



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 19th 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 6th 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 19th 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)
© Munich, Stiftung Archäologie, photograph by Vinzenz Brinkmann



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

partially 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)
© Munich, Stiftung Archäologie, photograph by Dieter Rehm



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 & Brinkmann)
 © Munich, Stiftung Archäologie, photograph by Vinzenz 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 & Brinkmann)
 © Munich, Stiftung Archäologie, photograph by Vinzenz 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 & 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

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,-

CATALOGUE

The exhibition is accompanied by a catalogue.

PRESS OFFICE

Nina Auinger-Sutterlüty, MAS
Head of the Department of Communication and Marketing
Kunsthistorisches Museum mit MVK und ÖTM
1010 Vienna, Burgring 5
Tel.: + 43 1 525 24 4021
Fax: + 43 1 525 24 4098
e-mail: info.pr@khm.at
www.khm.at
