

Ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia

Recurrent ways of demonstrating power in visuals in Egypt and Mesopotamia

Rulers are shown

- larger than all other figures or disproportionate to surroundings: Hierarchy of scale or hieratic scale
- with symbols of deification
- in direct communication with the g-ds or in the presence of a deity: expressed their divine right to rule
- in the act of conquest--killing/defeating enemies; victor's troops in orderly arrangement; the defeated in disarray
- receiving tribute from subject peoples

1. Title slide

Egypt

2. map of Ancient Egypt

3. drawing of the various crowns of Ancient Egyptian rulers

4. Palette of Narmer, back (L) and front (R) views, slate, predynastic, 3000-2920bce

5. Menkaure and a Queen (Khamerernebtj?), greywacke, dynasty IV, 2490-2472bce

Sculptural conventions for depicting pharaohs

- Rigid frontality
- Clenched fists; thumbs out
- Youthful, muscular body
- Not fully released from block
- Compactness of figure (arms held closely to sides)
- Left foot forward but no relative weight shift of hips (contrapposto)
- Royal kilt and menes headdress (frequently the false beard of kingship and the uraeus cobra)

These same conventions were seen in lesser degree in sculpture of non-royal, but noble personages. Lower class individuals were depicted less formally and rigidly and more naturally and realistically.

6. Seated scribe (Kai), front and three-quarter views, painted limestone, 4th dynasty, 2620-2500bc

7. L: Khafre, diorite, dynasty IV, 2520-2494bce; R: detail of Khafre showing the g-d Horus protecting the pharaoh

8. Kneeling statue of Hatshepsut, red granite, dynasty XVIII , 1473-1458bce

9. detail of Kneeling statue of Hatshepsut, red granite, dynasty XVIII, 1473-1458bce
 10. Seated statue of Hatshepsut, granite, dynasty XVII, 1479-58 bce
 11. Mortuary Temple of Hatshepsut, Deir el-Bahri, 18th dynasty, 1473-1458 bce, overview from distance (Architect is identified as Hatshepsut's chancellor, Senmut (Senenmut))
 12. Mortuary Temple of Hatshepsut, view up the ramp
- Amarna Period (within New Kingdom era)
13. Akhenaton, sandstone, 18th dynasty, 1353-1335bce
 14. Comparison of Akhenaton with Menkaure
 15. Akhenaton, Nefertiti and three daughters, sunken relief, limestone, 18th dynasty, 1353-1335 bce

Mesopotamia

Akkadian

16. Front and side views, head of Akkadian ruler, Copper, Ninevah (Iraq), 2,250-2,200 bce
17. Victory Stele of Naram-Sin, pink sandstone, 6' 7", 2254-2218 bce
18. Front view, ensi Gudea (ruler of Lagash/cap. Girsu), standing figure of Gudea, diorite, 29", 2100bce (note cuneiform inscription and iconography of water and fish)
19. Front and side views, seated figure of ensi Gudea, diorite, 2100bce (note cuneiform inscription)

Babylonian

20. Complete view, Stele of Hammurabi, black basalt, (Susa), 7'4", 1780bce
21. Detail of upper portion, Stele of Hammurabi, black basalt, (Susa), 1780bce
22. Detail of cuneiform on lower portion, Stele of Hammurabi, black basalt, (Susa), 1780bce

Persian—Achaemenid Dynasty

23. Remnants of the apadana of Darius and Xerxes, limestone (remaining portions) Persepolis, ca.525-465bce

24. Apadana stairway

25. Processional relief, Apadana and palace, Persepolis, ca.500bce