



Ancient Greek art: an overview.

Dimitris Plantzos
University of Athens



Εθνικόν καὶ Καποδιστριακόν
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[κεραμεύς] *kerameus*

Lecture 5

Kerameus:
the art of Greek pottery.

Course structure

1. *Techne*: what is ‘Greek’ about Greek art? (29/2)

Section 1: Early Greece, ca. 1200-480 BCE

1. *Sema*: commemorating the dead in Early Greece. (7/3)
2. *Anathema*: gifts to the gods in Greek sanctuaries. (14/3)
3. *Agalma*: pleasing immortals and mortals alike. (21/3)
4. *Kerameus*: the art of Greek pottery. (28/3)

No class April 4, “de-brief” class April 11

Section 2: Classical Greece, ca. 480-336 BCE

1. *Mimesis*: nature as aesthetic ideal. (18/4)
2. *Hieron*: visiting a Greek sanctuary. (25/4)
3. *Skiagraphia*: painting with shadows. (16/5)

Section 2: Art in the Hellenistic World, ca. 336-30 BCE

1. *Pathos*: sculpture in the Hellenistic period. (23/5)
2. *Eikon*: immortalising the mortals. (30/5)

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Greek art chronological art:

- **Bronze Age (3200-1100 BCE)**
- **Submycenaean (1100-1050 BCE)**
- **Protopottery period (1050-900 BCE)**
- **Geometric period (900-700 BCE)**
- **Archaic period (700-480 BCE)**
- **Classical period (480-336 BCE)**
- **Hellenistic period (336-31 BCE)**

Reading:

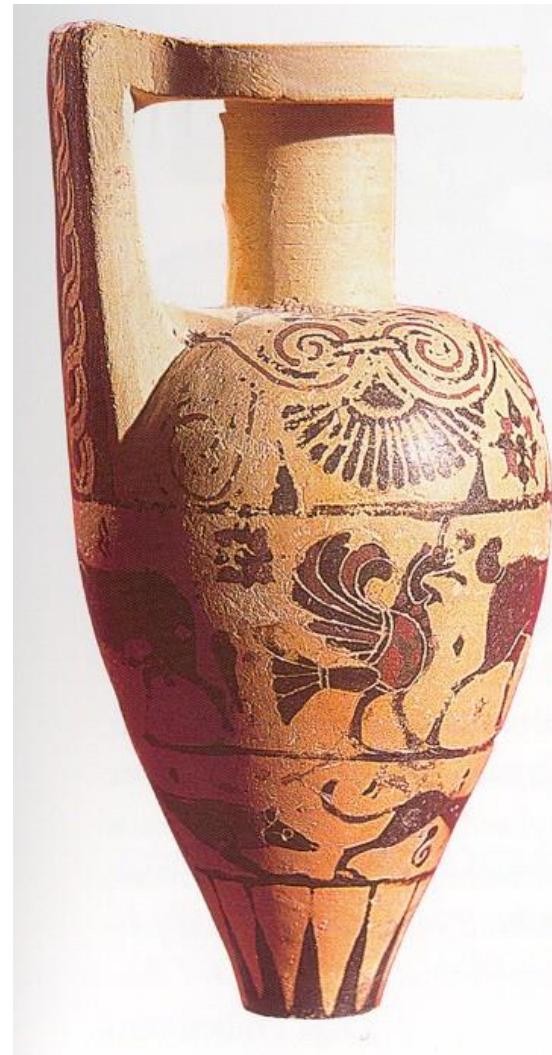
- Plantzos 2016: ch. 3.
- National Archaeological Museum:
https://www.latsis-foundation.org/content/elib/book_14/nam_en.pdf (pp. 187-196)
- Kerameikos: <https://www.latsis-foundation.org/eng/e-library> (pp. 116-173)

Black-figure vase painting:



Black-figure vase painting:

- invented by Corinthian potters in the 7th century BCE
- adopted by Athenian pottery workshops around 630 BCE
- it combined the techniques of silhouette and incision
- it frequently used added colours.



