
The Etruscans

Overview

Orientalizing 700-600 BCE

- The Etruscans emerge as a distinct artistic culture during the Villanovan period
- During the 7th century BCE, trade with Mesopotamia inspires the incorporation of monsters and other Orientalizing motifs in Etruscan funerary goods

Archaic 600-480 BCE

- The Etruscans construct temples of mud brick and wood, with columns and stairs only on the front and terracotta statuary on the roof
- At Cerveteri, the Etruscans bury their dead beneath huge earthen tumuli in multi-chambered tombs resembling houses
- Tarquinian tombs feature fresco paintings depicting banquets and funerary games

Classical and Hellenistic 480-89 BCE

- Etruscan artists excel in bronze casting, engraving mirrors and cistae, and carving stone sarcophagi
- Etruscan architects construct arcuated gateways, often with engaged columns or pilasters framing the arched passageway

MAP

DH Lawrence, "The Etruscans, as everyone knows, were the people who occupied the middle of Italy in early Roman days, and whom the Romans, in their usual neighborly fashion, wiped out entirely."

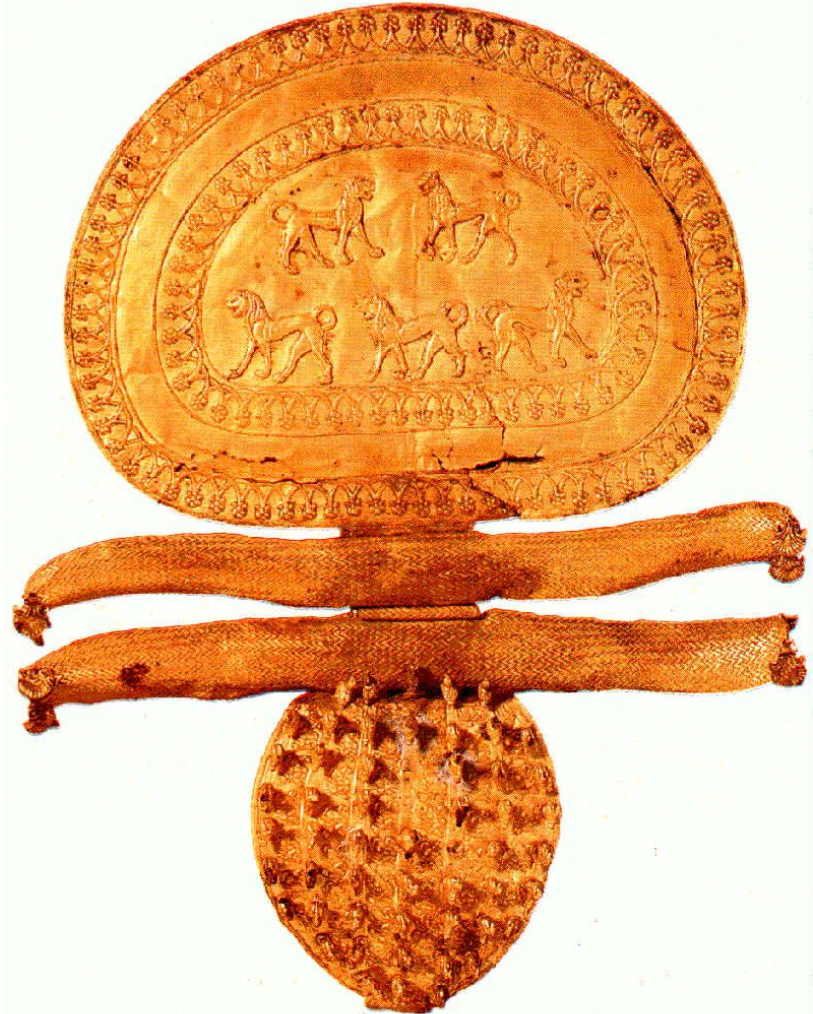
- Etruscans were not merely Greco copycats, in fact no one knows where they originated from, their language does not relate to Greek, historians believe that the Etruscans originated from the north in continental Europe
- During the 7th century BCE, as skilled seafarers, they began their own Orientalizing period, with ports of power being Tarquinii, Cerveteri, Vulci, and Veii.



