical instrument. Why do the Cycladic female sculptures emphasize health and fertility while the Cycladic male sculptures seem to have little meaning or symbolism?



Venus of Willendorf front view, ca 28,000-25,000 BCE



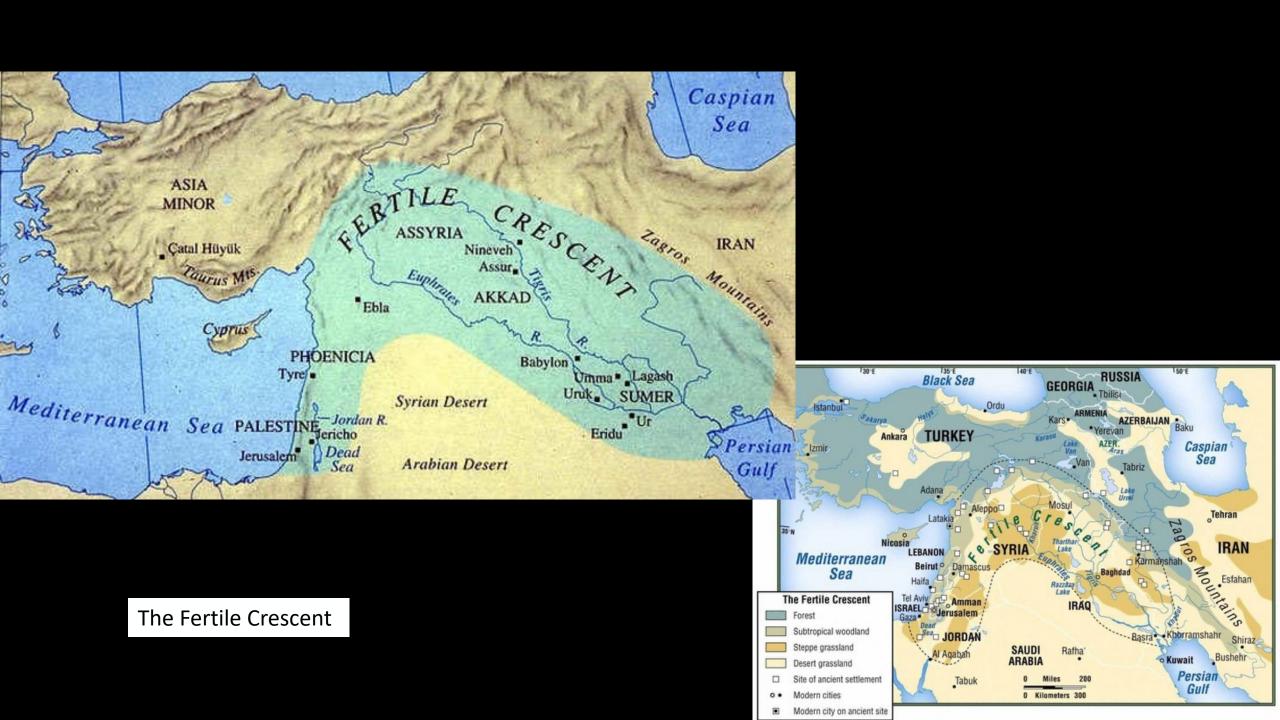
Cycladic, c. 2500-2400 B.C.E., White marble with traces of polychrome

