



Smithsonian Associates

## Greek Vase-Painting: Gods and Humans

*Renee Gondek*

Tuesday, September 10, 2024 - 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. ET

### TECHNIQUES AND FIRING PROCESS

- BLACK-FIGURE TECHNIQUE
  - Male figures are black, female figures are white
  - Use of incision; added colors include red/purple and white
- RED-FIGURE TECHNIQUE
  - Use of relief lines/dots, dilute glaze line; added colors include red/purple and white
- WHITE GROUND
  - Application of a slip free of iron oxide around body and shoulder of vessel; added colors include reds, yellows, blues, and greens
  - Technique frequently found on shape known as a lekythos
- FIRING PROCESS

*The firing process can be divided into three stages.*

Stage 1: Oxidizing conditions, open vent with temperatures around 1500°F

Stage 2: Reducing conditions, closed vent, damp wood added, temperatures around 1700°F

Stage 3: Oxidizing conditions, open vent, kiln allowed to cool

➤ Video: <https://www.artic.edu/videos/9/launchpad-ancient-greek-vase-production-and-the-black-figure-technique>

### SELECTED WORKS FROM LECTURE

1. *Sophilos Dinos*, Attic black-figure dinos with stand by Sophilos, ca. 580 BCE, *British Museum, London*
2. *Francois Vase*, Attic black-figure volute krater by Kleitias and Ergotimos, ca. 570 BCE, *Archaeological Museum, Florence*
3. *Achilles and Ajax Playing Dice* (?), Attic black-figure amphora by Exekias, ca. 540-530 BCE, *Vatican Museum*
4. *Herakles Wrestling Antaios*, Attic red-figure calyx krater by Euphronios, ca. 510-500 BCE, *Louvre, Paris*
5. *Death of Sarpedon*, Attic red-figure calyx krater by Euphronios, ca. 515 BCE, *Museum of Cerite, Cerveteri*
6. *Zeus and Ganymede*, Attic red-figure bell krater attributed to the Berlin Painter, ca. 490 BCE, *Louvre, Paris*
7. *Ilioupersis*, Attic red-figure hydria attributed to the Kleophrades Painter, early fifth century BCE, *Archaeological Museum, Naples*
8. *Departure / Recovery of Helen*, Attic red-figure skyphos by Makron, ca. 490 BCE, *Museum of Fine Arts, Boston*
9. *Death of the Niobids*, Attic red-figure calyx krater attributed to the Niobid Painter, ca. 460 BCE, *Louvre, Paris*
10. *Aphrodite and Phaon*, Attic red-figure hydria attributed to the Meidias Painter, ca. 430 BCE, *Archaeological Museum, Florence*

### RECOMMENDED BOOKS:

- John Boardman, *The History of Greek Vases* (2001)
- John H. Oakley, *The Greek Vase: Art of the Storyteller* (2013)
- Joan R. Mertens, *How to Read Greek Vases* (2011)



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Streaming Program Series

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