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0521846145 - The Invention of Art History in Ancient Greece: Religion, Society and Artistic Rationalisation

Jeremy Tanner

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The Invention of Art History in Ancient Greece

The ancient Greeks developed their own very specific ethos of art appreciation, advocating a rational involvement with art. This book explores why the ancient Greeks started to write art history and how the writing of art history transformed the social functions of art in the Greek world. It looks at the invention of the genre of portraiture, and the social uses to which portraits were put in the city state. Later chapters explore how artists sought to enhance their status by writing theoretical treatises and producing works of art intended for purely aesthetic contemplation, which ultimately gave rise to the writing of art history and to the development of art collecting. The study, which is illustrated throughout and draws on contemporary perspectives in the sociology of art, will prompt the student of classical art to rethink fundamental assumptions about Greek art and its cultural and social implications.

JEREMY TANNER is Lecturer in Greek and Roman Art at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London. He is the author of *The Sociology of Art: A Reader* (2003).

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[More information](#)

To my father

CONTENTS

<i>List of illustrations</i>	page ix
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	xiii
<i>List of abbreviations</i>	xv
1 Introduction: art and society in classical art history	1
Greek art, the idea of freedom, and the creation of modern high culture	1
Greek art <i>sans miracle</i> : Max Weber, Talcott Parsons and the historical sociology of Greek art	12
Summary	29
2 Rethinking the Greek revolution: art and aura in an age of enchantment	31
The Greek revolution	31
Viewing and religious experience in ancient Greece	40
Art and aura in archaic Greece: aristocratic elites and the appropriation of the sacred	55
Art and aura in classical Greece: naturalism, ritual interaction and aesthetic experience	67
3 Portraits and society in classical Greece	97
Introduction: forms and concepts of portraiture	97
Portraits and exchange in classical Athens	109
Evaluating portraits: social structure, aesthetic judgement and the civic body	116
Portraits and society: some causes and consequences of artistic change	134
4 Culture, social structure and artistic agency in classical Greece	141
Introduction: primitivists, modernisers and the problem of the artist in classical art history	141
The artist and the polis	149
Art and cultural rationalisation in classical Greece	158
Tradition, innovation and artistic agency in classical Greece	182
Art and intellect in classical Greece	191
Culture, social structure and the limits of artistic rationalisation in classical Greece	201

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Frontmatter
[More information](#)

CONTENTS

5	Reasonable ways of looking at pictures: high culture in Hellenistic Greece and the Roman empire	205
	Introduction: art as an autonomous province of meaning	205
	Courts, cultural organisations and collecting: Pergamon, Alexandria and the invention of art history	212
	A natural history: Pliny’s story of Greek art	235
	Reasonable ways of looking at pictures	246
	The rhetoric of display	264
	Conclusion	276
6	Epilogue: art after art history	277
	Introduction: copying and creation in post-classical art	277
	Art and agency in post-classical Greece	279
	Conclusion: the ancient system of the arts	301
	<i>References</i>	303
	<i>Index</i>	325

ILLUSTRATIONS

1.1	L. Alma Tadema. <i>Pheidias Showing the Frieze of the Parthenon to his Friends</i> . 1868. Photo: Birmingham Museums and Art Gallery.	page 2
1.2	L. Alma Tadema. <i>Un Amateur Romain</i> . 1868. Photo: Glasgow Museums: Art Gallery and Museum, Kelvingrove.	4
1.3	Apollo Belvedere. Roman Copy. Original <i>c.</i> 330 BC. Vatican Museum. Photo: Alinari 6502.	7
2.1	Tenea ‘Apollo’. Munich, Glyptothek, <i>c.</i> 550 BC. After von Reber and Bayersdorfer, 1898, pl. 457.	32
2.2	Apollo from the Piraeus, <i>c.</i> 530–510. Bronze. Photo: Hirmer 654.1835.	33
2.3	Apollo Patroos, by Euphranor. Roman copy, original <i>c.</i> 340–330. Vatican. Photo: Alinari 26936.	34
2.4	Statuette of Athena Alea from Tegea, <i>c.</i> 525–500. Possibly after the cult statue by Endoios. Photo: DAI, Athens. Neg. NM 6121.	35
2.5	Antenor’s Kore. Kore 681, from the Athenian Akropolis, <i>c.</i> 520 BC. Photo: Alinari 24654.	36
2.6	Velletri Athena. Roman copy of a Greek cult statue by Alkamenes, <i>c.</i> 420–410 BC. Paris 464. Photo: © RMN, Hervé Lewandowski.	37
2.7	Cult group by Alkamenes from the Hephaisteion in Athens: Athena and Hephaistos, <i>c.</i> 420–410 BC. Harrison’s reconstruction. After E. B. Harrison (1977) 140, illus. 2.	38
2.8a	Artemis Laphria from Kalydon, by Menaichmos and Soidas, mid fifth century BC. BMC Patrae 38. Date of coin second century AD. Photo: Copyright The British Museum.	44
2.8b	Dionysos of Methymna, coin from Antissa, third century BC. BMC Antissa 1. Photo: Copyright The British Museum.	44
2.8c	Zeus of Aigion, by Hageladas, <i>c.</i> 500 BC, on a coin of the mid second century AD. BMC Aegium 1. Photo: Copyright The British Museum.	44
2.8d	Hermes Kriophoros (Ram-bearer) from Tanagra, by Kalamis, on coin of the Roman Imperial Period. BM 1975.5–198–1. Photo: Copyright The British Museum.	44

