



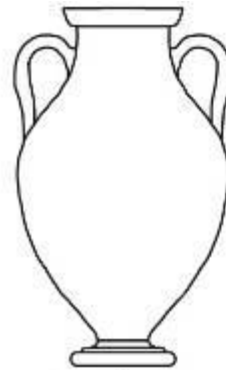
Chapter 5 Ancient Greece

**Greek Painting:
Red and Black figure vase
painting and etc.**

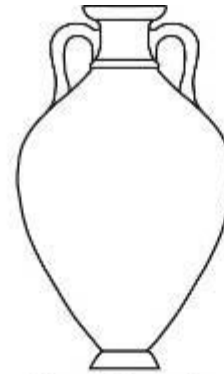
Greek Vase Painting

- Observe the representation of the human form on Archaic vases. What similarities do figures on these vases share with figural art of other ancient cultures?
- Differentiate between black-figure and red-figure vases in terms of appearance, tools used, and technique.
- Identify individual painters and potters who signed their vases.
- Identify common subject matter in the paintings
- **Realize the importance of Greek vases as the main surviving repositories of Greek painting.**

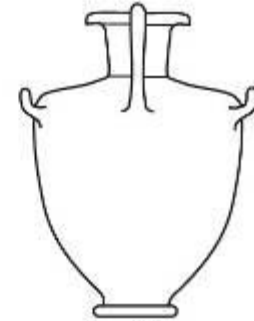
TYPES OF GREEK VASES



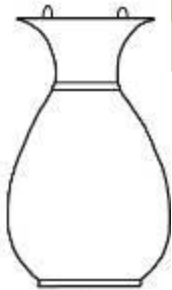
amphora



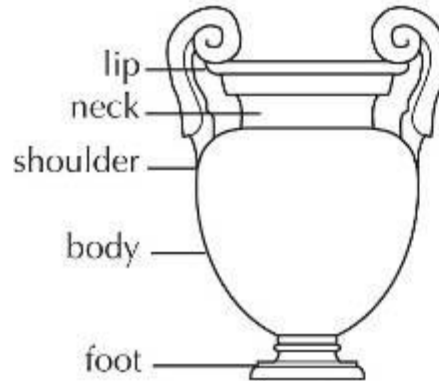
Panathenaic
amphora



hydria



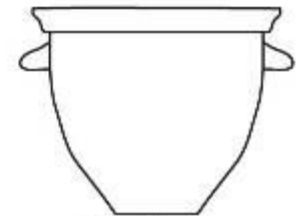
olpe



volute krater



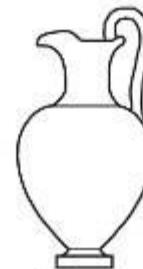
calyx krater



bell krater



lekythos



oinochoe



kantharos

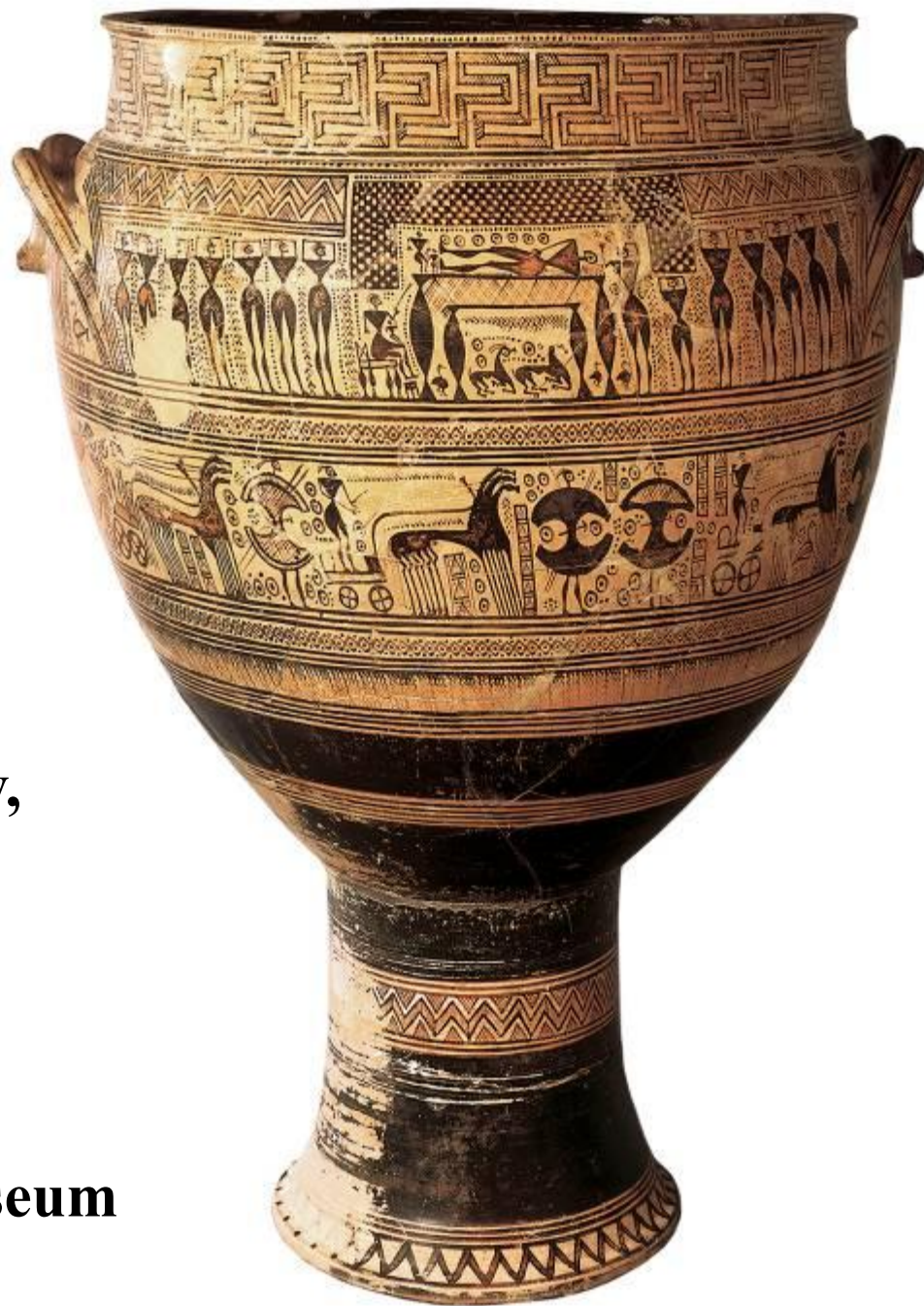


kylix

GEOMETRIC PERIOD

- ◆ Dipylon Vase, 750 BCE
- ◆ Humans are depicted as part of the narrative, which tells the story of an important person's funeral
- ◆ On the top REGISTER, the body of the deceased is placed on a high platform, surrounded by the grieving, tearing out their hair





