

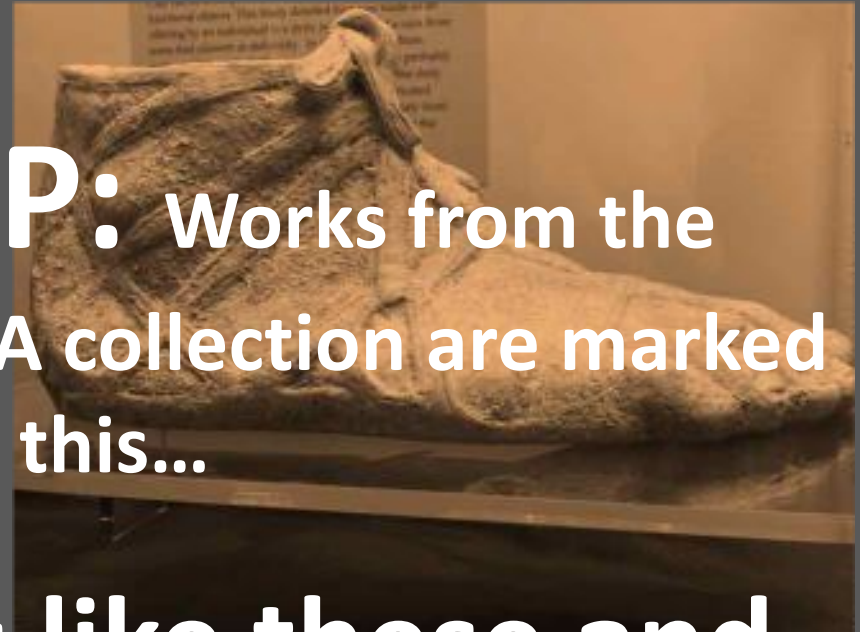


**Docent Information Session Slides
6 Ancient Art**

ZMA Collection
Diverse Culture Gallery

Etruscan
Votive Foot, circa 400-200 BCE
Earthenware, terra cotta

TIP: Works from the
ZMA collection are marked
like this...



**TIP: Print slides like these and
create a binder filled with
works from the ZMA collection.**

Etruscan culture 800 BCE-200 CE; <https://www.ancient.eu/article/etruscans/>

- Mold-made

Foot indicates this piece was nearly cast in from the mold

- Offering in gratitude for healing or plea to heal an infirmity

More information: (e.g., ritual clay figurines known as *lucubrati* to the *Lucubrati*); the collections are dominated by feet and hands—precisely the parts of the body which are likely to suffer damage in the course of agricultural work.

More Information:

<http://exhibits.hsl.virginia.edu/antiqua/healercults/>



Slow Looking *is about attending to visual images in a culture of distraction*



Egyptian Art (3,000 BCE–30 BC)

- Old Kingdom
- Middle Kingdom
- New Kingdom

King Menkaure (Mycerinus) and Queen, 2490–2472 B.C.E., greywacke, 142.2 x 57.1 x 55.2 cm (Museum of Fine Arts, Boston)

- Symbolic, stylized, not naturalistic
- Pharaohs powerfully depicted to demonstrate dominance / longevity
- Materials=Greywacke or Graywacke is a type of sandstone characterized by its hardness and dark color.
- Figures depicted in profile, frontally, or composite

For more information:

- <https://www.mfa.org/collections/object/king-menkaure-mycerinus-and-queen-230>
- <https://smarthistory.org/king-menkaure-mycerinus-and-queen/>





ZMA Collection

Diverse Culture Gallery

Artist Unknown, Ushabti (also called shabti or shawabti), circa 1200 BCE, ceramic