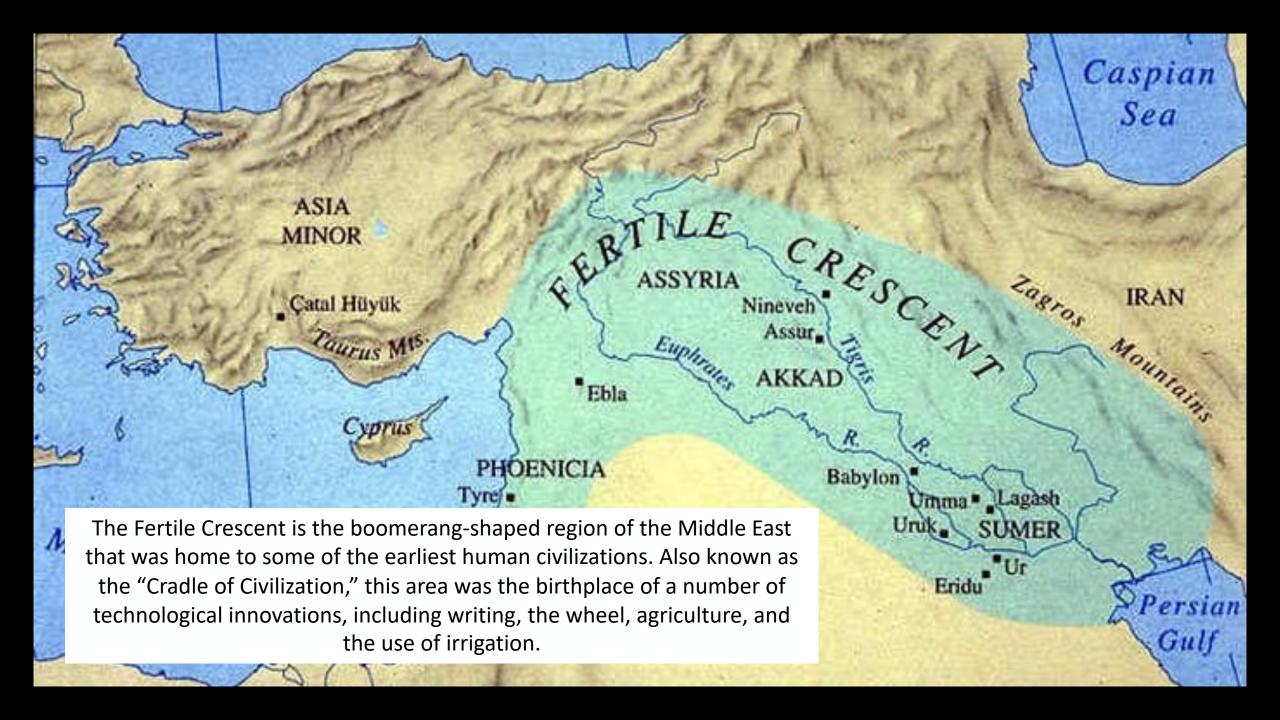


Venus of Willendorf front view, ca 28,000-25,000 BCE

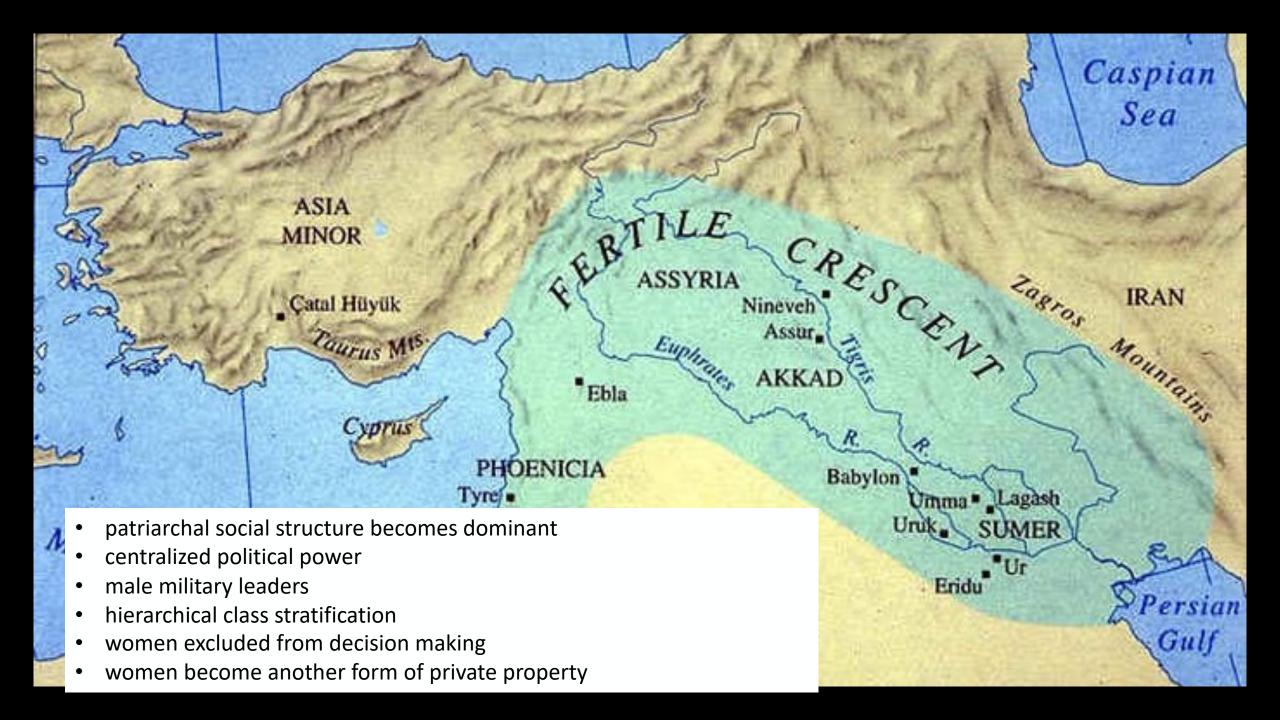


Cycladic Marble female figure, 4500–4000 BCE











One significant occupation of women in Mesopotamia continued to be the making of textiles, a laborious and time-consuming activity that could be performed in the home and was therefore well suited to women. The fibers of flax, cotton, or wool first had to be cleaned and prepared and spun into thread. Then the thread was woven into cloth. (Slatkin, 8)