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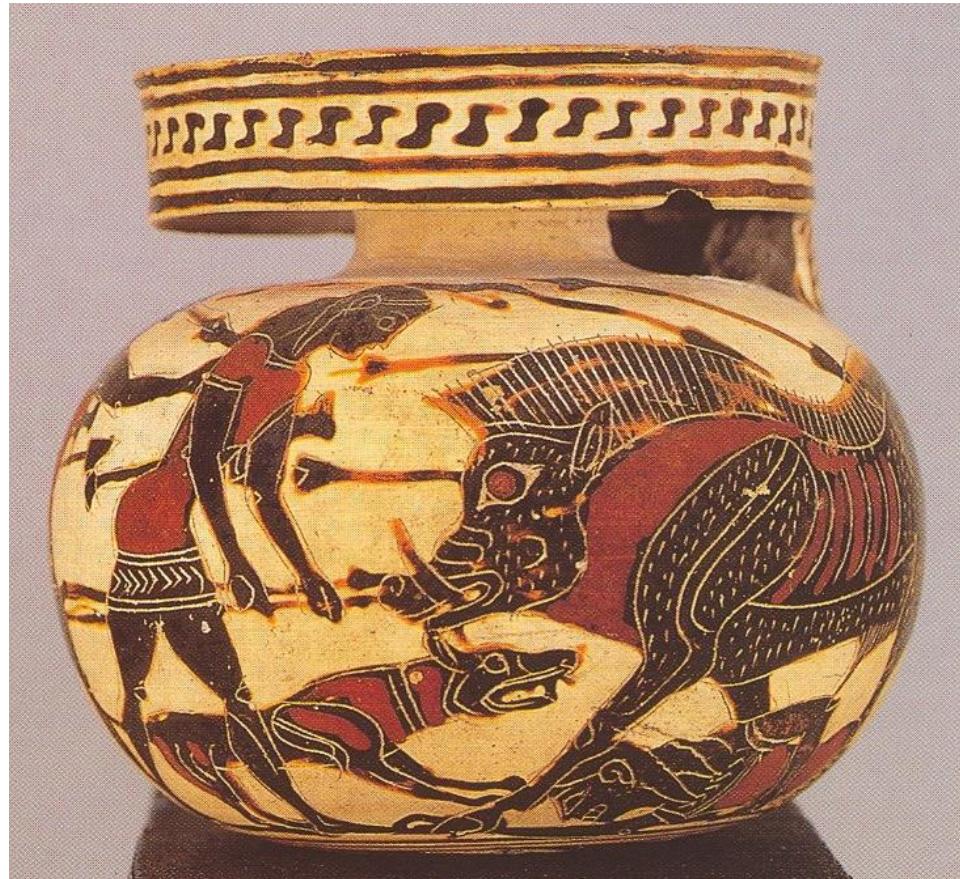