- Funerary figurine placed in tombs among the grave goods
- Intended to act as servants for the deceased in the underworld
- Ushabti means “answerers,” they carried inscriptions asserting their readiness to answer the gods' summons to work, should they be called upon to do manual labor in the afterlife
- It was necessary for the owner's name to be inscribed on an ushabti, along with a phrase sending them to action, written in the hieratic script
- Ushabti inscriptions often contain the 6th chapter of the *Book of the Dead*, translated as: *"Illumine the Osiris [name of the deceased], whose word is truth. Hail, Shabti Figure! If the Osiris [name of the deceased] be decreed to do any of the work which is to be done in Khert-Neter, let everything which standeth in the way be removed from him- whether it be to plough the fields, or to fill the channels with water, or to carry sand from the East to the West. The Shabti Figure replieth: "I will do it, verily I am here when thou callest".*







ZMA Collection

Diverse Culture Gallery

***Artist Unknown, Wooden Fragment (Stele?)
Depicting the God Thoth, circa 1500 BCE,
carved wood***



- Show to pronounce stele <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OqO1rjrid-U>
- A stele is a stone or wooden slab erected in the ancient world as a monument
Grave stele were often used for funerary or commemorative purposes
- Hieroglyphics on artworks tells a story about who and what is taking place
- Figures often depicted in profile, frontally, or composite= head, waist, and feet in profile, while eyes and shoulders depicted frontally
- General flatness to the compositions
- Traces of color on some pieces is suggestive. Red, for example=workers
- Thoth is the “lord of hieroglyphs,” taught the ancient Egyptians how to write
- Thoth revered as a possessor of knowledge and wisdom
- Frequently depicted as an ibis-headed man







ZMA Collection
Diverse Culture Gallery

Artist Unknown, *Cat Mummy Case(?)*, XVIII Dynasty, circa 1500 BC, likely polychrome wood



- Cat goddess BAST, Cat was sacred in ancient Egyptian society
- Highly stylized form
- Is this a mummy case for a cat? Perhaps. The ZMA is unsure if this piece is solid. Most cat statues of this type served as containers for cat mummies. If this work is solid, it may have functioned differently, perhaps as a temple offering.
- The cat also symbolized fertility and motherhood. Small cat figurines would often be found underneath women's chairs on relief sculpture, evoking fertility and sexuality

For more information:

- <https://smarthistory.org/materials-and-techniques/>
- <https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/544118>





Greek and Egyptian Portrait Sculpture



- Influence of Egyptian sculpture
- Share rigidity of pose, stride, and clenched fists
- Unlike Egyptians, completely nude
- Increased attention to naturalism
- Hard lines melt away



Menkaure and His Queen, Khamerernebtyn(?), ca. 2490-2472BCE. Graywacke, 4' 6 1/2" high. Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

Kroisis, from Anavysos, Greece, ca. 530 BCE. Marble, 6' 4" high. National Archaeological Museum, Athens.

***Anavysos Kouros*, c. 530
B.C.E., marble, 6' 4" (National
Archaeological Museum,
Athens)**



For more information about the Korous figure on the left:

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v1_pCZBVWuY





SCULPT
From the Permanent C

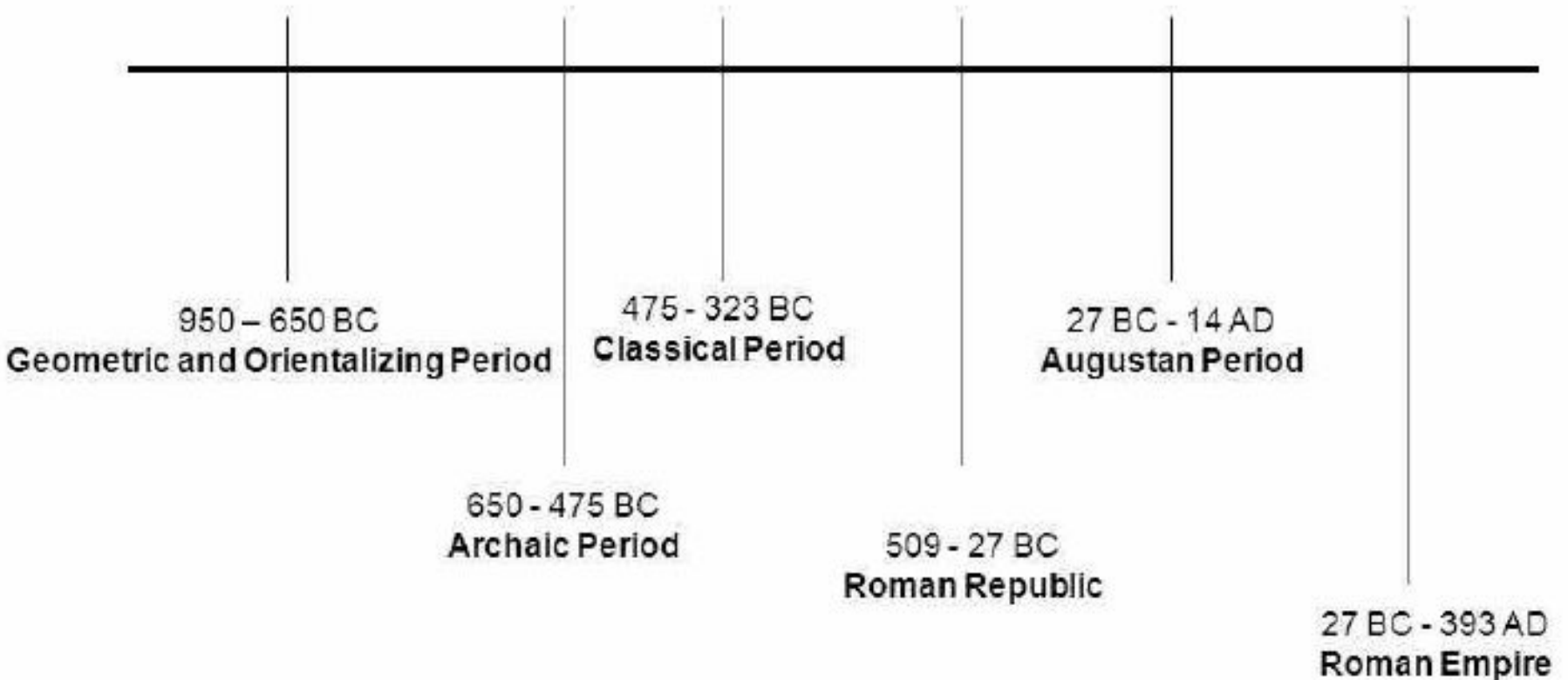


It should be noted that Roman society began to flourish even as the Greeks entered their "Golden Age"

Timeline

GREEKS

ROMANS





functional objects. This finely detailed foot was made as an offering by an individual to a deity in a culture. In some cases, it was probably made to represent the deity's foot, possibly as a talisman from a deity. The foot is the



Clay figurine of a foot, possibly a votive offering.

ZMA Collection Diverse Culture Gallery

Artist Unknown, *Etruscan Votive Foot*,
circa 400-200 BCE, earthenware, terra
cotta cast

Etruscan Culture (800 BCE-200 CE)

- Etruscan culture 800 BCE-200 CE; <https://www.ancient.eu/timeline/etruscan/>
- Mold-made, detail indicates this piece was an early casting from the mold
- Offering in gratitude for healing or plea to heal an infirmity, most of these objects found in healing sanctuaries like Ponte di Nona, e.g., a rural complex some 15 kilometers to the east of Rome. The votives are dominated by feet and hands—precisely the parts of the body which are likely to suffer damage in the course of agricultural work typical of this region.