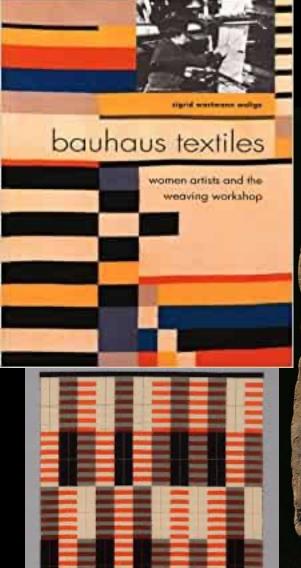
While other cultures in the Middle East gathered wool and used it to weave fabric for clothing, the Sumerians were the first to do it on an industrial scale.

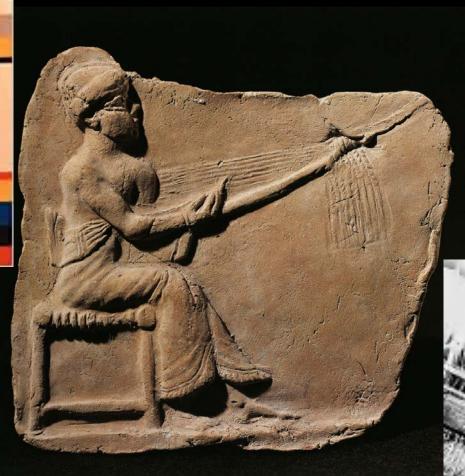
"The Sumerians innovation was to turn their temples into huge factories," Goodman explains. He notes that the Sumerians were the first to cross kin lines and form larger working organizations for making textiles -- the predecessors of modern manufacturing companies.

Left: A Mesopotamian woman weaving.