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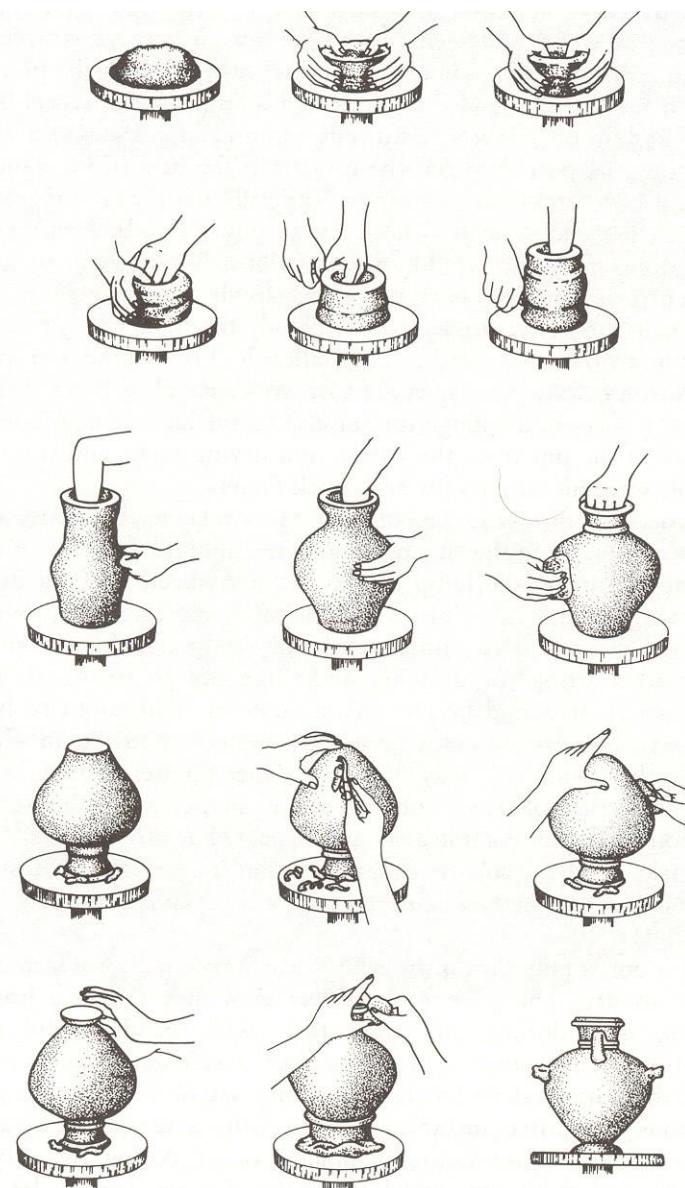
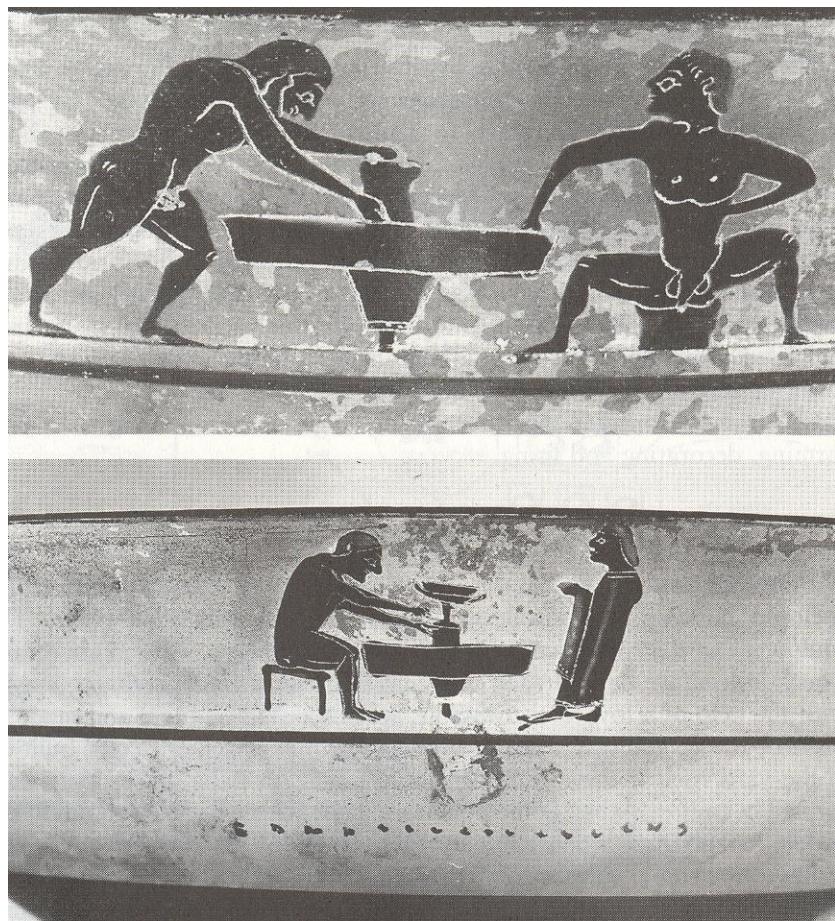


