

Greek Influence

Student 3: Low Merit

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The Trojan War was one that the Greeks are proud to display as their history, culture as it showed their dominance as they won the mighty war. The Trojan War is a well known story throughout Greece and the rest of the classical world. This is because the story shows the Greeks in a good light and thus makes the story popular and this continues and flourishes through to the Roman and Renaissance era of artwork. So to have Vases and Paintings of the war, word of the stories would have circulated around Greece and the triumph they had to be recorded by vases like many that have still survived till today. Many vases depict the stories and characters of the war (as shown above in task 1 and many more). It is important to know that war was a common part of everyday life in Ancient Greece. The fact that war was also around in a day to day life in Athens. It made images of such mythological battles like the Trojan War easy to create as it surrounds painters endlessly. Current events played a big part in creating so much artwork's especially the Trojan War. The Persians in the east had invaded Greece at around 490-470BC so the win over Troy was a big feat for the Greeks as it showed that they have taken a big step in the war of the east as troy was seen to have been form the East.

Roman Influence

Roman Artist valued the work of that of Ancient Greece and to a point where their works were copied, like how the Roman Sarcophagus, is very similar to that of the Makron Skyphos. The Roman Sarcophagus uses the same concept as the Greek Vase as is uses a line of figures all in a row (that are of similar height and simple facial expressions) to tell or depict the story of the abduction of Helen. This shows that the Greek artists were regarded very highly by the Romans. As time grew on and the rise to power of Rome grew stronger than that of Greece's, a lot of their culture was used in the Roman society. Pieces of art were taken back to Rome where it was seen by the wealthy. Many statues and wall paintings were copied by Roman artists. A lot of these pieces depicted scenes from the Trojan War, this meant that the myth was carried on into Roman culture and had a massive influence on Roman artworks, as the battle of troy is also the foundations, history and the beginnings of Rome. The Aeneid (a series of books written by Virgil) concludes that the founders of Rome were the descendants of Troy. Aeneas fled Troy with its people (as depicted in many artworks like a scene off the Kleophrades Painter Hydria "The flight of Aeneas") and travelled out to Italy and settled. His grandsons Romulus and Remus would find the city of Rome and its people. The people became fascinated with the book, because it taught them of their origins and wear they came from and I think this is an important factor and the reason why they had a lasting influence of the myth. Another reason Romans depicted the battle of Troy is that many of Roman art forms, were developed from techniques and idea's that they learnt from the Greeks and then improved on onto different media such as transporting the artworks from ancient Greek Vases onto Wall Paintings (like the Roman Wall Painting from Pompeii), and even on statues like the Roman Sarcophagus. On the Note of Pompeii, the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius in 79 AD led to the burying and destruction of the Roman cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum. Even if the Artworks survived, citizens and probably looters undertook salvage work after the destructions, which meant that a lot of the Artworks (including and not including Artworks depicting the myth) had been stolen, so very few have survived.

Renaissance Influence

The Renaissance Period was a cultural movement that spanned the period roughly from the 14th to the 17th century, beginning in Italy in the Late Middle Ages and later spreading to the rest of Europe. Renaissance means or translates to "rebirth or reborn". Though what is it a rebirth of? It is a rebirth of their ancestry and to go back to when times were better, when their ancestry had once ruled the majority of Europe and the East as there Empire had once claimed.

A lot had changed from the classical period to that of Renaissance Era, the speed, at which artworks were made had changed, with the invention of the printing press, which sped the production of Artworks up because during the Renaissance period, money and art went hand in hand. So to get large amounts of money, more paintings had to be created and that's what the printing press was for, to build on ones wealth.

Now in terms of, why they would continue with the myth of the Battle of Troy? Though it was understandable why the ancient Greeks and the Romans painted the war but why did the Renaissance Era do it? There are many major differences like, in the renaissance period there is a whole new time period (the Greeks and the Romans at least followed after each other) and where other countries dominate the world, lifestyle, politics and society have all changed as well. A new concept that had occurred during the Renaissance era was the idea of Humanism. In some ways Humanism was not a study of philosophy, but rather a method of learning. The

impact of humanism on the arts was enormous. With the paintings before Renaissance Art, they had would have primarily been religious. It was concerned not with the naturalistic portrayal of human life, but primarily with provoking a religious reaction in the viewer. Painters were not interested in making a picture "realistic" they didn't use perspective. The more important figures in the painting were frequently made larger than all the others, and often the element of landscape was left out completely.

- 2 During the Renaissance, all that changed. The period had a renewed interest in ancient Greek and Roman design and included an emphasis on human beings and the environment. This can be seen in the Agostino Carracci Engraving of "the flight of Aeneas".
- 1 The environment/ background in it self is highly detailed. We can see a column which may represent Trajan's column, and we can see a circular building with a domed roof. The domed roof is definitely a Roman invention, like the domed roof of the Pantheon. The thing that breaks it apart from other time period Art is the extent and depth of its devotion to Classical Antiquity. Renaissance art demonstrates how the search for the idealisation of form itself can be a spiritual exercise, making the viewer have a sense of the perfection and flawlessness when looking at the artwork (again just like Agostino Carracci Engraving, the muscles look perfect, toned, defined in Aeneas, his father and his son, even his wife Creusa looks flawless with a majestic pose even while running).
- 3 The rediscovery of classical art that built up human beauty and emphasised individual differences had a deep effect on painters of the Renaissance. For example,
- 1 the discovery of the statue of Laocoon and his two sons entwined with the sea monsters. The incredible musculature seen by Renaissance artists on this statue was then copied in their paintings – hence the highly defined musculature of Aeneas' father, Anchises, even though he is meant to be lame.
- 2 The Battle of Troy was one Famous myth that these people wanted to depict and it gave the myth a much needed boost to communicate their ancestry to those who have lost where they were from. It helped families such as the Medici in Florence establish their reputation as lovers of the arts and showed their education through their knowledge of the classical works such as the Iliad.