

ART CHATS



JOSLYN BUILDING

Ancient Mediterranean
Art: Balcony

Image: Attributed to the Omaha Painter (Greek), *Black-Figure Ovoid Neck Amphora* (container), c. 570 BCE, ceramic, 13 x 10 x 10 in. (33 x 25.4 x 25.4 cm), Gift of Mr. & Mrs. Thomas C. Woods, Jr., 1963.480

Study the artwork and the prompts.

LOOK

Love is...Achilles and Penthesilea, Queen of the Amazons! Two valiant warriors who happen to fall in love at the moment of death!

Look very closely. Can you see how their eyes meet?

How did this ancient Greek painter of pots express a connection between these two adversaries?

Start an artful discussion.

DISCUSS

Greek vases have a lot to teach us about life.

What is your favorite tale from Greek mythology?

ABOUT THE ARTIST

The designs on Greek pottery pieces were based on scenes from daily life and mythology. The scene here depicts a Greek hero slaying an Amazon. The Amazons, a mythical race of barbarian women who fought as men, are distinguished from male warriors by the contrasting white color of their flesh. Because the names of the vase painters are not known, identities are assigned based on an aspect of style or the location of an important work.

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Image: *Amenirdas I, the Divine Consort*, Egyptian, 25th-dynasty, c. 700 BCE, granite, 33 × 15 × 12 in. (83.8 × 38.1 × 30.5 cm), Museum purchase, 1953.80

Study the artwork and the prompts.

LOOK

A portrait of a princess! Carefully examine this sculpture—from the top of her head to rough edges of her broken arm—and jot down everything you notice.

What clues do you see that reveal something about the biography of Amenirdas?

When and where did she live?

What do you see that makes you say that?

Start an artful discussion.

DISCUSS

If you could ask the sitter, Amenirdas, one question about her life, what would it be?

You might like to ask her about her brother, Piye, the first black pharaoh to rule ancient Egypt!

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Amenirdas I, the Divine Consort is a black granite frontal fragment of a full-length female portrait statue. The high standard of commemorative portrait sculpture maintained during the Late Period (700 BCE to 100 AD) is reflected in this work. It also demonstrates the independence, position of responsibility, and respect commanded by certain women in ancient Egyptian society.