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Comparison between Polykleitos and Praxiteles

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Comparison between Polykleitos and Praxiteles

Polykleitos is amongst the greatest sculptors of classical antiquity of the High Classical period. He mainly created bronze sculptures and intentionally worked to create a new method, which he wrote a dissertation on explaining his principles and methods. Besides, most of his sculptures emphasized a balance of relaxation and tension through hip and shoulder movement, which he termed as chiasmic balance (Hochscheid, 2020). Polykleitos further insisted that statues should comprise of parts clearly defined and interconnected by a system of perfect mathematical proportions and steadiness. He was famously known for his precise representation of the human body through a keen understanding of mathematics. Notably, his ideal proportion style is evident in his Doryphoros sculpture, which he portrayed as an athlete with an extraordinary powerful frame. This sculpture was one of the most classical sculptures of the Greek era.

In contrast, Praxiteles was also a great sculptor whose career linked the Hellenistic period and the late classical period of Greek art. One of his major desires as an artist was introducing as much realism as possible (Boschloos, 2020). It is argued that this approach played a role in determining the direction of Greek statues. For that reason, Praxiteles is well known for his small scale creations of female subjects.

Additionally, he constantly worked towards going a step ahead trying out new approaches to make his work look livelier, realistic, and appear natural. His greatest motivation was creating graphic illustrations of life. To achieve this naturalism, he worked on bronze and stone to create light, curves, and shadow. Praxiteles employed a special method in polishing marble sculptures, which gave them a more lively appearance. Moreover, he regularly hired a visual artist known as Nicias to color his statues and give them a more realistic look. As a result, his approach is luminous, sensual, and delicate.

My favorite sculptor is Praxiteles because of the realism he brought out in his artworks. Praxiteles was among the first sculptors to work with the female form and creating the finest sculptures was considered a bold and innovative form of art during that time. Thus, serves as inspiration because he ventured into a form not many sculptors dreaded to explore.

References

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