

CLASSICAL SCULPTURE

Lesson 2.3. Hellenistic Greek sculpture

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1. Look at the image of this statue. After reading the text you are going to answer these three questions:

- a) What is the name of this statue and when was it carved?
- b) Who sent the snakes that killed Laocoon and his sons?
- c) Where is placed this statue?

LAOCOON

The Laocoon was carved in the second half of the first century BCE and according to Pliny, the group was carved from a marble block by three sculptors, Hagesandrus, Polydorus and Athenodorus.

The statue illustrates an incident in Virgil's account of the Trojan War, the Aeneid. Laocoon was a priest punished by Gods, who sent two snakes to kill him and his sons because he had urged the Trojans to reject the apparent Greek peace offering a wood horse.

This statue was discovered in 1506 in Rome and it is possible that the statue belonged to Emperor Nero. It was acquired by Pope Julius II and was placed at the Vatican.

The discovery of the Laocoon made a great impression on Italian sculptors and the sculptor Michelangelo was particularly impressed by the massive scale of the work (dimensions: 184 cm. height) and its depiction of the male figures, their expressivity and movement.



2. Fill in the gaps:

- The authors of _____ are _____, and was carved in _____.
- Laocoon was _____ and was killed with his _____ by _____ that Gods sent them because Laocoon had warned _____ to reject a _____ from Greeks.
- It was _____ in Rome and was placed _____ by Pope Julius II. Some Italian sculptors as _____ were very _____ by this statue because of its _____ and movement.

Answer these questions:

- Who carved this statue?
- When was it carved and when was it discovered?
- What story is illustrated by this statue?
- Where was this statue discovered and where is it placed?



3. Write sentences explaining where you can see...

					DRAPERIES
	MOVEMENT				THE CURVED LINES
				IN	ANATOMY
	EXPRESSIVITY	IS			STRONG MUSCLES
THE			REPRESENTED		THE FACE
	NATURALISTIC TREATMENT	ARE			LAOCOON LIMBS
				ON	DESPERATE LOOK
	DIAGONAL LINES				OPEN MOUTH

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

4. Heads and Tails: *Description*

It's like a pyramid with...

Muscles, joints and draperies are...

Tortured expressions highlight the...

The twist of the muscular torso adds ...

The figures of the sons help to form...

Strong diagonals reinforce ...

The son on the point of death contrasts...

...represented in a naturalistic (real) way

... strong diagonals

... dynamism to the composition

... the sense of drama and movement

... with the desperate struggle of the father and the other son

... suffering

... a triangular composition

It's like a pyramid with...	... strong diagonals
Muscles, joints and draperies are...	...represented in a naturalistic (real) way
Tortured expressions highlight the...	... suffering
The twist of the muscular torso adds dynamism to the composition
The figures of the sons help to form...	... a triangular composition
Strong diagonals reinforce the sense of drama and movement
The son on the point of death contrasts...	... with the desperate struggle of the father and the other son

5. STYLE: Look at these sculptures and, in pairs, decide which are the correct sentences about the Hellenistic sculpture:

Altar of Zeus at Pergamum



Dying Gaul



Belvedere Torso

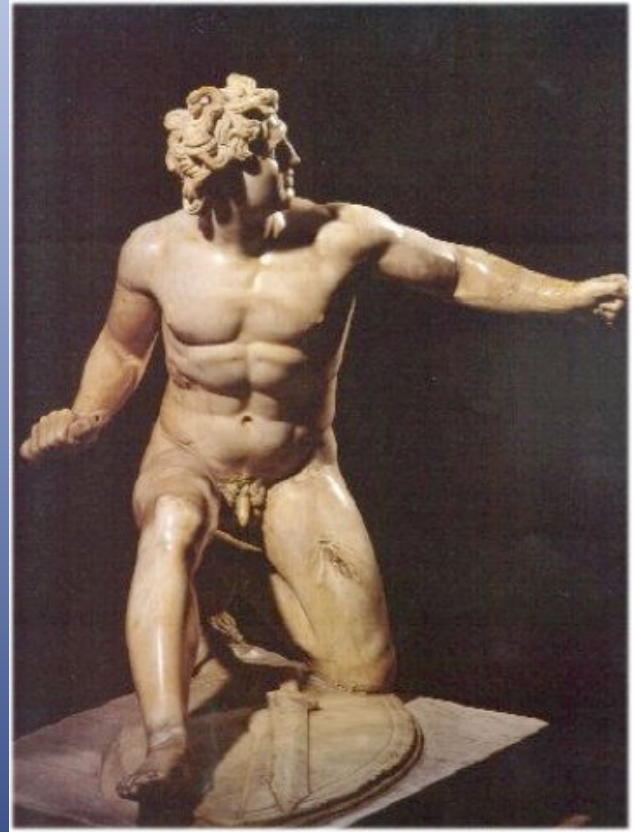


Nike of Samotrace



IN HELLENISTIC SCULPTURE:

- a) The human body has a **primary / secondary** role.
- b) The composition is well **balanced / unbalanced** and based on **straight / curved** lines.
- c) The representation of bodies or draperies is **naturalistic / unreal**.
- d) Movement is **slightly / strongly** represented.
- e) Drama and expressivity are **emphasized / controlled**.
- f) **Balance / contrast** enhances **theatricality / serenity**.



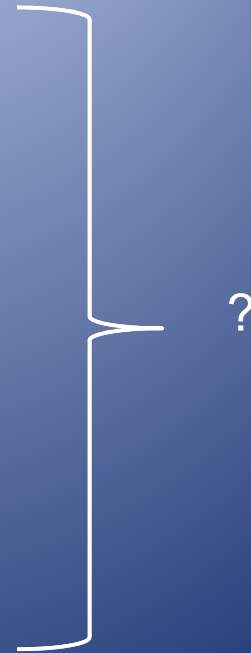
IN THE HELLENISTIC SCULPTURE:

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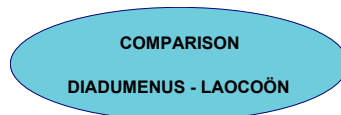
6. ASKING AND ANSWERING QUESTIONS (5 Ws)

Using the following 5 Ws prepare two questions for asking classmates:

- WHAT
- WHO
- WHEN
- WHERE
- WHY



7. COMPARISON



unique attributes:

unique attributes:

shared attributes:



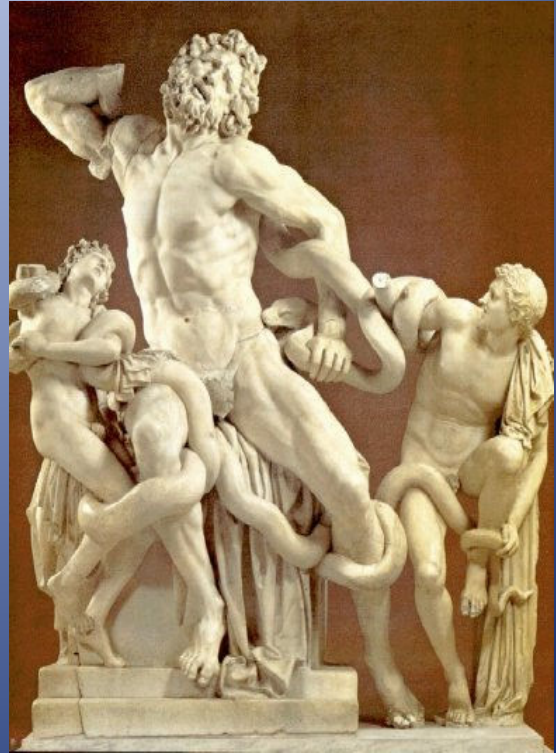
DIADUMENUS

LAOCOÖN

PERFECT BODY	GREEK SCULPTURE	HAGESANDRUS, POLYDORUS AND ATHENODORUS	TWIST OF TORSO	TROJAN PRIEST	THE DRAMATIC QUALITY OF THE SCENE	BAND AROUND HIS HEAD	Ca. 450 / 430 B.C.
ATHLETE	MOVEMENT	CLASSICAL GREEK ART	HUMAN FIGURE	Ca. 42-20 B.C.	NAKED	TENSION	TWO SONS AND SNAKE
HARMONY	BEARD	HELLENISTIC GREEK ART	BALANCE	STATUE	SERENITY	POLYCLITUS	HUMANISM
	GROUP	MEDIUM: MARBLE					