Orientalizing Art

Fibula with orientalizing lions, from the Regolini Galassi Tomb, Italy, 650 BCE

- Ornate jewelry object like a safety pin, designed to fasten a woman's gown to her shoulder.
- Lion motif emulates eastern imports. Lions aren't in Italy
- A process combining Repousse and Granulation, fusing tiny metal balls, or granules to a metal surface.
- <https://youtu.be/5ffXusfwnag>
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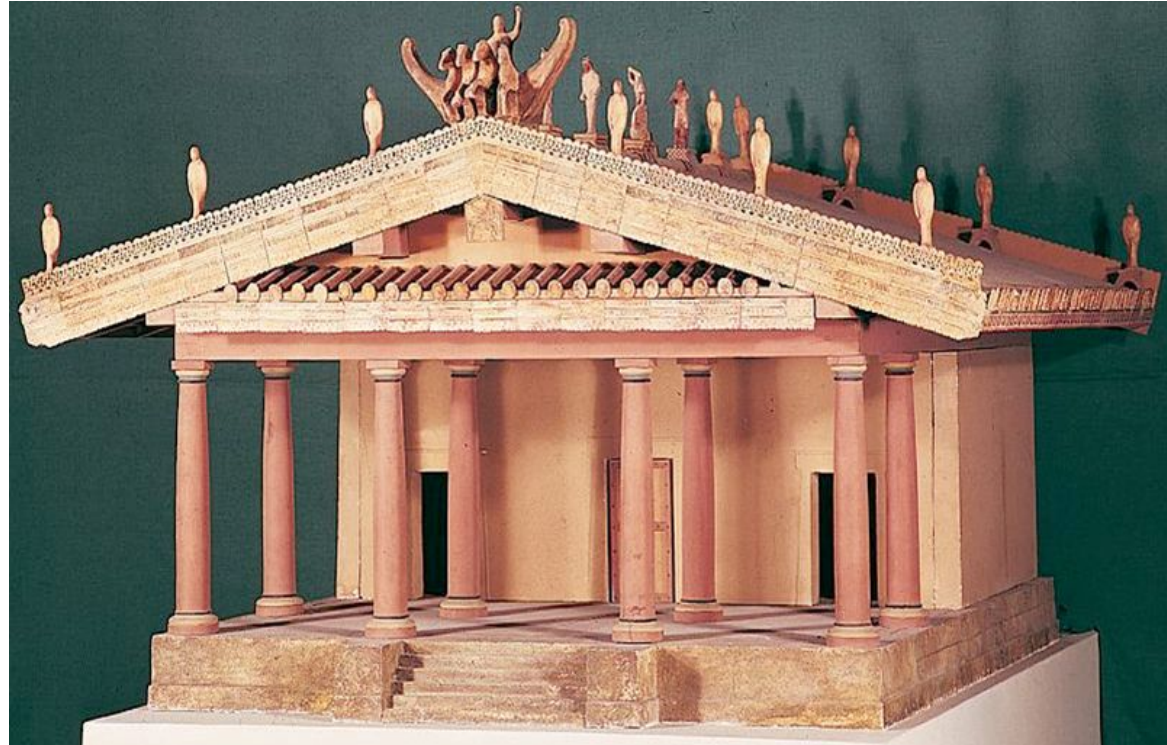


Orientalizing Art

Etruscan Temples.

Model of typical etruscan temple.

- Wood instead of stone.
- Greek Temples were typically twice as wide
- Walls of sun dried mud brick
- Ratio was 6:5
- Front was distinguishable from the back, creating a large porch
- Building had steps at the front and were viewed from one view, Greek temples were entered from all directions
- Etruscan columns resemble greek doric order columns



Orientalizing Art

Apulu (Apollo of Veii), from the roof of the Portonaccio temple, Veii, Italy
510 BCE

- found on a temple ridgepole, or beam running the length the roof ridge.
- reminiscent of classical greek garment drapery but handled in a more stylized “etruscan” manner.
- https://youtu.be/GLgrt_4WnMY
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Orientalizing Art

https://youtu.be/XmirNCA_Lj4

- Terracotta sculpture, same as the temple ridgepole sculptures.
- Sarcophagus with reclining couple 520 BCE
- Burnished while leather hard
- 4 pieces so that it could be fired in a kiln
- Not optical representation more stylized
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Orientalizing Art

Tumuli in the Banditaccia Necropolis,
Cerveteri, Italy 600 BCE

- Tombs
- Accommodate multiple generations of a single family
- Etruscans created elaborate interior of tombs by gouging the burial chambers out of the bedrock.
- House like, they connect the Etruscan house of the dead and the house of the living.
- The 3 headed dog Cerberus is the guardian of the gate to the underworld.



