

AEGEAN BRONZE AGE ART

How do we interpret ancient art created before written texts? Scholars usually put ancient art into conversation with ancient texts in order to interpret its meaning. But for earlier periods, without texts, such as the Bronze Age Aegean, this method is redundant. Using cutting-edge theory from art history, archaeology and anthropology, Carl Knappett offers a new approach to this problem by identifying distinct actions – such as modelling, combining and imprinting – whereby meaning is scaffolded through the materials themselves. By showing how these actions work in the context of specific bodies of material, Knappett brings to life the fascinating art of Minoan Crete and surrounding areas in novel ways. With a special focus on how creativity manifests itself in these processes, he makes an argument for not just how creativity emerges through specific material engagements but also why creativity might be especially valued at particular moments.

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MEANING IN THE MAKING

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CHRONOLOGICAL TABLE

Period	Crete	Cyclades	Mainland	Cretan Palatial period	Absolute Dates BC
EBA	EM I	EC I	EH I	Prepalatial	3100–2650
	EM II	EC II	EH II		2650–2200
	EM III	EC III	EH III		2200–2000
MBA	MM IA	MC	MH	Protopalatial	2000–1925
	MM IB				1925–1800
	MM II				1800–1700
LBA	MM III			Neopalatial	1700–1600
	LM IA	LC I	LH I		1600–1525
	LM IB		LH IIA		1525–1450
	LM II	LC II	LH IIB	Final Palatial	1450–1400
	LM IIIA	LC III	LH IIIA		1400–1325
	LM IIIB		LH IIIB	Postpalatial	1325–1200
	LM IIIC		LH IIIC		1200–1075

Terms Used
Late Neolithic = LN
Final Neolithic = FN
Early Bronze Age = EBA
Middle Bronze Age = MBA
Late Bronze Age = LBA
Early Minoan = EM
Middle Minoan = MM
Late Minoan = LM
Early Cycladic = EC
Middle Cycladic = MC
Late Cycladic = LC
Early Helladic = EH
Middle Helladic = MH
Late Helladic = LH
Prepalatial = EM1 to MM1A
Protopalatial = First Palace Period, or Old Palace Period
Neopalatial = Second Palace Period, or New Palace Period