



## GODS IN COLOUR

### **Painted Sculpture of Classical Antiquity**

November 13, 2012 - March 17, 2013

Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna, Collection of Greek and Roman Antiquities

An exhibition by the Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna in collaboration with the Stiftung Archäologie, Munich, and the Liebieghaus Skulpturensammlung, Frankfurt am Main

Gleaming white marble and limestone sculptures dominate our image of the Mediterranean world in classical antiquity. Fascinated by the aura of the purity of the material, we focus solely on form. However, we know that ancient architecture and sculptures were once painted in vivid colours – ancient authors write about it and archaeologists have found traces on works uncovered in Greece and Italy since the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, the onset of modern archaeology.

The exhibition „Gods in Colour“ focuses on the sometimes surprisingly vivid original colouring of ancient sculptures. Initiated by Vinzenz Brinkmann and Raimund Wünsche, this internationally noted travelling-exhibition was first shown at the Glyptothek in Munich in 2003. Continually updated, it has since been shown at numerous European and non-European museums. The result of decades of research is presented in the form of painted casts and copies of the examined originals; only natural pigments produced according to ancient recipes have been used.

These didactic models are made of plaster or cast marble and will be displayed in the galleries of the Collection of Greek and Roman Antiquities, forming a fascinating foil for the ancient statues of the permanent collection and inviting visitors to see the latter with new eyes. Different versions of a statue (i.e. featuring different possible colour schemes) illustrate the problems inherent in reconstructing the original paint, and invite visitors to use their critical faculties. On show are, for example, archaic statues from the late 6<sup>th</sup> century, a model of the west pediment of the Temple of Aphaia at Aegina (c. 480 BC) and a reconstruction of the celebrated Alexander sarcophagus (today in the Archaeological Museum in Istanbul).



In addition to Greek works the show comprises examples from the Roman Empire and late Antiquity. One of the highlights is a new model of the Chios Kore – one of the charming statues of young women (korai) discovered on the Acropolis in Athens in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and noteworthy for its exceptionally vivid extant polychromy.

The models and casts on show here come from the holdings of the Stiftung Archäologie in Munich and the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG, Leibniz Prize project Oliver Primavesi). The exhibition also includes two loans from the University of Göttingen: copies of a portrait head of Emperor Caligula and a porphyry portrait from late Antiquity. In addition, original objects (stone or terracotta) featuring remainders of paint in the permanent collection of the KHM's Collection of Greek and Roman Antiquities are identified and highlighted.

## PRESSPHOTOS

**Funerary Statue of Phrasikleia**  
painted reconstruction  
original statue from Myrrhinous (modern-day Merenda, Attica, Greece)  
marble, c. 550/540 BC, h. (incl. base) 211 cm  
Athens, National Museum  
reconstruction: Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft Leibniz Prize 2007 O. Primavesi  
(reconstruction: Brinkmann & Brinkmann)  
© Munich, Stiftung Archäologie, photograph by Vinzenz Brinkmann



**The Chios Kore**  
painted reconstruction  
original statue from the Acropolis in Athens (Greece)  
marble, c. 500 BC, h. 55 cm  
Athens, Acropolis Museum  
reconstruction: Stiftung Archäologie  
(reconstruction: Brinkmann & Brinkmann)  
© Munich, Stiftung Archäologie, photograph by Vinzenz Brinkmann



**The Persian Rider**  
partially painted reconstruction  
original statue from the Acropolis in Athens (Greece)  
marble (Greek), c. 490 BC, h. 108 cm  
Athens, Acropolis Museum  
reconstruction: Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft Leibniz Prize 2007 O. Primavesi  
(reconstruction: Brinkmann & Brinkmann)  
© Munich, Stiftung Archäologie, photograph by Vinzenz Brinkmann



**Sculptures from the West Pediment of the Temple of Aphaea on Aegina**

partially painted reconstructions on a scale of 1:1

original statues from Aegina (Greece)

marble, c. 500/490 BC or after 480 BC

Munich, Glyptothek

reconstructions: Stiftung Archäologie (archer „Paris“:

Stiftung Archäologie & University of Heidelberg)

(reconstruction: Brinkmann & Brinkmann)

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**So-called Paris from the West Pediment of the Temple of Aphaea on Aegina**

painted reconstruction

original statue from Aegina (Greece)

marble, c. 500/490 BC or after 480 BC, h. 96 cm

Munich, Glyptothek

reconstruction: Stiftung Archäologie & University of Heidelberg

(reconstruction: Brinkmann & Brinkmann)

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**Funerary Stela of Paramythion**

partially painted reconstruction

original stela from Athens, found on the sacred road to Eleusis (Greece)

marble, c. 380/370 BC, h. 92 cm

Munich, Glyptothek

reconstruction: Stiftung Archäologie

(reconstruction: Brinkmann & Brinkmann)

© Munich, Stiftung Archäologie, Photograph by Vinzenz Brinkmann



**Relief from the Alexander Sarcophagus: Battle between Greeks and Persians**

partially painted reconstruction

original sarcophagus from the royal necropolis at Sidon  
(Lebanon)

marble, c. 320 BC, h. of the figurines (frieze) 58 cm

Istanbul, Arkeoloji Müzesi

reconstruction: Stiftung Archäologie

(reconstruction: Brinkmann &amp; Brinkmann)

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Brinkmann

**Artemis from Pompeii**

painted reconstruction

original statue from Pompeii (near Naples, Italy)

marble, late 1st century BC – AD 79, h. 108 cm

Naples, Museo Archeologico Nazionale di Napoli

reconstruction: Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft

Leibniz Prize 2007 O. Primavesi

(reconstruction: Brinkmann &amp; Brinkmann)

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Brinkmann

**Portrait of Emperor Caligula**

painted reconstruction

Original head: acquired from an art dealer in Paris in 1921

marble, AD 39 – 41, h. 31 cm

Copenhagen, Ny Carlsberg Glyptotek

Stiftung Archäologie

(reconstruction: Brinkmann &amp; Brinkmann)

© Munich, Stiftung Archäologie, photograph by Vinzenz

Brinkmann

**Portrait of Emperor Galerius**

painted reconstruction (hypothetical colours)

original head from Gamzigrad (Serbia)

Porphyry, AD 293 – 311 (?), h. 34 cm

Narodni Muzej „Zaječar“

reconstruction: Göttingen, Archäologisches Institut der  
Universität, Sammlung der Gipsabgüsse© Archäologisches Institut der Universität Göttingen,  
photograph by Stephan Eckardt



## OPENING HOURS AND ENTRANCE FEES

*Valid until end of 2012*

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### Kunsthistorisches Museum

Maria Theresien-Platz  
1010 Vienna

Tuesdays – Sundays

10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Thursdays 10 a.m. – 9 p.m.

(The Coin Collection closes  
at 6 p.m.)

Adults	€ 12,-
Concessions	€ 9,-
Vienna Card	€ 11,-
Groups of 10 or over	€ 8,-
Guided tour, p.p.	€ 3,-
Children under 19	free
Annual ticket	€ 29,-

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## CATALOGUE

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The exhibition is accompanied by a catalogue.

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## PRESS OFFICE

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