DeAgostini/Getty Images /Egyptian Textile

Museum

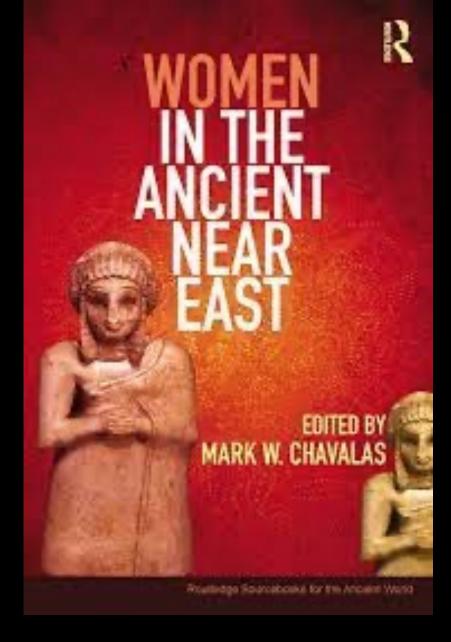


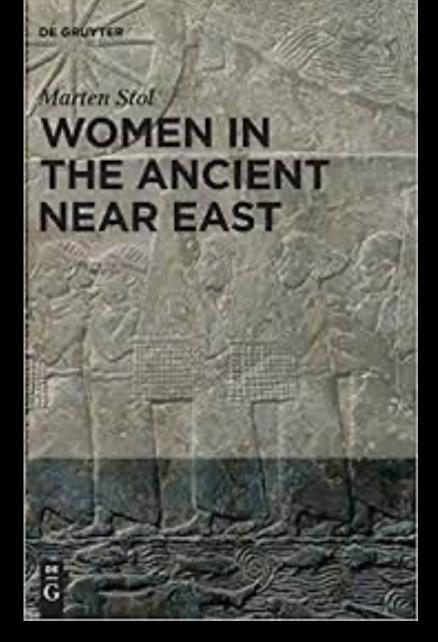


The Weavers
Workshop
Bauhaus,
Germany,
1919-1933









2013 2016

"invisibility of women" in ancient Near East images and artifacts (Slatkin, 9)

public and private realms

What is the relationship of gender to the public and private realms in history?

# Three ranks of women were active in temple activities of the Ancient Near East:

- High- and middle-rank priestesses
- Queens and princesses representing the ruling family
- Offering-bearers in religious ceremonies

Fig. 1.3 Votive Disk of Enheduanna, ca 2300-2250 BCE, diameter 10"

### **ANCIENT NEAR EAST**

- Who was Enheduanna?
- What is a high priestess?
- Where is she from?



## Sargon of Akkad (ca 2332-2279 BCE) and his daughter the high priestess and poet Enheduenna



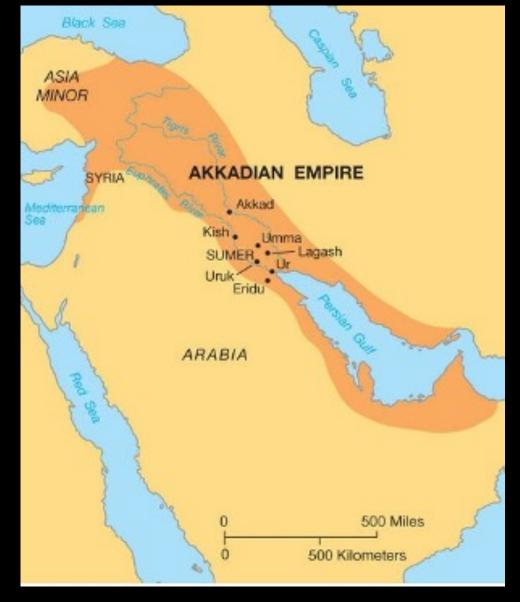




Fig. 1.3 Votive Disk of Enheduanna, ca 2300-2250 BCE

The world's first known author is widely considered to be Enheduanna, a woman who lived in the 23rd century BCE in ancient Mesopotamia (approximately 2285 – 2250 BCE). Enheduanna is a remarkable figure: she was a princess and a priestess as well as a writer and poet.



Fig. 1.3 Votive Disk of Enheduanna, ca 2300-2250 BCE

The conquest of her father Sargon catalyzed the development of the world's first empire with the giant city of Akkad at its core, uniting northern and southern Mesopotamia. Enheduanna was Sargon's daughter. She worked as the high priestess of the moon deity Nanna-Suen at his temple in Ur (in modern-day Southern Iraq). The celestial nature of her occupation is reflected in her name, meaning "Ornament of Heaven".