*Funerary Vase **

(Krater)

Dipylon Cemetery,
Athens

c. 750-700 BCE

42 5/8"

Metropolitan Museum
Of Art

Funerary Vase

- Tells the story of a funerary rituals—new practice of cremation for an important person
- Males and females stand on each side “tearing their hair out”
- At the bottom is a procession
- Lots of shapes=Geometric period (triangles, dots, etc)—flat patterns and outlines
- Greek funerary art differs from Egypt—shows personal grief of those left behind
- Greek concept of death=mystery

ORIENTALIZING PERIOD

- ◆ Corinthian OLPE, 600 BCE
- ◆ Orientalizing means borrowing MOTIFS from the Near East, Asia Minor and Egypt
- ◆ This OLPE, large mouthed pitcher, shows this style in the large mythical beasts silhouetted against a plain background dotted with stylized flower forms called ROSETTES
- ◆ This is an example of BLACK FIGURE art





Pitcher (olpe)*

From Corinth

c. 600 BCE

Ceramic with black-figure decoration

11 1/2"

**British Museum,
London**

- Orientalizing began in Corinth
- Olpe=wide-mouthed pitcher
- Registers
- Rosettes (stylized flower forms)
- Cream color is natural clay color
- Artist incised details and added white or reddish purple gloss to enhance the design

GREEK PAINTED VASES



◆ The three main types were:

- ◆ BLACK-FIGURE
- ◆ RED-FIGURE, and
- ◆ WHITE-FIGURE

GREEK VASE PAINTING

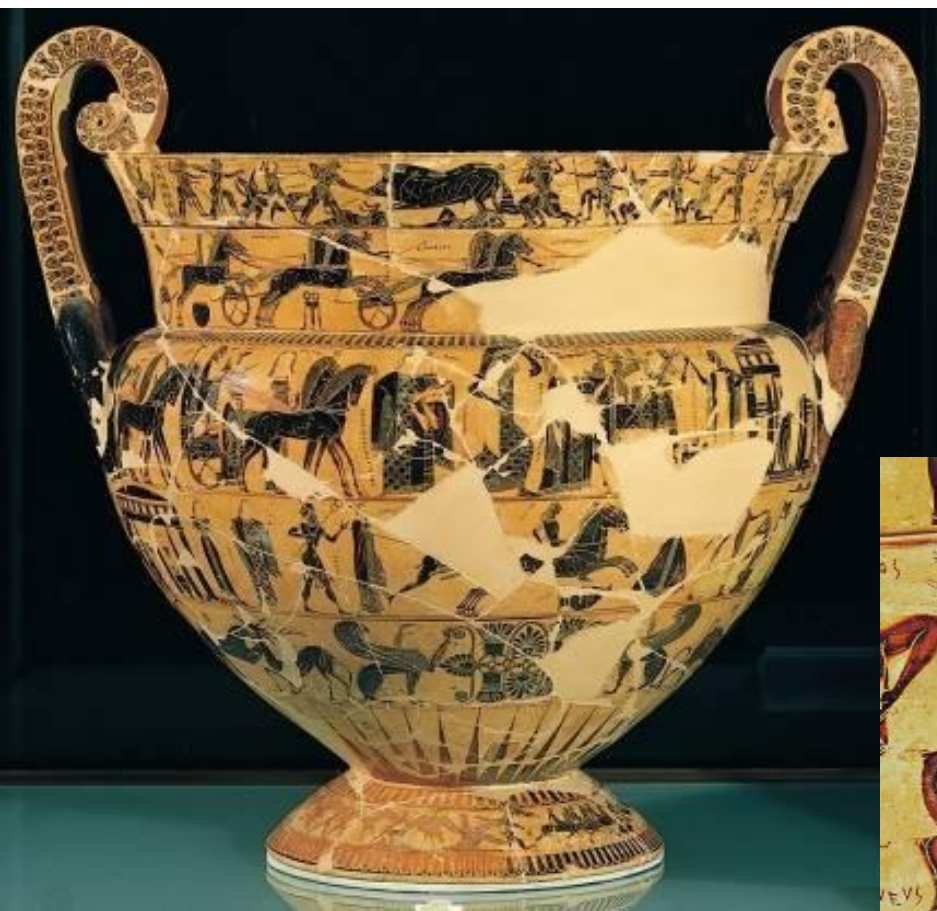


- ◆ The artists who created these vases were both skilled painters and highly trained ceramic technicians
- ◆ To create their work they didn't just paint designs on a finished clay vessel, but rather mastered a complex procedure involving specially prepared SLIPS (mixtures of clay and water), and a precise firing process in a kiln to reduce the amount of oxygen

ARCHAIC VASE PAINTING



- ◆ What differences do you see between the DYPLON VASE (right), from the Geometric Period and the FRANCOIS VASE (left), from the Archaic Period?