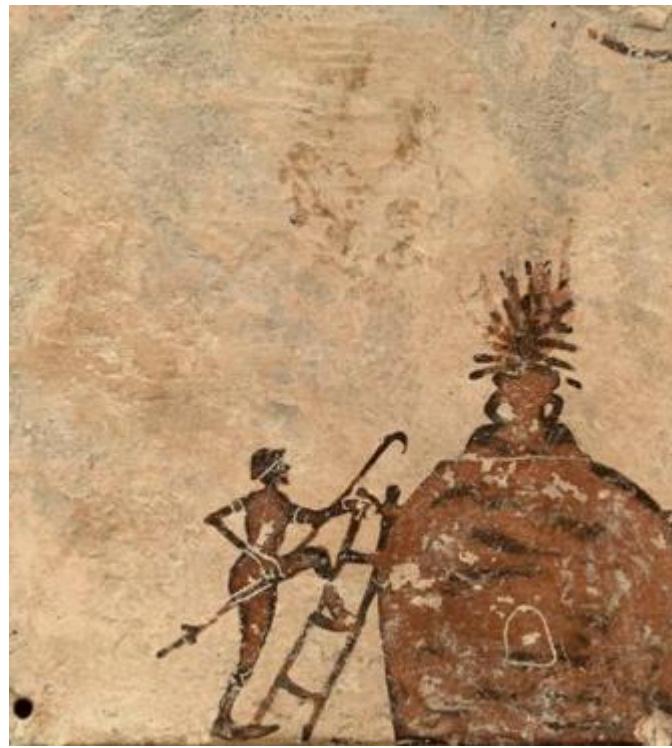
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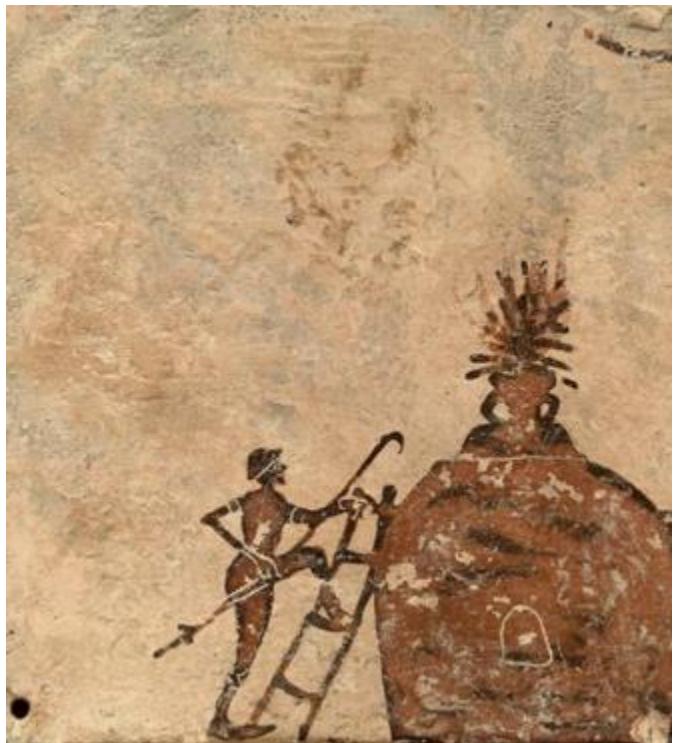