- Enheduenna was the earliest known poet whose name has been recorded, in addition to being the daughter of Sargon of Akkad.
- She composed several works of literature, including two hymns to the Mesopotamian love goddess Inanna. She wrote the myth of Inanna and Ebih, and a collection of 42 temple hymns.
- Is this a true, **portrait likeness** of Enheduenna?

• The tradition of appointing daughters to positions of religious power, although gives women institutional power, treats them as means to an end. Despite the inherent anachronism from applying the lens of feminism to the historical situation, in what ways is the tradition feminist and empowering of women, and in what ways does it not?

Fig. 1.4 Menkaure and Queen Khamerernebti II, ca 2490-2472 BCE

- Is this statue of Menkaure and Queen Khamereernebty II realistic or idealized in quality?
- Why?



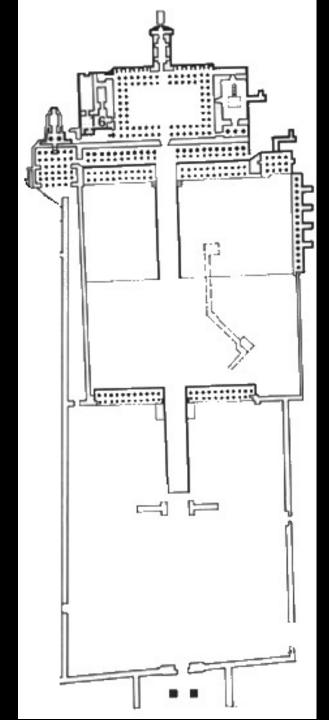
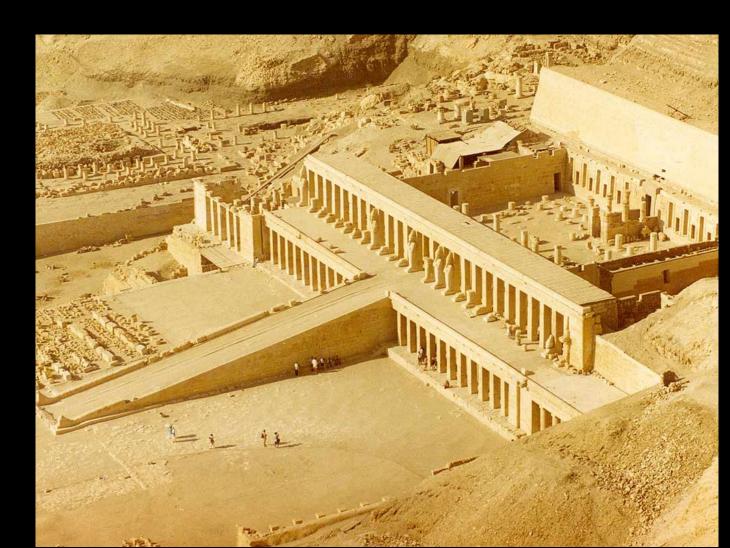


Fig. 1.5 Temple of Queen Hatshepsut at Dier el-Bahri, ca 1473-1458 BCE

- Note the stoa, or roofed colonnades.
- Note the hypostyle hall, or room of columns.
- Note the symmetry and axis.

