

## Course Resources - Glossary Terms from "Art History B"

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Glossary Terms from: Course

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### **Acanthus leaves architecture**

A design patterned after the leaves of one of these plants, used especially on the capitals of Corinthian columns.

### **Artisan**

A craftsman; a skilled manual worker

### **Asymmetry/ asymmetrical balance**

When one side of a composition does not reflect the design of the other. Asymmetrical balance is the kind of balance (one of the principles of art) in which the parts of a design are organized so that one side differs from the other without destroying that composition's overall harmony. Consequently, when an asymmetrical design is disturbingly off balance, the result is disharmony. Also known as informal balance, asymmetry is the opposite of symmetry.

### **Authenticity**

The quality or condition of being authentic, trustworthy, or genuine.

### **Bereft**

Deprived of something: They are bereft of their dignity.

### **Civilization**

The type of culture and society developed by a particular nation or region or in a particular epoch: Mayan civilization; the civilization of ancient Rome; the act or process of civilizing or reaching a civilized state.

### **Colonnade**

A row of columns supporting arches, a lintel, or an entablature. Colonnades have been used along streets, courtyards, and around temples such as the Parthenon to serve as a memorial to remind.

### **Divine**

Having the nature of or being a deity

### **Domesticate**

To adopt or make fit for domestic use or life

### **Elongated**

Made longer; extended

**Funerary**

Of or suitable for a funeral or burial

**Humanoid**

Having human characteristics or form.

**Mesopotamia**

An ancient region of southwest Asia between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers in modern-day Iraq. Probably settled before 5000 BCE, the area was the home of numerous early civilizations, including Sumer, Akkad, Babylonia and Assyria.

**Perception**

The process of becoming aware through sight, sound, taste, smell, or touch; detection.

**Portal**

In architecture, a door or gate, usually of importance or large in size. In most Gothic cathedrals there were three portals in the main façade.

**Portfolio**

A portable case for holding material, such as loose drawings, photographs, or other images. It may also be the materials collected in such a case, especially when they are representative of an artist's work. By extension, a portfolio might be a portable collection of originals or reproductions of an artist's work in a format other than the traditional case, for example, a set of digital images online or on a disc.

**Propaganda**

Systematically distributed material that advocates a point of view or information reflecting the views and interests of those people advocating such a point of view; typically used in referring to works with particularly political purposes.

**Renaissance**

A revival or rebirth of cultural awareness and learning that took place during the 14th and 15th centuries, particularly in Italy, but also in Germany and other European countries. The period was characterized by a renewed interest in ancient Greek and Roman art and design and included an emphasis on human beings, their environment, science, and philosophy.

**Skepticism**

The doctrine that absolute knowledge is impossible, either in a particular domain or in general.

**Supremacy**

The quality or condition of being supreme; supreme power or authority

**Symmetry or symmetrical balance**

The parts of an image or object organized so that one side duplicates, or mirrors, the other. Also known as formal balance, its opposite is asymmetry — asymmetrical balance.

**Undulating**

To have a wavelike appearance or form