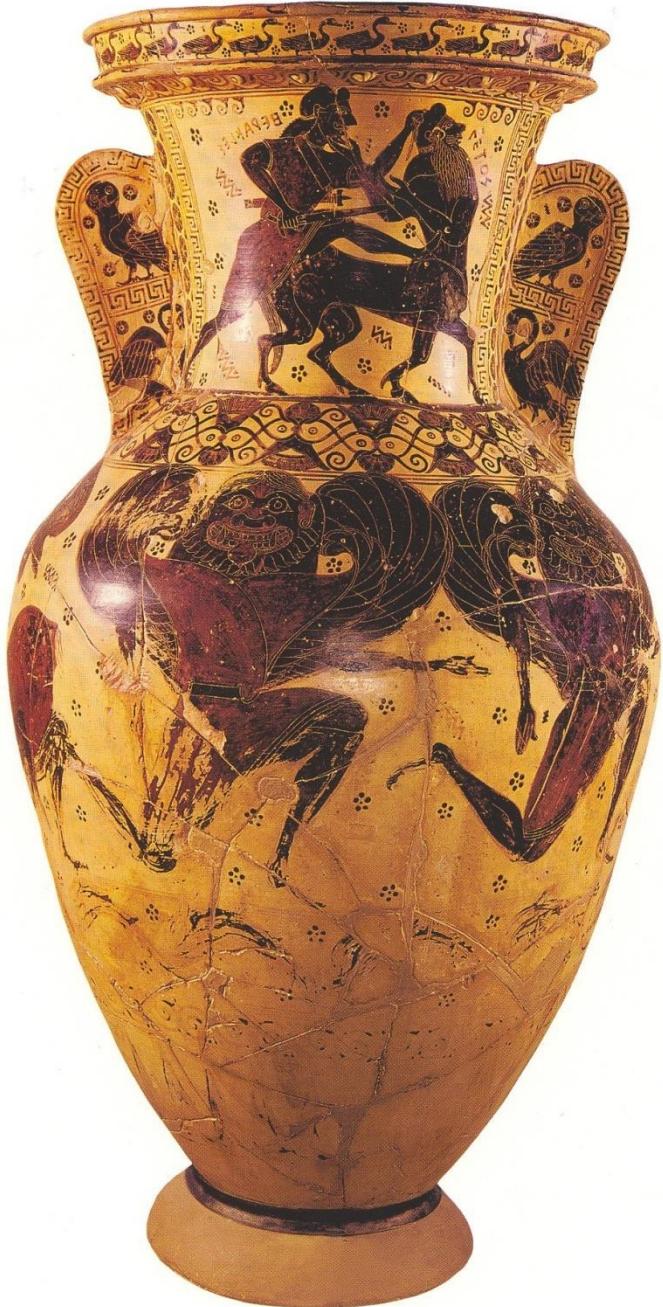


Technical process:



- a suspension of clay combined with some form of alkali (e.g. potash which can be made from wood ash)
- during the firing temperature in the kiln initially reached 800°C in **oxidising conditions** (with the vents in the kiln open)
- then comes a **reduction phase** (without oxygen) at a temperature of up to 945°C at which point the carbon monoxide in the atmosphere of the kiln reacts with the ferric oxide (Fe_2O_3) contained in the clay to create ferrous oxide (FeO), which has a black colour and crystallises to create a glossy appearance
- $3\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3 + \text{CO} \rightarrow 2\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4 + \text{CO}_2$
- third and final phase: once again **oxidising**, surfaces initially left the colour of the clay returned to their red colour, but the painted areas, which had already stabilised, remained shiny black, covered in 'glaze'