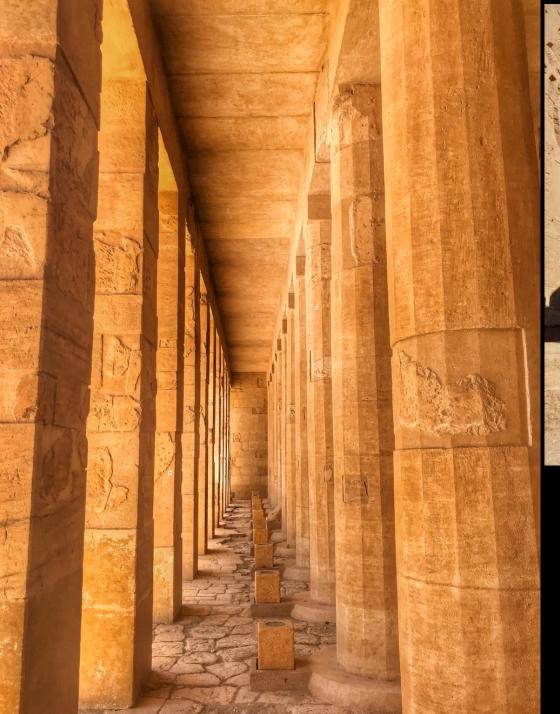


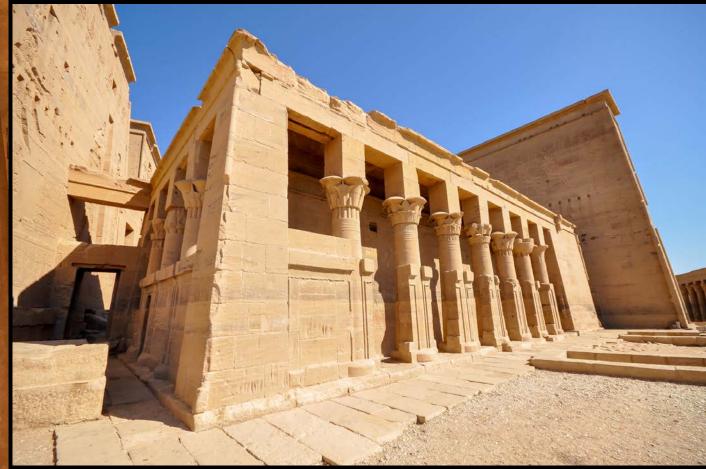
 Wealthier women were known to do business dealings in early civilizations and generally participate in aspects of "male-activity." In what ways do forms of societal power (such as wealth and class) insulate women from discrimination?

Fig. 1.5 Temple of Queen Hatshepsut at Dier el-Bahri, ca 1473-1458 BCE

• Is this where the queen lived?







Birth of the Colonnade





Photograph of a wall detail in the Mortuary Temple of Hatshepsut of Deir el-Bahri, Egypt. The stone wall is decorated with colorful hieroglyphics. A large seated figure is depicted in the bottom right portion of the panel. Two stone columns are visible on both sides of the photograph. Credit: UNT Digital Library

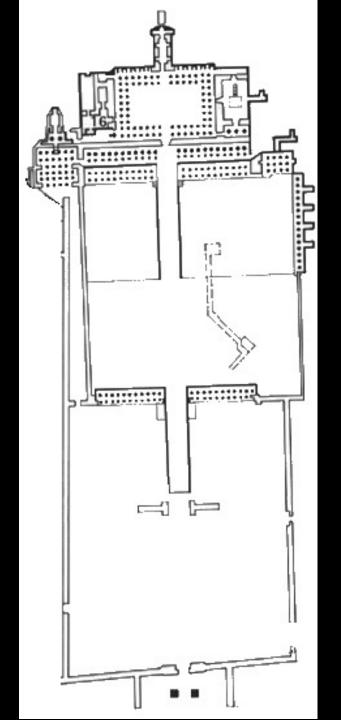
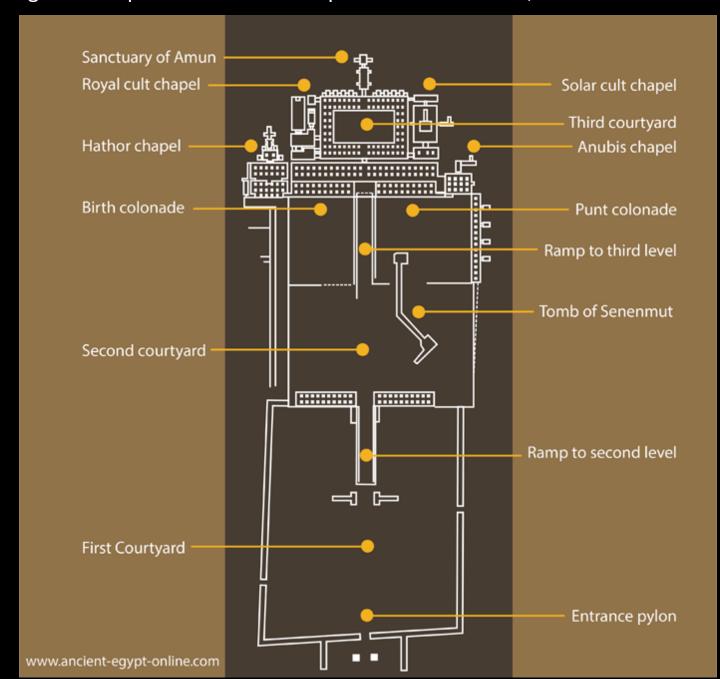


