

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

016. Standard of Ur from the Royal Tombs at Ur (modern Tell el-Muqayyar, Iraq) (2 images)
Sumerian
ca. 2600-2400 BCE

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

Registers, shows order, twisted perspective/ composite view, emphasis through hierarchy of scale

3. MATERIALS AND TECHNIQUE: (art making processes)

Wood inlaid with shell, lapis lazuli, and red limestone

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

Two sides: War & Peace

War- battles

Peace- banqueting, harvesting

May be two sides of a story, or just shows the two sides of being a leader

Shows power



5. ORIGINAL CONTEXT/ SITE/ INTENDED

FUNCTION OF THE WORK: (Overlap to #6)

Found in the Royal Tombs at Ur, was buried with a Sumerian leader

Seems to show his roles as leader and his power in a good light

6. INTENDED PURPOSE & MOTIVATION (why was it made?); **PATRON/AUDIENCE** (who was it made for?);

ARTIST'S DECISION MAKING:

Made for a Sumerian leader, in their Royal Cemetery
Elaborately made to represent his power

7. INNOVATION/ CHANGE(S):

Authority figures being shown, levels of society in rising civilization becoming clear, rarer materials being used (lapis lazuli), clear narrative

CONVENTION/ TRADITION(S):

Composite view

Funerary art continuing

8. THEME(S):

Narrative, funerary, royalty

COMPARE TO ANOTHER WORK:

Like the Palette of Narmer, this was created for a leader's burial and shows their activities through registers and composite view. However, these pieces take different forms and the Standard has less abstract symbols.