

1. IDENTIFICATION: (Artist, title, date, size, country of origin, period/style)

013. Palette of Narmer (2 images)

Predynastic Egypt

Ca. 3000-2920 BCE

2. FORM: (use of design elements/ principles: color, shape, value, texture, line, space; balance, contrast, emphasis, movement, etc.)

Has the order and balance that characterizes Egyptian art, hierarchy of scale with King Narmer, composite view/ twisted perspective, symbolic representations, registers

3. MATERIALS AND TECHNIQUE: (art making processes)

Greywacke, low-relief sculpting on a palette

4. CONTENT: (subject & genre: iconography, symbolism, the story)

King Narmer dominates the work (emphasizes his divinity), cats with twisted heads and dead enemies, on the other side a servant and Horus presenting a hieroglyph, some debate on the story but one theory is that it tells the story of the unification of Egypt



5. ORIGINAL CONTEXT/ SITE/ INTENDED FUNCTION OF THE WORK: (Overlap to #6)

Served to hold make up that protected Egyptian's eyes from the glare of the sun, also appear to have some sort of religious significance as they were found in religious structure chambers, may also record the unification of Lower and Upper Egypt

6. INTENDED PURPOSE & MOTIVATION (why was it made?); **PATRON/AUDIENCE** (who was it made for?); **ARTIST'S DECISION MAKING:**

Intended to hold eye makeup but more than just a practical object, recorded the event of Egypt's unification under the king, created for King Narmer

7. INNOVATION/ CHANGE(S):

A great example of Predynastic Egyptian art that was the foundation of style and technique for future artworks

Increase of amount of symbolic representation
Focus on power and divinity

CONVENTION/ TRADITION(S):

Composite view/twisted perspective still used
Sculpture/low relief style still used

8. THEME(S):

Power of the king and his divinity, religious

COMPARE TO ANOTHER WORK:

Similar to the Code of Hammurabi stele that will come 1000 years later, kings on both works receiving their power from a god and having a focus on perpetuity, however the stele was focused on the law and the palette is focused on the king's conquest, and has more symbolic representation