Fig. 1.5 Temple of Queen Hatshepsut at Dier el-Bahri, ca 1473-1458 BCE



 The textbook mentioned that Egyptian art pieces like paintings or sculptures would often depict the "ideal" men and women portrait (Slatkin 11). Similar to the women slaves selling embroidered clothing in Mesopotamia, were there more likely to be areas in Egypt that created more statues or artistic pieces that were easier to market to the upper class?

Fig. 1.6 Stele, alter from Armana Akhenaton, Nefertiti and three daughters, Eighteenth Dynasty, ca 1353-1335 BCE

- What is a stele?
- What is the distinction between polytheism and monotheism?
- Why is this important here?

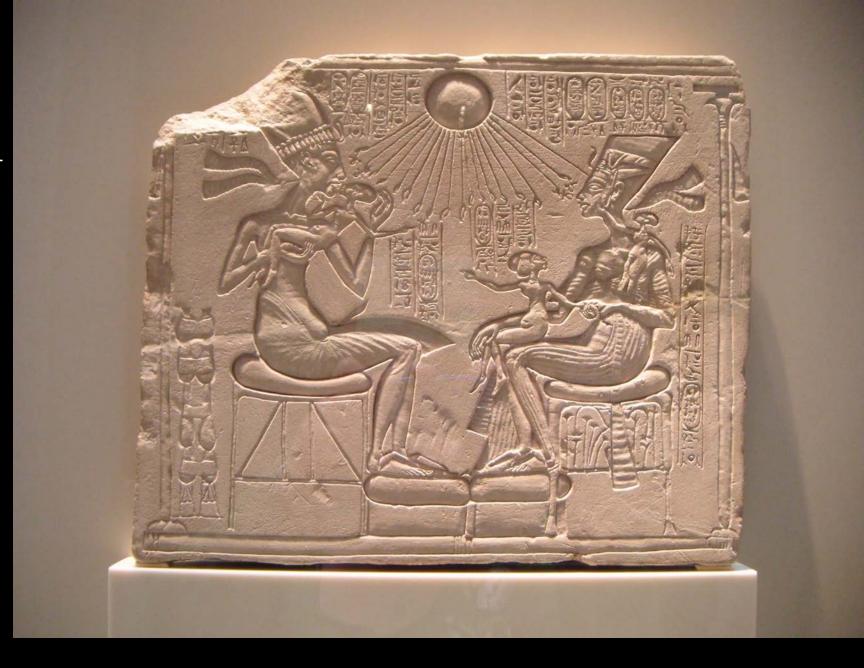


Fig. 1.6 Stele, alter from Armana Akhenaton, Nefertiti and three daughters, Eighteenth Dynasty, ca 1353-1335 BCE