More Information:

<http://exhibits.hsl.virginia.edu/antiqua/healercults/>



The Roman Empire in 117 AD

- Senatorial provinces
- Imperial provinces
- Client states





ZMA Collection
Not on view

Artist Unknown, Roman Unguentarium, 1st Century BCE, glass, mounts Tiffany studios

How to pronounce the word Unguentarium
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UyfWafPxdb4>

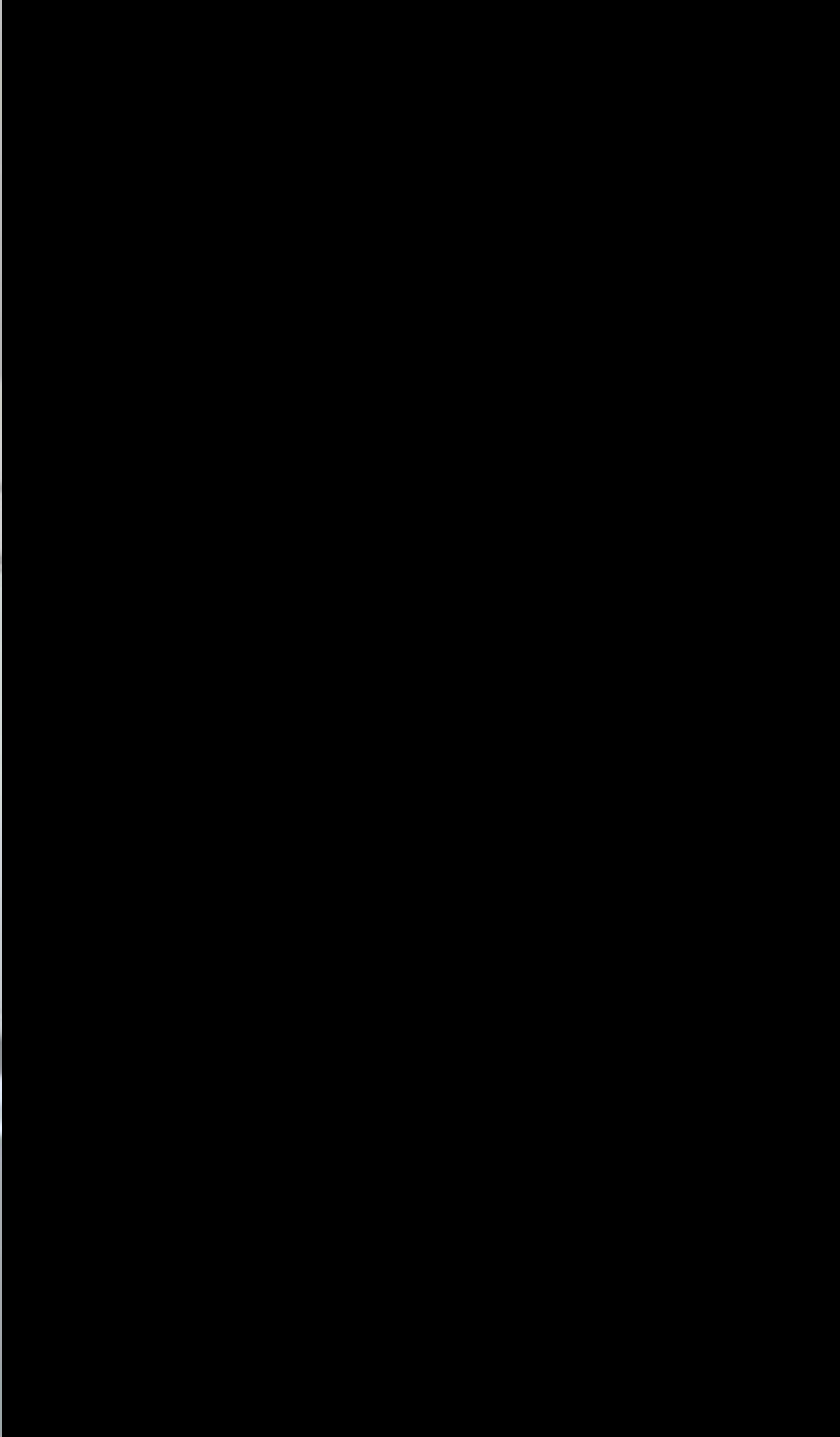


Roman Period (753 BCE–476 CE)

