

LLI– Ancient Aegean Civilizations
Winter 2024 - Wednesdays, 10 – 11:30, January 17 & 24
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Three different civilizations flourished in the Aegean Sea prior to the rise of the Greeks. Only abstract marble statues remain from the Cycladic period. The Minoan culture on the island of Crete was more extensive with the construction of large rambling palaces with frescoed walls. Existing for much of the same time, the Mycenaeans were based in fortified citadels on the Greek mainland. They also built beehive tombs. The art of the last two groups shares many characteristics. We'll examine work from the Cycladic Islands and Crete in the first class. The second class we will finish our look at the Minoans and move on to the Mycenaeans.

Cycladic (c. 3300 – 1500 BC) – Cyclades Islands

Sculpture: Fiddle figures

Female idols

Male warrior, musicians

“Frying pan” pottery

Hedgehog vase

Minoan (c. 2000 – 1400 BC) – Crete + islands

Architecture: Palace at Knossos

Painting: Frescoes from Knossos Palace walls

Sarcophagus from Hagia Triada

Frescoes from Thera (Santorini) house walls

Pottery: Vases from Crete and Thera

Sculpture: Harvester vase

Bull-leaper

Snake Goddesses

Worshipper, Votive figures

Lioness, Bull head rhytons

Phaistos disk

Gold jewelry – Double axes, Bee pendant

Mycenaean (c. 1400 – 1100 BC) – Greek mainland, Crete and islands

Architecture: Tiryns, Mycenae – corbeling, megaron

Beehive tomb – Treasury of Atreus

Sculpture: Gold funerary masks

Vaphio cups

Two goddesses and child

Female head

Dagger blade

Boar tusk helmet

Pottery: Warriors vase

Some resources for more information:

Gardner's Art through the Ages

Higgins, Reynold: *Minoan and Mycenaean Art*

Lawrence, A.W.: *Greek Architecture*

Vasilakis, Andonis: *Minoan Crete*