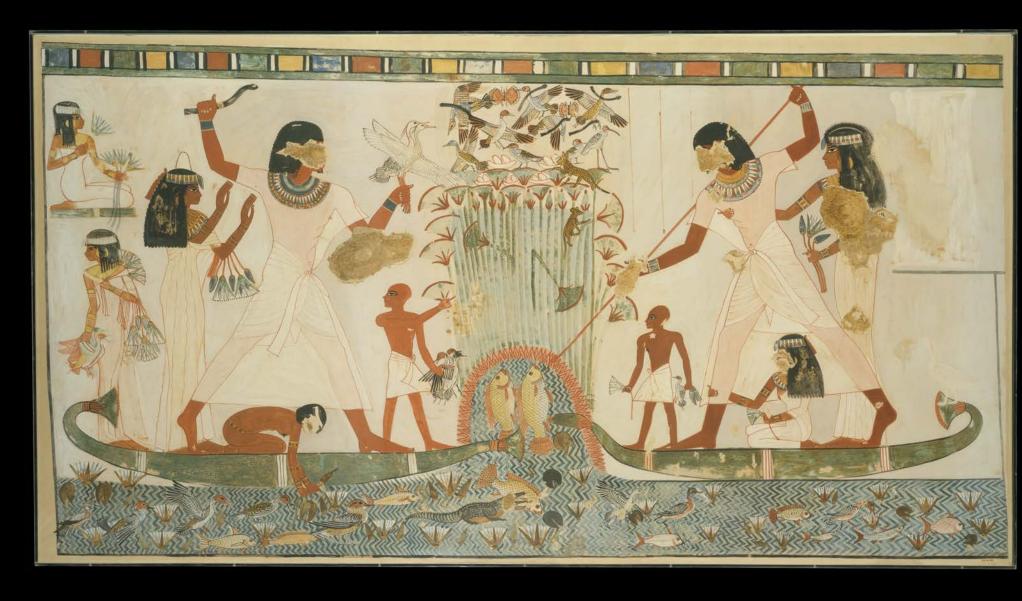
 Note the different body types here – in comparison to the statue of Menkaure and Queen Khamereernebty II.





Fig. 1.7 Menna and Family Hunting in the Marshes, Tomb of Menna, ca. 1400–1352 BCE

- What does this depict?
- What is the symbolism of hunting? Fowling? The lotus? The swamp?



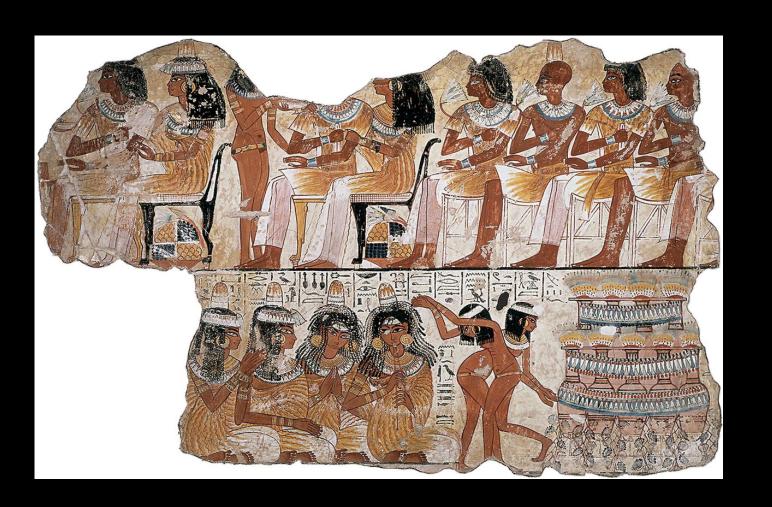


Fig. 1.8 Funerary banquet of Nebamun,c . 1350 BCE

- What does this painting depict?
- How do differences in the physical appearance of individuals translate into class? Think here about silhouette versus frontal portraits, clothed versus unclothed, etc.

## Egyptology

What is problematic about this field?



### William Carruthers @w\_carruthers · Jul 7

Here's looking at you, Egyptology...



The dirty little secret is that some disciplines don't need to be decolonized, they just need to be shut down entirely

Show this thread



17 19