Athenian black-figure amphora.
c. 615-605 BCE



Athenian black-figure lebes.
c. 580 BCE



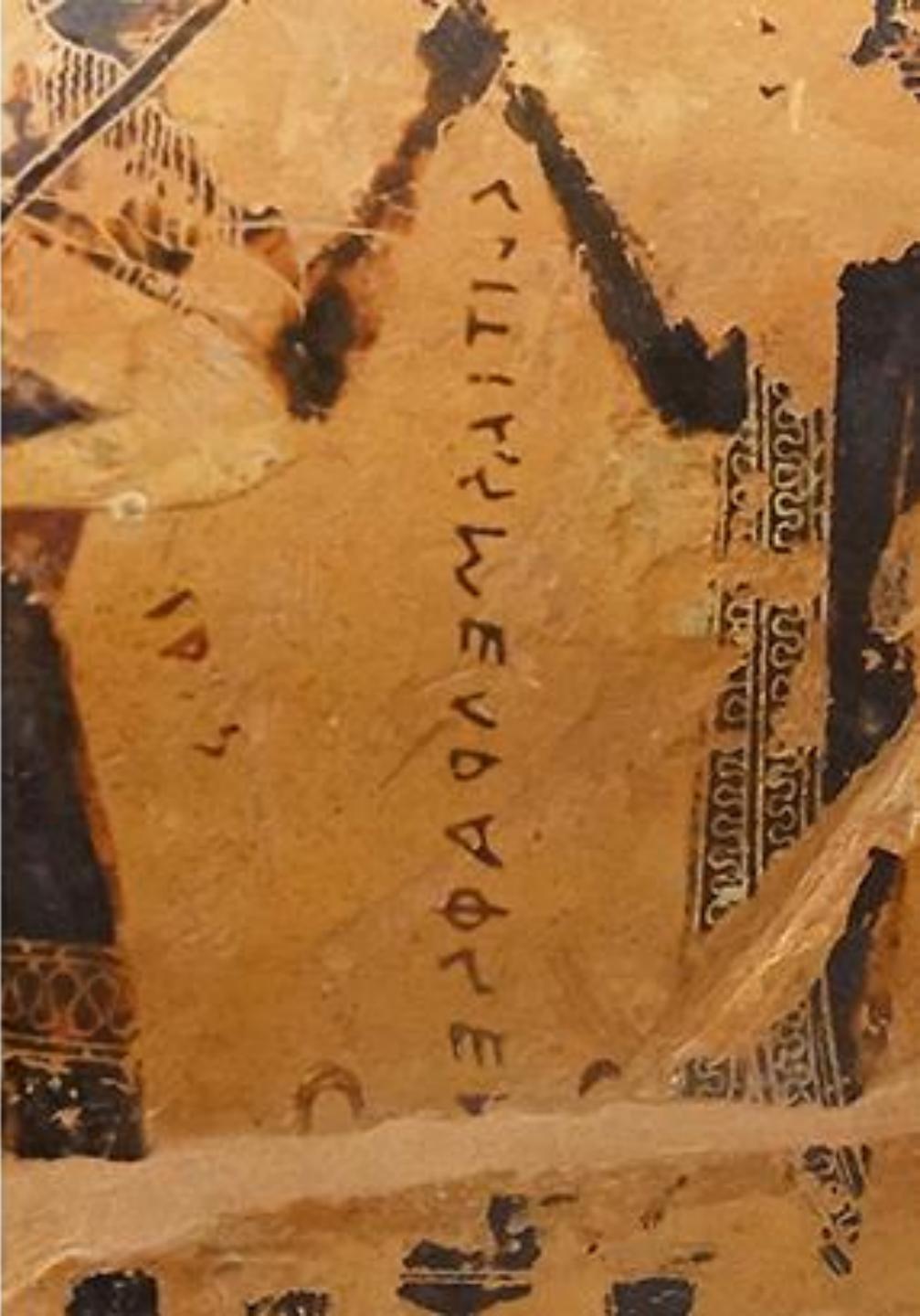
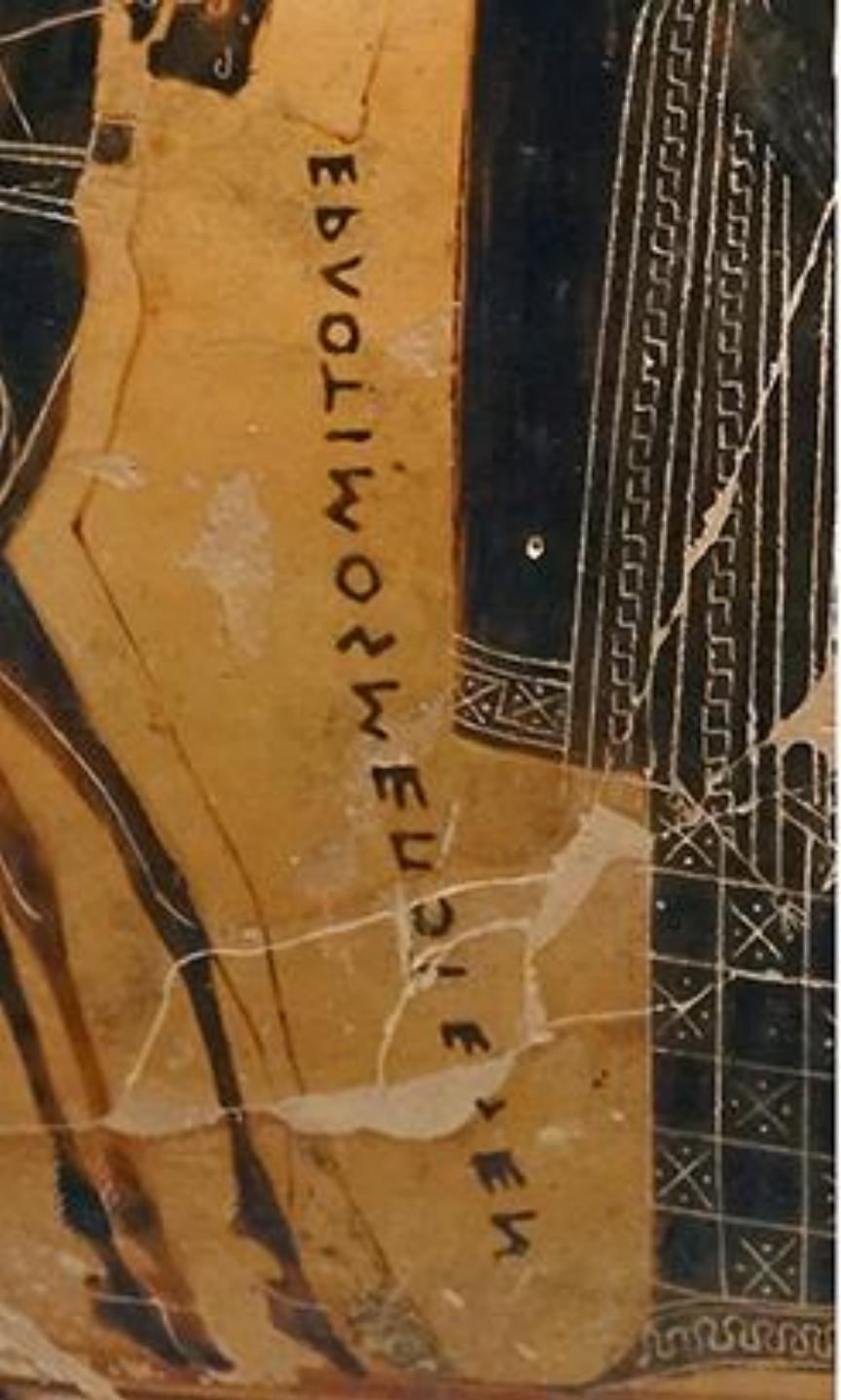
