



Smithsonian Associates

# The Origins of Western Art: From The Paleolithic Through The Aegean Bronze Age

*Renee Gondek*

Tuesday, July 30, 2024 - 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. ET

## THE AEGEAN BRONZE AGE

### *Lecture 4*

#### PERIODS / CHRONOLOGY

##### *Crete*

- Prepalatial / Early Minoan (EM I–III) = ca. 3000–2000 BCE
- Protopalatial / Middle Minoan (MM I–III) = ca. 2000–1700 BCE
- Neopalatial / Middle Minoan (MM IIIA–B) = ca. 1700–1600 BCE
- Late Minoan (LM)  
**LM IA–IB = ca. 1600–1450 BCE**; LM II = ca. 1450–1400 BCE; LM IIIA–IIIC = ca. 1400–1100 BCE

##### *Mainland Greece*

- Early Helladic = ca. 3000 BCE
- Middle Helladic = ca. 2000–1600 BCE
- **Late Helladic (LH)**  
LH I = ca. 1600–1500 BCE; LH IIA–B = ca. 1500–1400 BCE; LH IIIA–C = ca. 1400–1100 BCE

#### KEY ARTIFACTS / STRUCTURES FROM LECTURE

##### *Cyclades and Cycladic Figurines*

1. Cycladic head with paint (ca. 2500–2200)
2. Female figurines (ca. 2500–2000)

##### *Crete and the Minoans*

3. Palace of Knossos, Crete (ca. 1800–1400)  
Throne Room (ca. 1550–1450); Queen's Megaron (ca. 1550–1450); Bull-leaping Fresco (ca. 1550–1450); Grandstand Fresco (ca. 1550–1450)
4. Harvester Vase, from Aghia Triadha, Crete (ca. 1550–1450)
5. Bull-head Rhyton, from Knossos, Crete (ca. 1550–1450)
6. Ivory acrobat (ca. 1700–1550)
7. Snake goddesses or attendants, from Knossos, Crete (ca. 1700–1550)

##### *Mainland Greece and the Mycenaeans*

7. Mycenae citadel, mainland Greece (ca. 1600–1200)  
Lion Gate (ca. 14th–13th c.); Grave Circle A (ca. 1650–1450); Mask of Agamemnon (ca. 1550–1500); Treasury of Atreus (ca. 1300–1200)

#### RECOMMENDED BOOKS:

- Donald Preziosi and Louise A. Hitchcock, *Aegean Art and Architecture*
- Sinclair Hood, *The Arts in Prehistoric Greece*
- Reynold Higgins, *Minoan and Mycenaean Art*
- Elizabeth French, *Mycenae: Agamemnon's Capital*



Smithsonian Associates  
World Art History Certificate Program

Lecturer: Renee Gondek, PhD  
[Reneemgonddek@gmail.com](mailto:Reneemgonddek@gmail.com)