

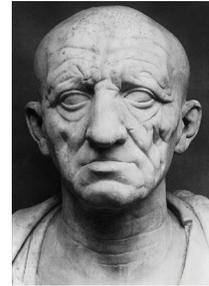
# ROMAN ART and ARCHITECTURE

Republican Period (509 BCE - 27 BCE)  
Imperial Period (27 BCE - 200 CE)  
Late Empire (193 CE - 237 CE)

**Appropriation:** "Captive Greece made Rome captive." - Horace (Roman poet) When the Romans captured the city-state confederation that was ancient Greece, they also became enamored with Greek culture and integrated it to their own. Soon Greek forms of art and statuary begin popping up in Roman culture. The Romans also co-opted their Gods so much that Mars/Ares, Jupiter/Zeus, Athena/Mercury, etc., became the same Gods.

**Pragmatism:** Where the greatest good and popular opinion established the standard of art  
**Propaganda:** Art and architecture in the service of Power and Authority of Republicanism and Imperialism

**Engineering:** New technological innovations in building including the arch, vault, dome, concrete



What is the FUNCTION of these art works?

Gardner's Art through the Ages: A Concise Global History

## CONTEXT

The art of **Etruria (Etruscan) and Rome is grounded in civic ideals and polytheism. Etruscan and Roman artists and architects accumulated and adapted Greek objects and forms to create buildings and artworks that appealed to their tastes for eclecticism and historicism** (social and cultural phenomena determined by history). **Etruscan art (700-100 BCE, Etruria) and ancient Roman art**, was produced in Europe and Western Asia from **753 BCE to 337 CE. Archaeological models and artworks are identified by periods based on stylistic changes and assigned to periods according to styles, governments, or dynasties (the Roman Republic). Etruscan art is considered as a single culture** (not the separate city-states Etruria was made up of). **Roman art includes art from the republican, early imperial, late imperial, and late antique periods**, using governmental structures and dynasties rather than stylistic characteristics. Etruscan and Roman artists and architects were influenced by earlier Mediterranean cultures. **Art from Etruscan and Roman periods is typified by stylistic and iconographical eclecticism and portraiture, expresses republican and imperial values, power, and a preference for conspicuous display.** Etruscan and Roman architecture are **characterized by investment in public structures** and Roman architecture **borrowed from the Greeks and Etruscans, and by technical innovation.** Roman art provides the foundation for the later development of European and Mediterranean artistic traditions. **Europeans and Americans admired ancient Roman ethical and governmental systems**, which contributed to prioritizing art and architecture **associated with political elites and cultural capitals** (Rome). Etruscan and Roman cultures had **a tradition of epic storytelling that glorified the exploits of gods, goddesses, and heroes.** They had a highly developed rhetorical tradition that prized public oratory and poetry. Religious rituals and future predictions were guided by oral traditions, not texts.

## ARTWORKS

### 39. House of the Vettii

- floor plan
- House of the Vettii frescoes (painting styles (1-4))

### 40. Alexander Mosaic from the House of Faun

### 42. Head of a Roman patrician

### 43 - Augustus of Prima Porta

### 44 - Colosseum (Flavian Amphitheatre)

### 45 - Forum of Trajan. reconstruction

- Restored interior view of Basilica Ulpia

- Trajan's Market

- Trajan's column

### 46. Pantheon

### 47. Ludovisi Battle Sarcophagus

### 181. Petra, Jordan: Treasury and Great Temple

#### Additional Images:

Roman Bearing the Busts of his Ancestors  
Pont du Gard, Nimes  
Maison Carree, Nimes  
Ara Pacis  
Basilica of Ulpia  
Equestrian Statue Marcus Aurelius  
Arch of Constantine, Rome

#### Advantages of concrete:

1. Less expensive (than stone)
2. Easier to build with (mixing)
3. Often stronger (tensile strength)
4. Larger structures can be built (especially height)
5. Greater variety and complexity of forms/spaces possible

## VOCABULARY:

clerestory  
engaged column  
dome  
voussoirs  
nave  
portico

apse  
arcade  
amphitheatre  
forum  
fresco  
illusionism

exedrae  
arch  
barrel vault  
basilica  
catacombs  
coffers

aisles  
longitudinal  
pilaster  
oculus  
veristic portraits  
travertine