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Orientalizing Art

Interior of the tomb of the Augurs,
520 BCE

- Frescos
- Interested in problems of foreshortening like greeks of the same period.
- Buon Fresco



Orientalizing Art

Tomb of the Leopards, Tarquinia,
Italy 480 BCE

- one of the thousands of laborously carved underground tombs
- This illustrates the complexity of Etruscan civilization, when in comparison, Greeks were burying their dead in simple graves with a simple marker



Orientalizing Art

Tomb of hunting and fishing, 530 BCE

- Etruscans enjoying the pleasures of nature decorate the walls of this tomb
- Similar to Egyptian frescos



Classical Etruscan Art

Capitoline Wolf, Rome 500 BCE
Bronze.

Romulus and Remus were nursed as
abandoned infants by a wolf, They
quarled when they grew up.
Romulus killed Remus, Romulus
eventually founded Rome, April, 21
753 BCE.



Classical Etruscan Art

Chimera of Arezzo, 400 BCE

- This bronze cast was a votive offering
- Chimera was a greek monster with a lion head and serpent's tail
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Hellenistic Art, Rise of Rome

Ficorone Cista, 400 BCE

Cista, a cylindrical container for a woman's toiletry articles.

The frieze depicts an episode from the Greek story of the expedition of the Argonauts, the ship Argo.

Made of Bronze, there were made in large quantities, sheet bronze with cast handles and claw feet.



Hellenistic Art, Rise of Rome

Porta Marzia, Perugia, Italy 200 BCE

Etruscans of Perugia formed an alliance with Rome and were spared the destruction of cities like Veii and Cerveteri.

- Some of the ancient walls stand like this one, Porta Marzia
- Voussoirs are held in place by trapezoidal stones are held together by pressing against one another, with the top Voussoir, (keystone), holding the entire arch in place.
- The arch was in other civilizations, but was the main, and perfected form of architecture under the Etruscans and Romans



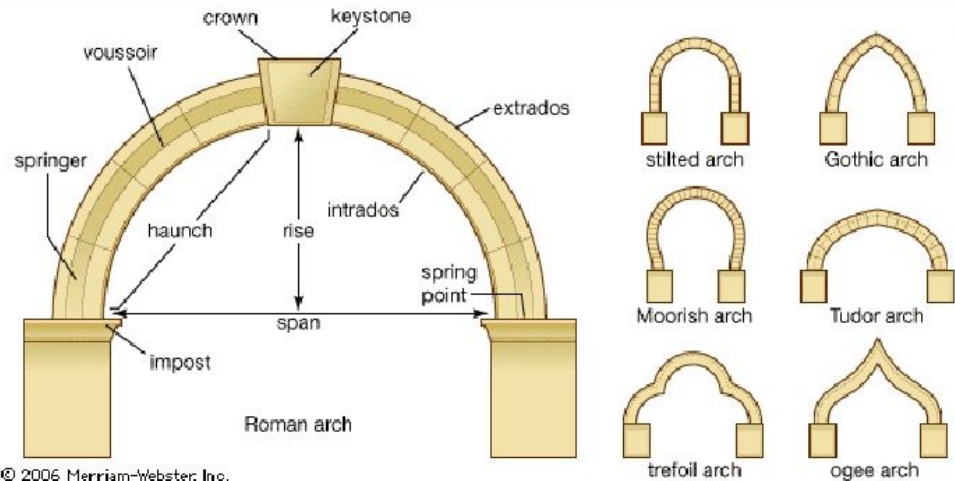
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Anatomy of the Arch



Hellenistic Art, Rise of Rome

Sarcophagus of Lars Pulena, 300 BCE

- More serious than the Archaic counterparts, the reclining couple, the etruscan death demons are swinging hammers



Hellenistic Art, Rise of Rome

Sarcophagus of Ramtha Visnai and Arnth Tetnies, 350 BCE

- The bottom of both sarcophagi depict a scene that signifies the deceased successful arrival to the afterlife
- Greater realism in the couple, laying in bed together.
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Hellenistic Art, Rise of Rome

Aule Metele 100 BCE, Italy.

- Bronze produced for an Etruscan patron, Aule Metele.
- depicts the patron raising his hand to address a crowd.
- This work shows that etruscans still were masters of bronze casting despite the dominance of rome at the time
- Social War ended 89 BCE with the conferring of all Roman citizenship on all of Italy's inhabitants. Shows a mixing of dress styles, showing a culture being enveloped by roman rule

