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Submission date: 20-Jan-2021 04:26AM (UTC-0500)

Submission ID: 1490658098

File name: Sculptural_Style_of_the_Hellenistic_Period.edited_1.edited.docx (49.37K)

Word count: 421

Character count: 2481

The Sculptural Style of the Hellenistic Period

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The Sculptural Style of the Hellenistic Period

The sculpture chosen for my discussion is Laocoön and his sons' inspired by a Greek epic portraying three figures. Mainly, sculptors used sinus forms and dynamic shapes to suggest motion to make these statues look as humanly as possible. The subject matter of this sculpture differs from classical examples because it depicts more about human anatomy. Furthermore, this form of art goes beyond understanding the human anatomy and looks into how the body looks and moves when in action (Richman-Abdou, 2019). Additionally, this form of art looks at how the torsos twist, muscles bulge, and the different emotions expressed. The subject appears expressively more dramatized than statues from the classical era.

Besides, the lively anatomy's concern with movement inspired Hellenistic emphasis on structure. They broke from the collective, often rigid, and emotionless classical models to creating sculptures inspired by real human positions. Interestingly, the sculpture in Hellenistic artwork postures implies contortion through use of realistic weight dispersal and normal body shape. Other figures such as Venus de Milo posed in an unequal position erected in an unrealistic position. Additionally, Hellenistic artists sought after replicating real human bodies (De Clercq, 2020). This is seen in the statues of the predominant gods during that era at the same time demonstrated as sculptures of ordinary social beings.

Hellenistic sculptures engage viewers actively because of their attention to elements. In addition to its lively structural features apparent in curtains and prevalent, the piece of art remains appealing to viewers because of how realistic it appears. Hellenistic artists chose to decorate their statues with realistic clothing emphasizing on suggested movements of sculptures, showcasing their skills, and concentrating on the contours of the statue's human-like anatomy. This technique was known as wet drapery and initially appeared during the classical era.

However, it was embraced and improved by the Hellenistic sculptors. As a result, this technique saw a different wave of sculptures emerge that were more appealing to viewers than the classical sculptures. Stoenescu (2017) concludes that the Hellenistic artwork borrowed and transformed many concepts of classical forms of art and up to date remains undisputable regardless of its age.



References

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