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

2.9	Bronze statuette, possibly after the Ismenian Apollo from Thebes, by Kanachos, original <i>c.</i> 500 BC. Photo: Copyright The British Museum.	59
2.10	Moschophoros (Calf-bearer), dedicated by [Rh]onbos, from the Athenian Akropolis, <i>c.</i> 560 BC. Photo: Alison Frantz Archive, American School of Classical Studies, Athens: AT 131.	61
2.11	Kleobis and Biton, kouroi, <i>c.</i> 580 BC; Delphi Museum. Photo: DAI, Athens. Neg. 81.639/40.	64
2.12	Bronze mirror-handle, Aphrodite flanked by Erotes, possibly from Aigina, <i>c.</i> 500 BC. Boston Museum of Fine Arts. Henry Lillie Pierce Fund. Photo: Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. All rights reserved.	73
2.13	Artemis from Gabii. Roman copy, after Greek statue <i>c.</i> 340 BC. Photo: Alinari: 22583.	76
2.14	Small Piraeus Artemis, <i>c.</i> 340–320 BC. Piraeus Museum 4648. Photo: 2nd Ephoreia of Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities, Athens.	77
2.15	Aphrodite of Fréjus, Roman copy after Greek statue of <i>c.</i> 410 BC, possibly by Alkamenes. Louvre. Alinari 22752.	78
2.16	Votive relief from Brauron, offerings to Leto and Artemis, second half of fourth century BC. Brauron Museum 1152.	79
2.17	Artemis of Versailles. Louvre, MA 589. Roman copy after a fourth-century Greek statue attributed to Leochares. Photo: Alinari 22584.	80
2.18	Aphrodite of Daphni. Roman copy after Greek original of late fifth century BC, by Agorakritos. Louvre MA 414. © RMN, Gérard Blot.	81
2.19	Great Eleusis Relief: Demeter, Triptolemos and Persephone, <i>c.</i> 420 BC. Athens, National Museum. Photo: Alinari 24263.	82
2.20	Votive relief from Eleusis, sacrifice to Demeter and Kore, fourth century BC. Louvre, MA 752. Photo: after Rizzo Prassitele (1932) plate CLI.	83
2.21	Drawing of votive relief, dedicated by the son of Theagenes, from Daphni. After <i>Antike Plastik</i> 8 (1969) 24, fig. 1.	86
3.1	Herm of Themistokles, Roman copy after Greek statue, <i>c.</i> 470 BC. Ostia. Photos: (a) DAI, Rome. Neg. 66.2295; (b) DAI, Rome. Neg. 63.2356.	98
3.2	Pindar. Roman herm, copy after Greek statue of <i>c.</i> 450 BC. Museo Capitolino, Rome. Archivio Fotografico dei Musei Capitolini.	99

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

3.3	The Tyrannicides, Harmodios and Aristogeiton, Roman copy after bronze statues by Kritios and Nesiotes, <i>c.</i> 477/76 BC. Naples. Photo: Alinari 44825.	101
3.4	Bust of Perikles after statue probably by Kresilas, <i>c.</i> 425 BC. Photo: Copyright British Museum.	102
3.5	Athenian General (the 'Pastoret' head), probably Konon. Roman copy after Greek statue <i>c.</i> 400–375 BC. Copenhagen. Photo: Glyptothek, Copenhagen.	102
3.6	Portrait of a general, 'Berlin-Ephesos type', Roman copy after Greek statue of <i>c.</i> 390–370 BC. Photo: Berlin, Pergamon Museum.	103
3.7	Athlete crowning himself. 'The Westmacott boy'. Roman copy after Greek statue <i>c.</i> 450–20 BC, probably by Polykleitos. London, British Museum. Photo: Copyright The British Museum.	118
3.8	Attic funerary stele of Chairedemos and Lykeas, from Salamis, <i>c.</i> 410 BC. Photo: DAI, Athens. Neg. 204.	119
3.9	Bronze statuette, possibly after a classical statue of a general of the late fifth/early fourth century BC. Wadsworth Athenaeum, Hartford. Gift of J. Pierpoint Morgan. Photo: Museum.	120
3.10	Left-face of base of Chabrias portrait statue, <i>c.</i> 370 BC. After Burnett and Edmondson, in <i>Hesperia</i> 30 (1961) 77, fig. 1.	123
3.11	Roman portrait bust of Philip of Macedon, after Greek statue of the late fourth century BC. Ny Carlsberg Glyptothek, Copenhagen. Photo: Museum.	130
3.12	Portrait bust of Plato, Roman copy after Greek statue dated <i>c.</i> 360 BC. Vatican, Sale delle Muse. Photo: Anderson/Alinari 23856.	132
4.1	Base for statue of the athlete Pythokles, with the signature of Polykleitos. Late fifth century BC. Black limestone. After <i>IVO</i> , p. 282, nos. 162–3.	154
4.2	Drawing after statue base signed by Praxiteles, <i>c.</i> 350 BC. After <i>Hesperia</i> 6 (1937) 340, fig. 6.	155
4.3	Doryphoros. Roman copy after Greek statue by Polykleitos, <i>c.</i> 440 BC. Naples. Photo: DAI, Rome. Neg. 69.635.	163
4.4	Stag-hunt mosaic, Pella. Late fourth century BC. Photo: © Archaeological Receipts Fund.	171
4.5	Roman marble relief after bronze statue of Kairos by Lysippos, original second half of fourth century BC. Source: DAI, Rome. Neg. 1930.236.	181
4.6	Attic red-figure cup by the Codros painter; deeds of Theseus; <i>c.</i> 450–440 BC. British Museum, GR 1850–3.2–3, vase E84. Photo: Copyright The British Museum.	185