DIADUMENUS



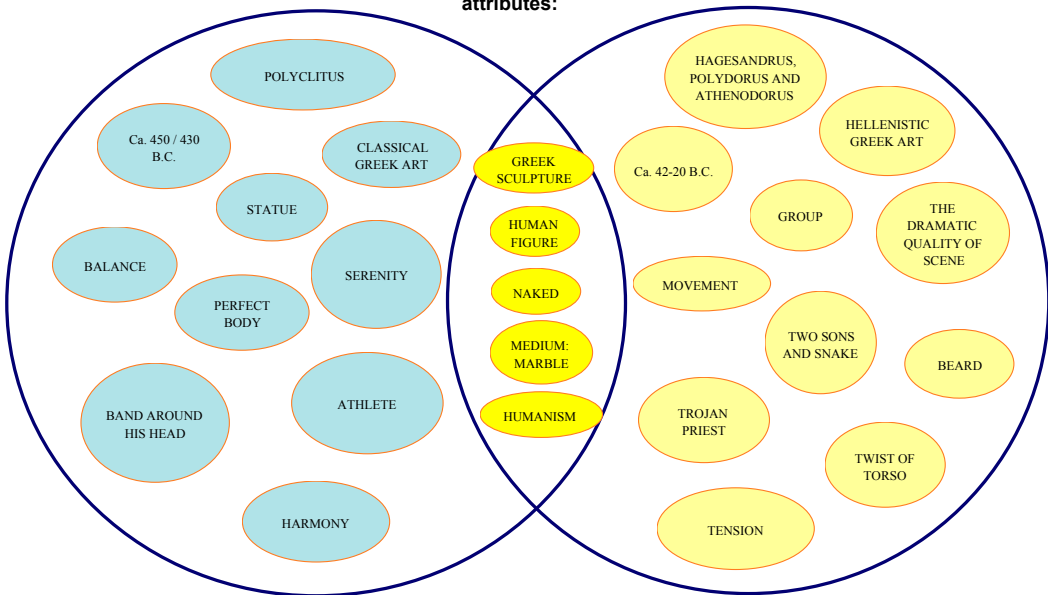
LAOCOON AND HIS SONS

COMPARISON
DIADUMENUS - LAOCOÖN

unique attributes:

unique attributes:

shared attributes:



DIADUMENUS

LAOCOÖN

8. Writing frame.

Write a report about the LAOCOON using the next patterns:

A) CATALOGUING:

- The title of ...
- It was carved by ... in ... and it is located...

B) FORMAL DESCRIPTION.

- The composition is ...
- The representation of the human body is... as we can see ...
- In this group the movement ... as we can see ...
- Emotion and expressivity...

9. COMPARISON AND EVOLUTION

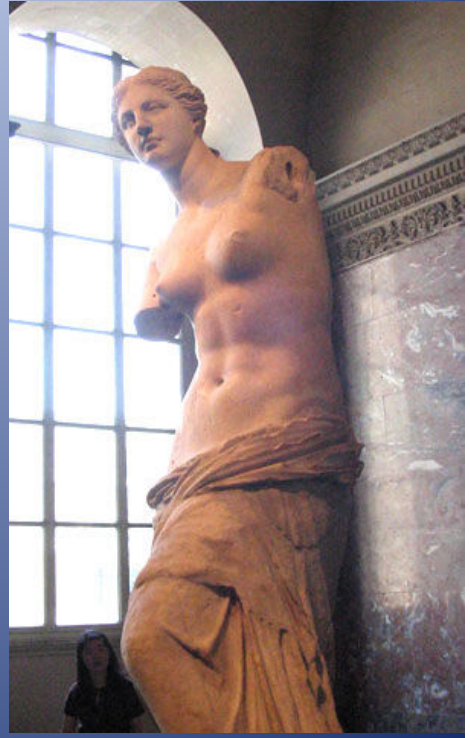
The next statue is named **Venus of Melos** and art historians state that is a throwback to the classical Greek sculpture. Write at least three sentences justifying that statement:

- _____

- _____

- _____

- _____



<http://teachers.sduhsd.k12.ca.us/ltrupe/ART%20History%20Web/final/chap5Greece/Aphrodite%20of%20Melos.jpg>