

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

047. LUDOVISI BATTLE SARCOPHAGUS

Late Imperial Roman

c. 250 BCE

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

Very dense composition, no space & background, many overlapping figures with emotional expressions, accurate military details

3. MATERIALS AND TECHNIQUE: (art making processes)

Marble

deep/high relief

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

Chaotic, presents the barbarians as subhuman being vanquished by the noble Romans

Romans have smooth features and calm, serious expressions while the Goths have rough features and wild expressions



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

Came from a tomb near Porta Tiburtina
Romans used to cremate the dead, but around this time it was fashionable to bury them
The wealthy could afford large, decorated sarcophaguses to be buried in

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

Such a battle scene may have been chosen as it reflects the turmoil at that time
There had been invasions, civil war, and etc.

7. INNOVATION/ CHANGE(S):

Battle scene on both sides rather than just one
Return to sarcophaguses

CONVENTION/ TRADITION(S):

High relief, typical Roman style of sculpture, the "good guys" being given ideal form

8. THEME(S):

Battle/war, human form

COMPARE TO ANOTHER WORK:

While both the Sarcophagus of the Spouses and this piece share the same purpose, both have extremely different compositions. Instead of a happy banquet, there is a violent battle depicted. Both share emotional expressions and sculpture that pops out a little.