- An Unguentarium is a small ceramic or glass bottle found frequently by archaeologists at Hellenistic and Roman sites, especially in cemeteries in the 1st century.
- Its most common use was probably as a container for oil, though it is also suited for storing and dispensing liquid and powdered substances.
- The unguentarium with a footless body that is rounded or pear-shaped (Latin *pirus*, "pear") began to appear in the second half of the 1st century BCE (100-1) and is characteristic of the Roman era.



SCULPTURE
From the Permanent Collection



ZMA Collection

On view in the 3rd floor sculpture gallery

Artist Unknown, *Head of Apollo*, Roman copy of a Greek original, marble, circa 300 BCE

Roman Period (753 BCE–476 CE)

- Apollo=god of music, truth, prophecy, healing, the sun and light, plague, poetry etc. The son of Zeus and Leto, his twin sister is the chaste huntress Artemis
- Idealized beauty
- "Calm" quality to the carved marble
- The Roman worship of Apollo was adopted from the Greeks
- The Romans collected Greek statuary, and when the supply of Greek originals was insufficient, Roman sculpture workshops created versions in the Greek manner emphasizing idealized beauty.

Form more information:

- Veristic portraits <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T0fq3XFfxrY>
- **Excellent video** on idealized portraits <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gRMPYh2QdSM>





ZMA Collection
Not on view

Artist Unknown, Fragment from a Roman Sarcophagus, carved marble, date unknown

Roman Period (753 BCE–476 CE)

