

Wooden Female Figurine.

Connections to Ancient Egyptian Funerary Beliefs.

The ancient Egyptians used statues, figurines and many other forms of art to depict their Gods, beliefs and often their rulers.

- ❖ This entailed both the upper ruling classes as well as the Pharaohs which once ruled Egyptian society.

1695.004.



Figure 1. Female Figurine.
Rebecca Smith, 2020.

Many of the upper ruling class of Egypt often had figurines such as Figure 1.

These dolls/figurines were often found in tombs, temples and households. (Waraksa. 2008. p.2)

These statues/figurines were often used as vessels for the soul. (Christie's. 2017)

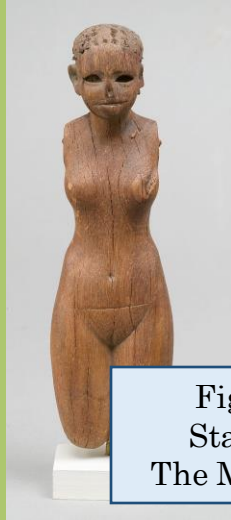


Figure 2.
Statuette.
The Met, 2021.



Figure 3. Female
Figure.
The Met, 2021.

Similar female wooden figurines, details more intact compared to Figures 1 & 3.



1695.004.

Figure 4. Female
Figurine.
Rebecca Smith, 2020.

Although different, both figurine types can be linked due to them being found in a tomb and used in funerary practices.

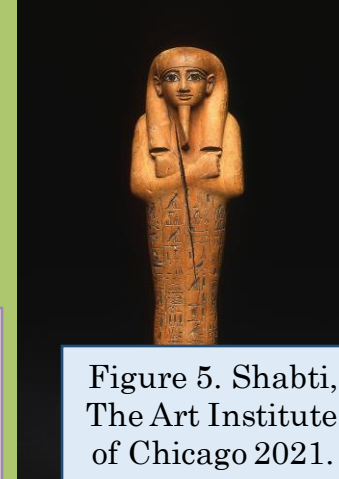


Figure 5. Shabti,
The Art Institute
of Chicago 2021.

Figurines were often linked to the Middle Kingdom due to the burial sites in which they were found. (The Met. 2021)

Can also be linked to female deities due to the markings many are adorned with. (Waraksa. 2008. p.3.)
The most common deities associated with the figures are the Goddess Hathor and Mut. (Waraksa. 2008. p.3.)

It can be suggested that the female statue is linked to fertility. (Penn Museum. 2021)

Female figurines were also named 'Concubines'. (The Met. 2021).

Due to the 'powers' of sexuality and birth that women possess, it was thought that the dead could create new life using such figurines. (The Met. 2021).

The reason for these figurine's is widely speculated. A few examples include:

- ❖ "Concubines"/"Wife Figures": sexual partners in the afterlife.
- ❖ Toys or dolls.
- ❖ Figures with magical spells attached to protect. (Waraksa. 2008. p.3.)

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