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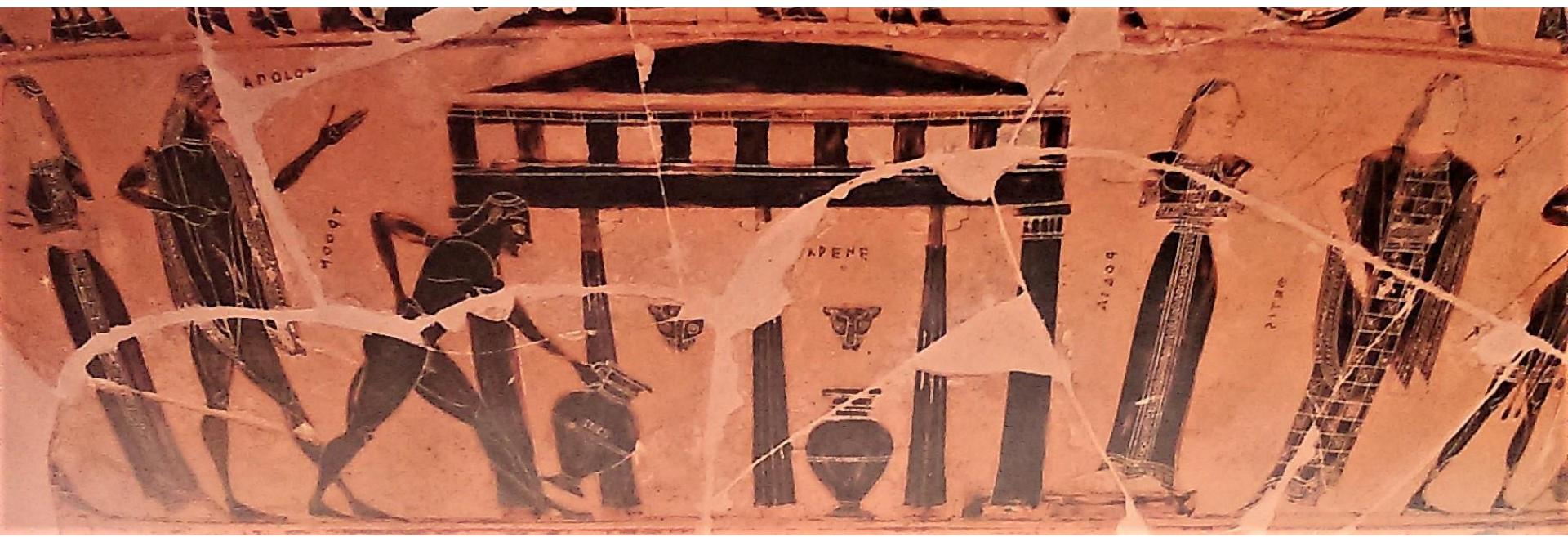
Athenian black-figure lebes.
c. 580 BCE