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

4.7a	Friezes from the Hephaisteion: (a) East frieze – Theseus against the Pallantids; (b) West frieze – Theseus against the centaurs; c. 430 BC. Photo: Agora Excavations LXII.4 (Slab 4), xxxviii.24 (Slab 3). American School of Classical Studies, Athens.	186
4.8	Apollo Sauroktonos, Roman copy after statue by Praxiteles; date of original c. 350 BC. Paris, Louvre. Photo: Alinari 22548.	189
5.1	Statue bases from the Villa Matthaiei, Rome; after <i>IGB</i> 481–5.	207
5.2	Bases for portrait statues by Lysikles, Phradmon and Phyromachos; from Ostia, c. first century BC. Photo: Archivio Fotografico della Soprintendenza per i beni archeologici di Ostia.	208
5.3	Base for statue of Pythokles by Polykleitos, from Rome, c. first century AD. Photo: after <i>Bulletino Comunale</i> (1891), tav. X.1.	209
5.4	Statue bases from the sanctuary of Athena Nikephoros, Pergamon, late third/early second century BC – for statues by Onatas, Theron and Silanion, captured as booty from Aigina and Oreos. Drawing: after <i>Inscripfen von Pergamon</i> (1890), nos. 48–50.	223
5.5a and b	Statue bases from the sanctuary of Athena Nikephoros, Pergamon, early second century BC, for statues by Myron, Praxiteles and another (<i>IVP</i> 135–7), and by Xenokrates (<i>IVP</i> 138). Drawings: after <i>Inscripfen von Pergamon</i> (1890), nos. 135–8.	225
5.6	Reconstruction of the Propylon to the sanctuary of Athena Nikephoros, Pergamon, c. 170 BC. Pergamon Museum, Berlin. Photo: Museum.	227
5.7	Plan of the sanctuary of Athena Nikephoros, Pergamon. After <i>Altertümer von Pergamon</i> , vol. II: <i>Das Heiligtum der Athena Polias Nikephoros</i> , taf. XL.	229
5.8	Athena Parthenos, from the sanctuary of Athena Nikephoros, Pergamon. Hellenistic copy after Pheidias’ Athena Parthenos. Date of copy, c. 190 BC. Berlin. Photo: Bildarchiv Preussischer Kulturbesitz, 2004.	230
5.9	‘Cubiculum’ of the Villa Farnesina, <i>pinakothekē</i> . Late first century BC. Photo: Anderson/Alinari 2937.	268
5.10	Detail of figure 5.9. White-ground painting. Photo: DAI, Rome. Neg. 77.1380	269
6.1	San Ildefonso Group, late first century BC. Photo: Hirmer 644.1053.	290
6.2	‘Orestes and Electra’, group made up from Stephanos Athlete and Aphrodite of Fréjus, c. 50–25 BC. Photo: Anderson/Alinari 23083.	291
6.3	Sarcophagus, Phaidra and Hippolytos. Louvre, Paris. Photo: DAI, Rome. Neg. 72.1327.	293

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

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[More information](#)

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ABBREVIATIONS

Abbreviations in references to primary sources and standard works of reference for classical studies follow *The Oxford Classical Dictionary*, 3rd edition, 1996, ed. Simon Hornblower and Antony Spawforth, Clarendon Press, Oxford. The following abbreviations are also used:

- IGB E. Loewy, *Inschriften griechischer Bildhauer*. Leipzig, B. G. Teubner, 1985.
IVP M. Fränkel (ed.), *Die Inschriften von Pergamum*. Altertümer von Pergamon VIII. 2 vols. Berlin, W. Spemann, 1890.
SQ J. Overbeck, *Die antiken Schriftquellen zur Geschichte der bildenden Künste bei den Griechen*. Leipzig, Wilhelm Engemann, 1868.