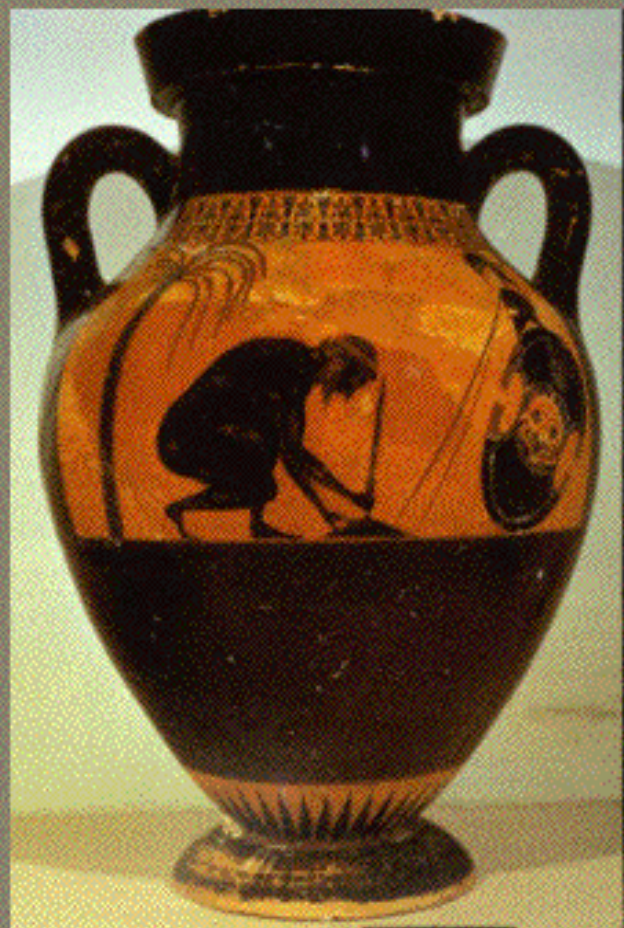
KLEITIAS and ERGOTIMOS, *François Vase* (Athenian black-figure volute krater), from Chiusi, Italy, ca. 570 BCE. General view (*top*) and detail of centauromachy on other side of vase (*bottom*). 2' 2" high. Museo Archeologico, Florence.

ARCHAIC VASE PAINTING

- ◆ The FRANCOIS VASE is a transitional work containing elements of the Geometric and the Orientalizing periods
- ◆ It contains about 200 human and animal figures and tells a mythological story
- ◆ It is one of the earliest works signed by both the potter and the painter



