

The Diadumenos Statue (430 -420 BCE)



Figure 1: The Diadumenos Statue. (Image

from: <https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/4/4f/Diadoumenos-Atenas.jpg/800px-Diadoumenos-Atenas.jpg>)

Stood in the 'contrapposto' pose, the statue created by Polykleitos features a male tying a diadem and ribbons around his forehead. The statue is, along with the Doryphoros, one of the largest influences on the idealised male form throughout the classical era. Not only does the ribbons mean he has just won in an athletic competition, it also shows the male in a convincingly naturalistic and athletic manner. "The

Doryphoros and Diadumenos were widely recognised as prototypical depictions of athletes, exemplars of the manly virtues associated with athletic competition" (Hughes, 1997).

One of the main reasons why Polykleitos reached this level of public acclaim is due to the mathematical system that he created, which discusses proportions for the sculpture. "This seems to represent a conscious effort to supply a properly worked out canon for the representation of the male body" (Boardman, 1978). The implementation of this system in his sculptures creates a relaxed and naturalistic feel to his work, even whilst the stance is clearly more tense and structured. Originally created around 450BC, not much knowledge of the Canon remains other than what is presented in the

sculptures themselves, including what unit of measurement is used, however it is believed that it is either the length of a finger, or the length from the hairline to the jaw.

Polykleitos made a huge cultural difference from his art, since he "influenced artists by making nude figures more popular, along with poised rhythmic poses, and male and female head with characteristic rounded structure and full oval face" (Becatti, 1967). As such, Polykleitos can arguably be said to have made one of the largest impacts on art in the Classical era and subsequently.



Figure 2: The Doryphoros statue, also made by Polykleitos (Image

from: <https://museum.classics.cam.ac.uk/sites/museum.classics.cam.ac.uk/files/casts/181.jpg>)

Where is the Ref. List?

Good work.

To improve:

- ① Provide references throughout. Every piece of info. you present must be referenced.
- ② Avoid orphan quotes. What is their point? Why not put them in your own words and ref. the author
- ③ You must provide some analysis of your own. Do not just follow scholarship.
- ④ Use more recent scholarship.



Nike of Paionios

Created by the sculptor Paionios during the 420s, the statue of Nike was dedicated to Zeus, and paid for from the spoils of war. Made from Parian Marble, the sculptor had to be reconstructed from lots of fragments. As such, parts of the face, neck, toes, wings drapery and left leg are missing. It shows the Goddess of Victory landing gently upon her left foot, with her dress blowing gently across her body. Nike is presented as descending from flight and is placed upon a pedestal, that makes her far above the viewer. "The Nike with its wings of gilded bronze must have produced an admirable effect" (Perkins, 1880). The statue was painted when first created, and it is believed that Nike's dress was a tone of red and

Ref.

Orphen?

Ref. → Ref.

Figure 1: Nike of Paionios statue. (Image from

https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/6/61/Nike_of_Paionios%2C_Olympia_Archaeological_Museum_%2816309967616%29.jpg/1200px-Nike_of_Paionios%2C_Olympia_Archaeological_Museum_%2816309967616%29.jpg

[Nike_of_Paionios%2C_Olympia_Archaeological_Museum_%2816309967616%29.jpg](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/6/61/Nike_of_Paionios%2C_Olympia_Archaeological_Museum_%2816309967616%29.jpg/1200px-Nike_of_Paionios%2C_Olympia_Archaeological_Museum_%2816309967616%29.jpg))

Ref.

Excavated at Olympia in 1875, the statue was placed on a triangular six metres high pillar. As such, including the pillar, it stood at twelve metres. It was dedicated to the gods to honour and celebrate the recapture of Sphacteria from the Spartans in 425 BC. The base of the sculpture shows this, since it states that "The Messenians and the Naupaktians dedicated this statue to Zeus Olympios from the spoils of war" (Museum of Classical Archaeology). Built at Olympia, previously Spartan ground, the statue is clearly a symbol of political propaganda. About a century earlier, the Spartans had erected a statue of Zeus to commemorate their victory over the Messenians, and the Greeks clearly did it in retaliation.

Figure 2 : Base of the statue, engraved with the dedication. (Image from:

https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/b/bc/Base_of_Nike_of_Paionios_in_Olympia.jpg/600px-Base_of_Nike_of_Paionios_in_Olympia.jpg)



→ The Spartans were not used? Ref phrase 4
→ No. Sparta never controlled Olympia.
Ref List?

Good effort.

To improve:

- ① Provide references throughout.
- ② Research more carefully to avoid mistakes.
- ③ Consider and discuss context and RELEVANCE.
- ④ Read more scholarship on the period.

Aristophanes' 'The Clouds'

→ Socrates

A Greek comedy play written in 423 BC, in which the protagonist, Strepsiades meets Socrates, and comes under his tuition, in order to learn how to escape from a debt. The play discusses many different subjects, most importantly the gods and their logos. "Given the premium Athenian democracy placed on language ideologically, practically, and festively, it should come as no surprise that the clouds itself is a play obsessed with logos" (O'Regan, 1992).

Orphan

No

One of the reasons why 'The Clouds' is so famous is because of its use of Old Comedy, a style of play characterised by jokes and satire of public persons and affairs. They were often composed of songs, dances, and conversations and comments on literary and philosophical topics. In many ways 'The Clouds' does not typically adhere to the rules of Old Comedy, since it is quite serious, rather than the usual joyousness and laughter typical of the genre.

→ No. Primarily political.
Ref List?

Definitely not

The work shows some effort.
To improve:

- ① This is too short and under-researched. Read more and concentrate on the play and relevant scholarship.
- ② Research the genre more
- ③ Provide references and expand your reading.

