

THE ART OF SLAVEHOLDING STATES IN ANCIENT EAST

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Abstract

This article analyzes the art of slaveholding states in the ancient East, including the formation, development, and characteristics of Ancient Egyptian and Ancient Near Eastern art. The emergence of the slaveholding system provided a foundation for the development of art and its transformation into a significant part of social consciousness. In Ancient Egyptian art, architecture played a leading role, and the development of monumental structures was closely connected with religious rituals. The monumental art of Egypt, particularly the Great Pyramid of Giza and the Karnak Temple, is analyzed in detail. Ancient Near Eastern art, on the other hand, is characterized by a distinctive realism and is marked by grandiose and symbolic expression styles. The art of Sumer, Akkad, Babylon, Assyria, and Urartu states is examined, emphasizing the importance of sculpture, wall paintings, and architectural monuments. This article is dedicated to analyzing the contribution of ancient Eastern art to world culture.

Keywords

Ancient Art, Slaveholding States, Architecture, Sculpture, Egyptian Art, Ancient Near Eastern Art, Religious Rituals, Monumental Art.

INTRODUCTION.

The history of ancient world art studies and analyzes the art that developed during the period of the emergence, development, and crisis of the slaveholding system. The formation of the slaveholding structure was a historical necessity, having a great impact on the development of culture and productive forces. The exploitation of slaves led to a separation between intellectual and physical labor, which became a crucial foundation for the development of art.

While in the classless society art was closely connected with daily life and production, in the slaveholding era it became an inseparable part of social consciousness. The complexity of social life expanded art based on symbolic

understanding. At the same time, art developed under the influence of religious and mythological concepts, beginning to take on a somewhat ceremonial spirit. Ancient world art developed its own national features and evolved in different cultural centers.

ANCIENT EASTERN ART

The term "Ancient East" is conditional and typically refers to the geographical region located east and south of the ancient Greco-Roman states. This region includes North-East Africa, the Ancient Near East, Central Asia, India, China, and Southeast Asia. This area was home to large slaveholding states such as Sumer, Akkad, Babylon, Assyria, Hittites, Urartu, the Persian Empire, India, and China.

Ancient Eastern art developed for a long time as a part of craftsmanship. Particular attention was paid to the technical aspects of the works created. Eastern art is distinctive for its realism, which reflected people and concepts through fantastic images, symbolic, and conventional signs. While there were works in Ancient Egyptian and Near Eastern art that depicted life in realistic forms, they appeared as a specific stage in the overall process of artistic development.

ANCIENT EGYPTIAN ART

In the northeastern part of Africa, in the Nile River Valley, various tribes had lived since the 6th millennium BCE. By the 4th millennium BCE, the first class society had emerged in this region. The history of Ancient Egyptian art studies the formation, development, and crisis of these states.

Throughout its development, Ancient Egyptian art was closely connected with religion and religious rituals. Architecture became the leading direction of art. The largest pyramids in Egypt were built in the 27th century BCE. The most famous of them is the Great Pyramid of Giza, which stands 146.6 meters tall, with a base of 233 meters.

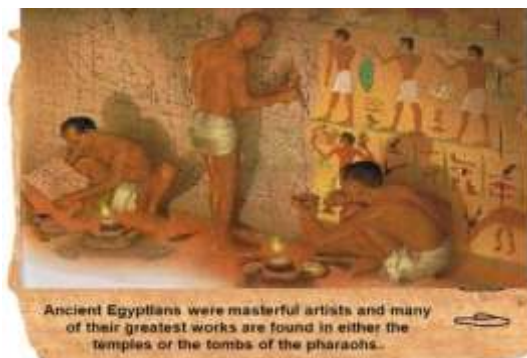




Fig. 1. The Ancient Egyptian script was one of the earliest writing systems of humanity. Initially, each word was represented in pictorial form.

Visual art, closely tied to architecture, also developed in Ancient Egypt. The emergence of class society turned art into a powerful ideological tool for the ruling class. Egyptian artists and sculptors began focusing on creating genre compositions and portraying human actions in a more naturalistic way. They created wall paintings, sculptures, and fine reliefs dedicated to the lives of the elite.

In the 7th century BCE, the fragmentation of Egypt slowed the development of art. Later, in the 4th century BCE, following the conquest of Egypt by Alexander the Great, Egyptian art merged with Hellenistic culture. Nevertheless, Egyptian art occupies a unique place in the development of world culture and had a significant influence on the formation of subsequent artistic periods.

The art of Ancient Mesopotamia is as vibrant and distinctive as that of Ancient Egypt. In this region, large palaces and temples were constructed, and round sculpture and bas-relief art flourished.

In the art of Sumer and Akkad, sculpture and relief art developed significantly. The portraits of the rulers of Sumer and Akkad were realistic and expressive. Notable examples from this period include the statue of Gudea, ruler of Lagash, and the head of a woman from the city of Ur. The *Stele of Naram-Sin* is dedicated to King Naram-Sin's military campaigns, and it depicts historical events in bas-relief form (Fig. 2).



Fig. 2. The *Stele of Naram-Sin* depicts the military campaigns of King Naram-Sin.

In the 1st millennium BCE, Assyria emerged as a powerful slaveholding state. Assyrian art became famous for its bas-reliefs depicting brutal battles and hunting scenes. These representations were filled with movement and dynamism, introducing innovative methods of expression in art. **Fig. 3** illustrates these dynamic depictions.



Fig. 3. The art of Assyria in the 1st millennium BCE, depicting scenes of brutal battles and hunting.

Conclusion

The art of the Ancient East holds a unique place in world culture due to its multifaceted development. The art of slaveholding states was shaped by religious, mythological, and social consciousness. Egyptian and Ancient Near Eastern art are distinguished by their monumental architecture, sculpture, and achievements in visual arts. Many of these art forms have survived to this day and have become an integral part of humanity's artistic heritage.

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