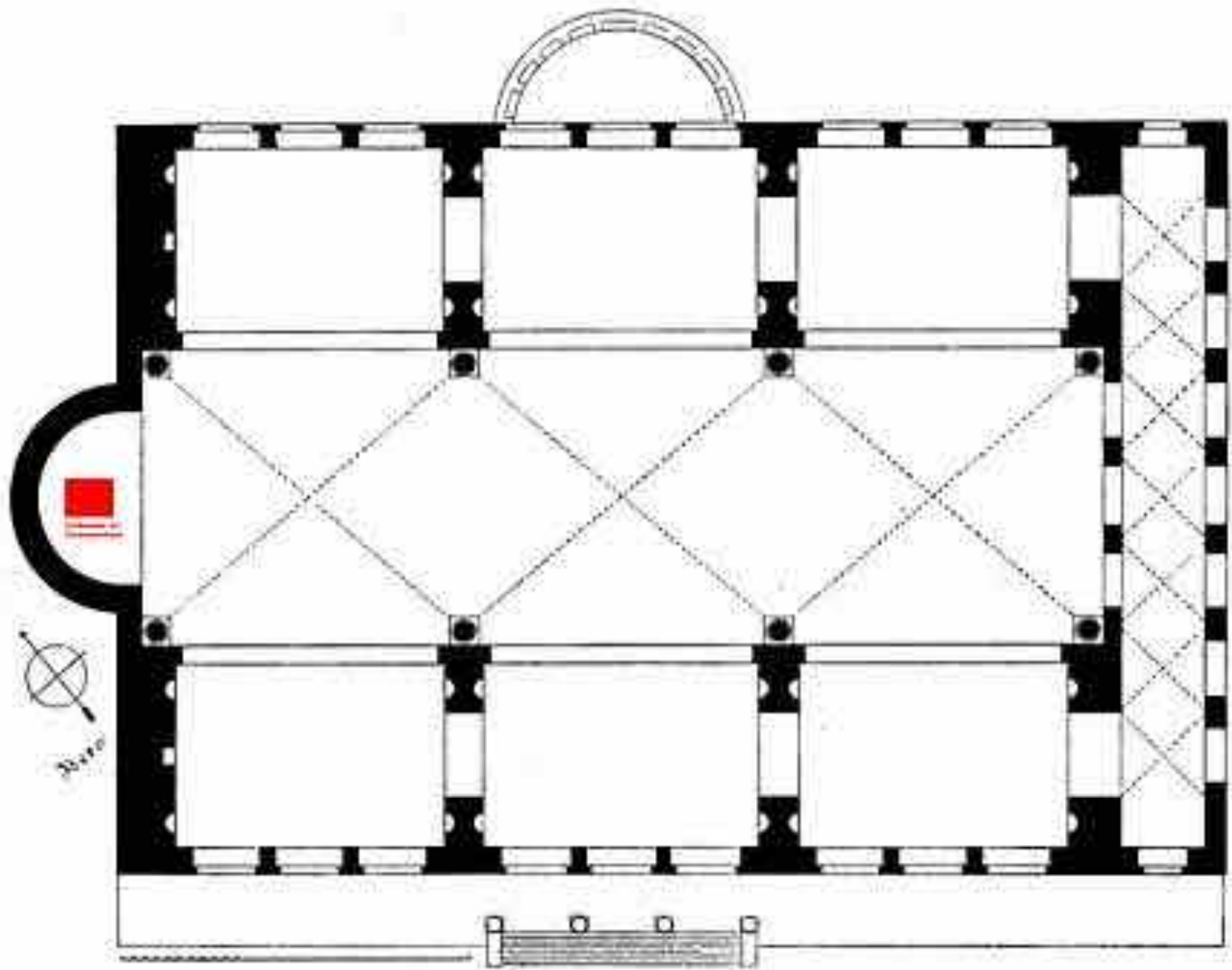


- The sarcophagus fragment is an exquisite example of Roman funerary art
- Wealthy and powerful persons commissioned sarcophagus, probably made for a member of an aristocratic Roman family
- Design is likely from a sculptor's pattern book
- Figure is carved in high relief, highly stylized, figure is naturalistic

Form more information:

- https://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/rsar/hd_rsar.htm





2. ROM: CONSTANTINSBASILICA.



ZMA Collection
On view in the Ayers Gallery

Artist Unknown, *Saint Anne with Prayer Book* circa 15th century, polychrome sculpture, Made in North Brabant(?) a southern province in Holland or Bruges, Belgium.

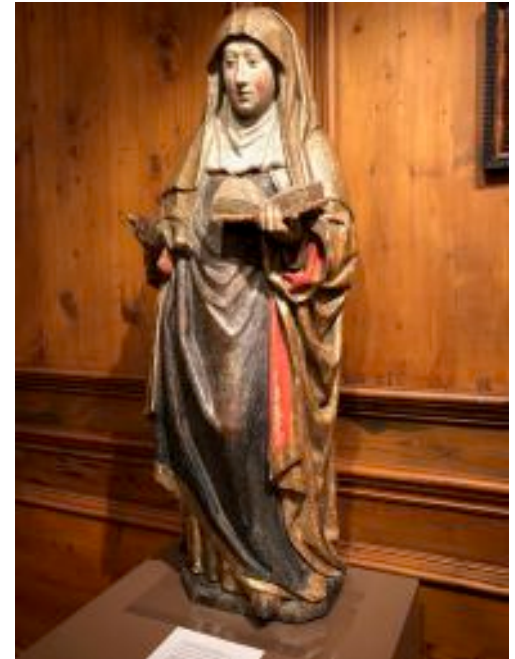
See https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_Brabant

Late Medieval and Northern Renaissance

- Region boasts a strong Roman Catholic tradition
- Elongated forms, less naturalistic , stylized
- Polychrome (color) carved sculpture. See https://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/grmn_3/hd_grmn_3.htm

Form more information:

- https://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/grmn_2/hd_grmn_2.htm
- https://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/grmn_1/hd_grmn_1.htm











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