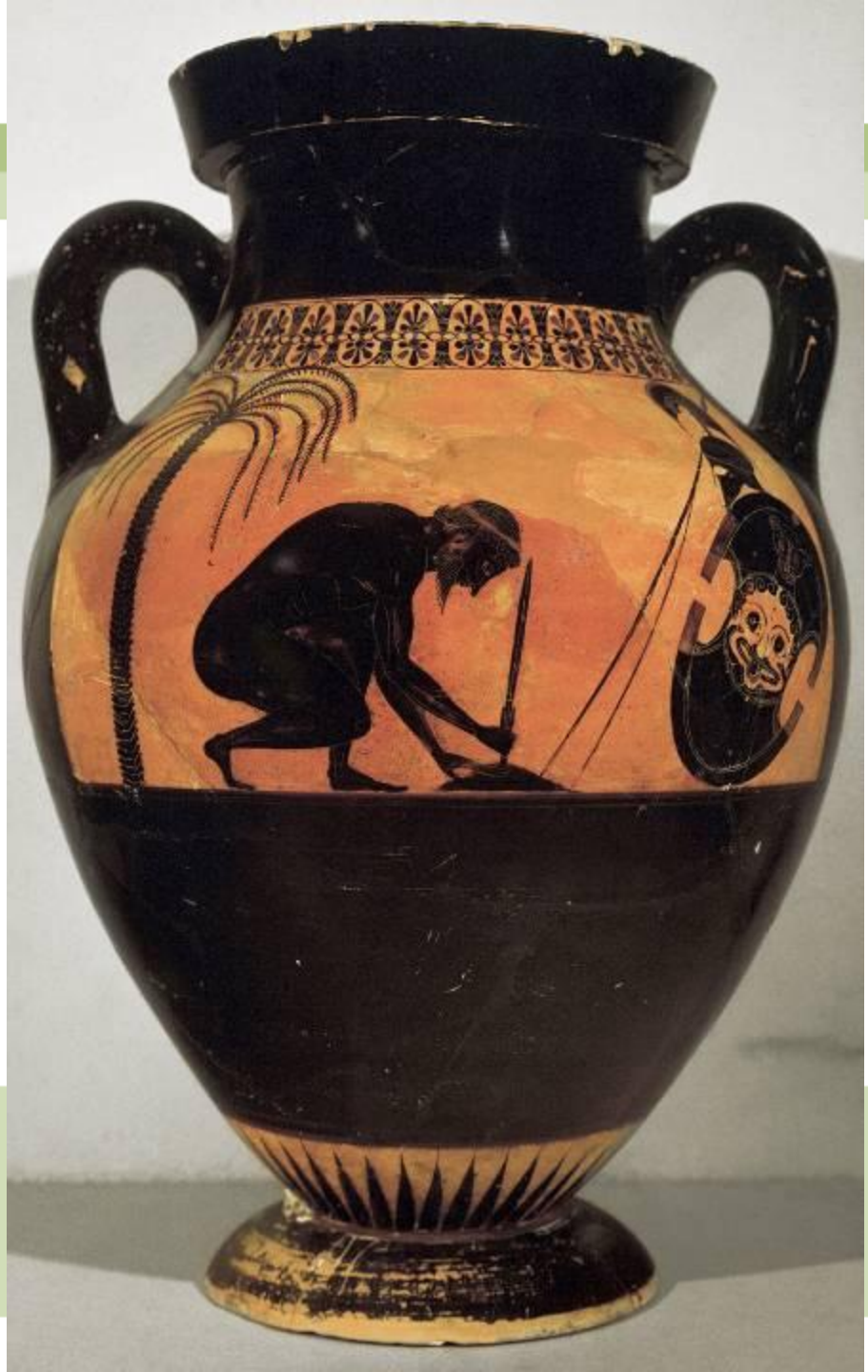
ARCHAIC VASE PAINTING



- ◆ *The Suicide of Ajax*, Exekias, 540 BCE, Amphora
- ◆ Exekias is known for how well he matches composition to vessel shape
- ◆ Quiet beauty and perfect balance is achieved with the composition: two upright elements frame Ajax, the curve of both echoing the curve of his back, the whole focus on the dangerous proximity of his head and the blade

BLACK FIGURE VASE PAINTING

The Suicide of Ajax*
By Exekias
c. 540 BCE
Black-figure decoration
on an amphora
Ceramic
27"
Chateau-Musee, France



- During the Archaic period, Athens becomes the center for pottery in Greece
- Registers slowly disappear and whole scenes dominate each side
- The artist, Exekias, is the finest potter & painter of the Archaic period—he signed it!

RED FIGURE VASE PAINTING



Death of Sarpedon* by Europhronios (painter) & Euxitheos (potter)

c. 515 BCE, Red figure decoration on a calyx krater

Ceramic, 18" H The Metropolitan Museum of Art

Death of Sarpedon

- Sarpedon: son of Zeus and mortal woman is killed by a warrior while fighting the Trojans
- Winged figures of Sleep and Death carry him while the god, Hermes, leads him to the underworld
- Horizontal bands work with composition
- foreshortening

- **Black-figure vase painting was very meticulous**
- **Began using new technique of red-figure: dark slip is painted on as a background around figures. Slip is used to draw details**
- **More painterly than engraving like Black-figure**

Classical Vases and Painting

- Painters painted large wooden panels that were displayed in public buildings; these are lost today
- Classical vases provide insight into possible elements of those panel paintings
- Examine polychromy and white-ground vase painting.
- Learn about Polygnotos, landscape painting, and mosaic copies of Greek painting.

White-figure pottery

- White-figure technique: chalky white clay slip used to provide a background for the painted figures
- A variation on red-figure
- Artist covers pot with white clay, then applies black glaze to outline the figures and color them in with brown, purple, red, and white
- Limited range of colors, so not used on every-day items

*Warrior taking leave of his wife**
(Athenian white-ground) by
ACHILLES PAINTER,
from Eretria, Greece,
ca. 440 BCE. Approx. 1' 5" high.
**National Archaeological Museum,
Athens.**

Lekythos: flask containing perfumed oil
usually found in Greek graves as
offerings

What's going on?

Not in textbook



Late Classical Period (4th century BCE)



GNOSIS, *Stag hunt* *

from Pella, Greece, ca. 300 BCE. Pebble mosaic, figural panel 10' 2'' high.
Archaeological Museum, Pella.



Battle of Issos *by Philoxenos of Eeretria or Helen of Egypt, ca. 310 BCE. Roman copy (*Alexander Mosaic*) from the House of the Faun, Pompeii, Italy, late second or early first century BCE. Tessera mosaic, approx. 8' 10" X 16' 9". Museo Archeologico Nazionale, Naples.