

# Roman Sculpture

AS90512

A decorative graphic element consisting of several horizontal lines of varying lengths and colors (teal, light blue, and white) extending from the right side of the slide.

# Greek Influence on Roman Art

- Romans came into contact with Greek art through imports, imitations and conquest.
  - They looted, purchased, commissioned or copied Greek works of art.
- The Romans also produced art in the Greek Classical Style – this Roman art in the Greek style is known as *Classicism*.

# Greek Influence on Roman Art

- Greek art is divided into three periods according to time period and the associated style:
  - Archaic
  - Classical
  - Hellenistic
- *Classical art is considered as supreme.*



**Kritios Boy**

Archaic Greek statues are typified by their patterned hair, 'archaic' smile, and leaning forward on the right foot.



Athena Parthenos (Nashville copy)

Classical sculpture is typified by:

- Calm expression on the face.
- Naturalistic pose and drapery
- Deeply carved and rhythmic drapery
- Body revealed beneath drapery.
- Spatial depth



## Laocöon and his two sons

Hellenistic sculpture is typified by:

- Emphasis on technique
- Riotous drapery
- Landscape in background
- Expression of emotion and passion on the face of the subject.
- A more dramatic effect.

# Influences on Portraiture

- **Etruscan:**
  - Ashes were placed in urns with a human head on the lid.
  - 7<sup>th</sup> Cent. – carved full length reclining figures on tombs
  - 6<sup>th</sup> Cent. – Images of the dead began to have specific individual features.
  - From 4<sup>th</sup> Cent. – statues and busts became more naturalistic.



9-4 Sarcophagus with reclining couple, from Cerveteri, Italy, ca. 520 B.C., Painted terracotta, approx. 3' 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ " high. Museo Nazionale di Villa Giulia, Rome.



# Influences on Portraiture

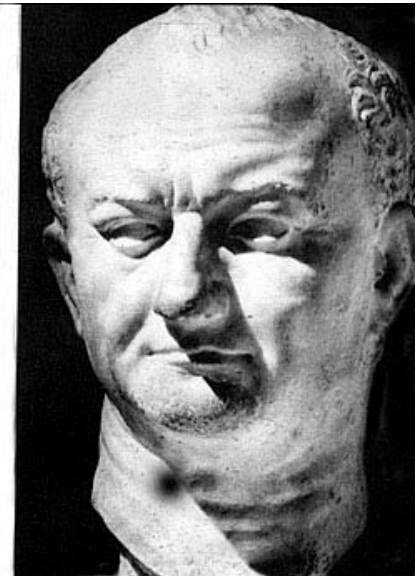
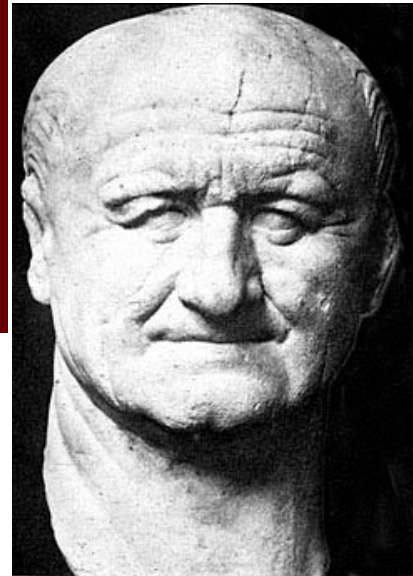
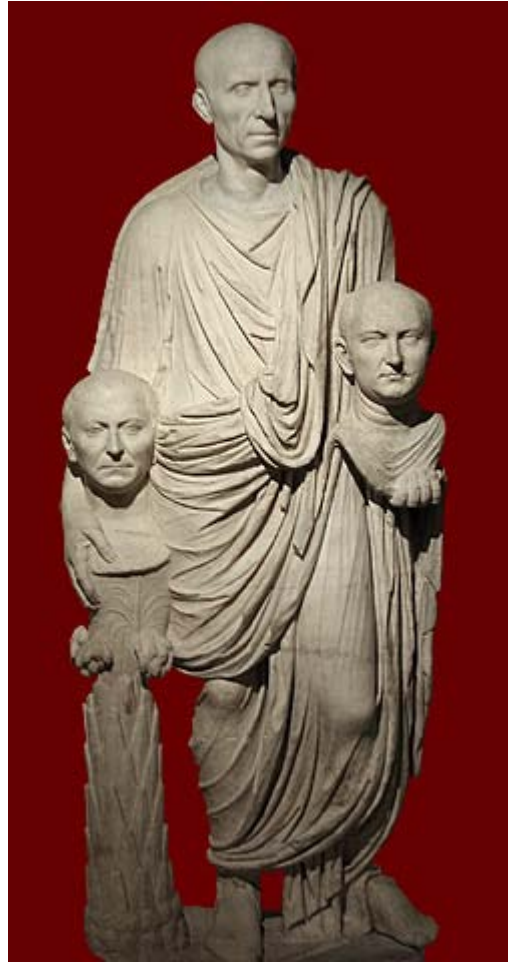
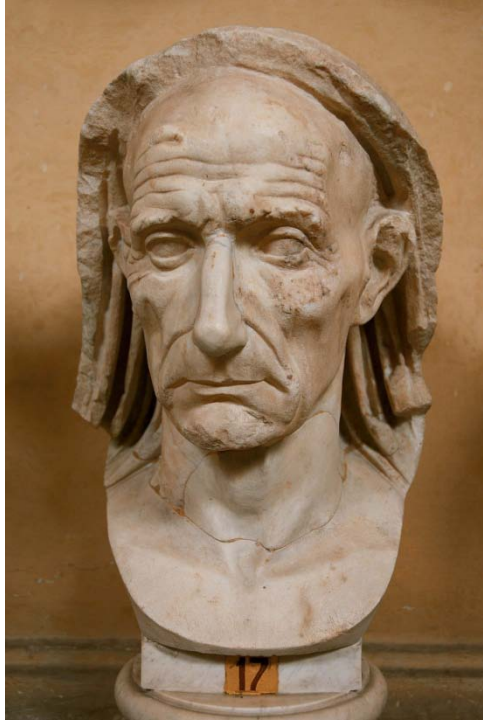
- **Greek:**
  - At first, portraits were generalised or idealised.
  - Hellenistic realistic portraits were often painted.
  - Copies of Greek sculpture were in demand by Romans.
  - Skilled Greek artists were employed in Rome.

# Influences on Portraiture

- **Roman:**
  - Customary to have wax masks of dead ancestors' faces.
  - Bronze or marble copies of the death masks were made so that these ancestral images (*imagines*) could be displayed.
  - Patrician class alone had the right to have these images (*ius imaginum*)
  - They reproduced features of the deceased and displayed familial lines, especially notable ancestors.

# Styles of Portraiture

- **Verism:**
  - **The realistic depiction of the individual human face:**
    - Mainly male
    - Middle aged
    - Showing qualities of age – experience, wisdom, dignity, firmness, duty.
    - ‘Warts and all’ style with details of the skin and bone structure.



# Styles of Portraiture

- Idealism:
  - The facial features are simplified.
  - Shows an idealised or godlike person.
  - Usually the emperor.