Athenian black-figure
krater.
c. 570-565 BCE





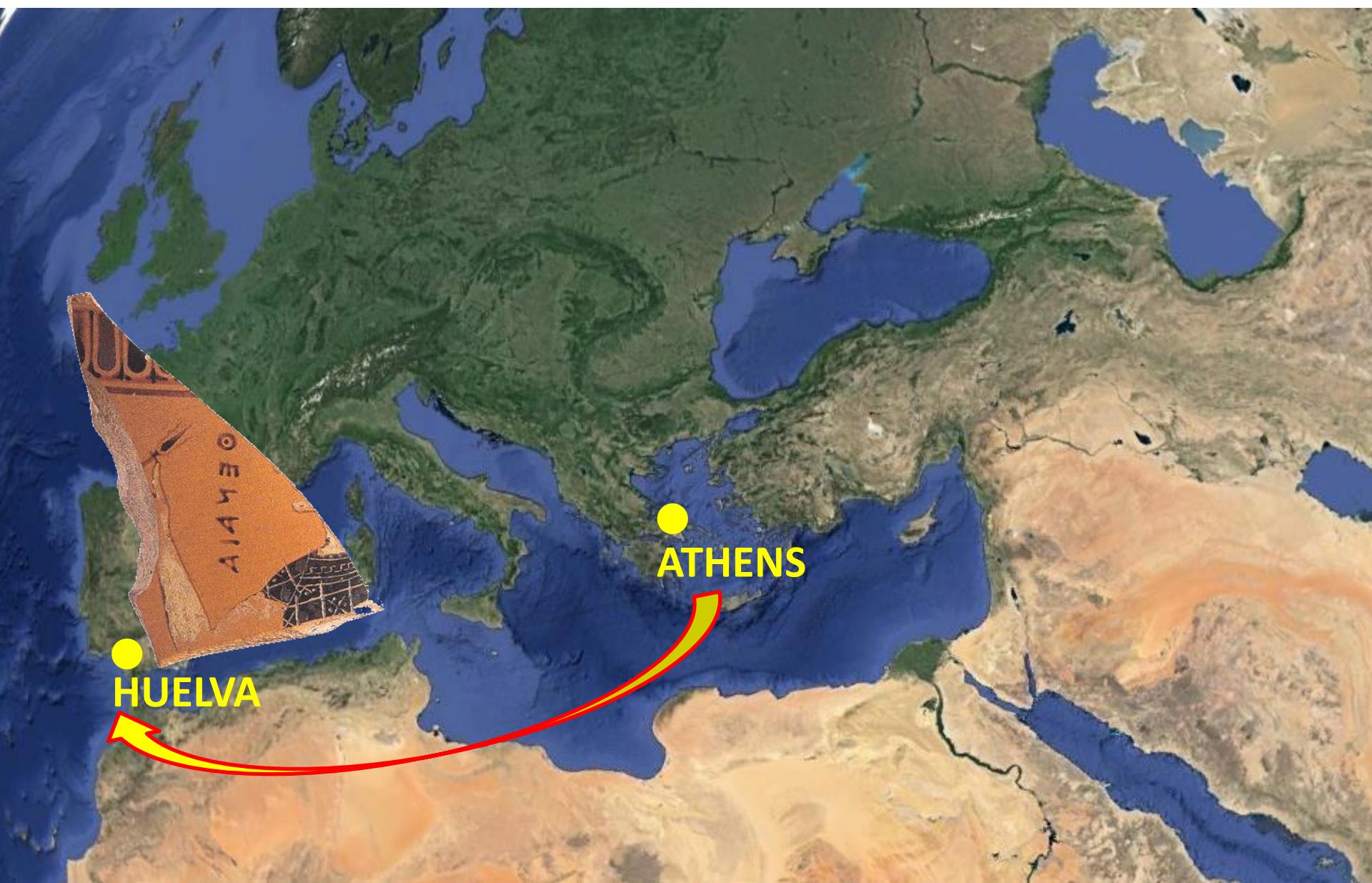


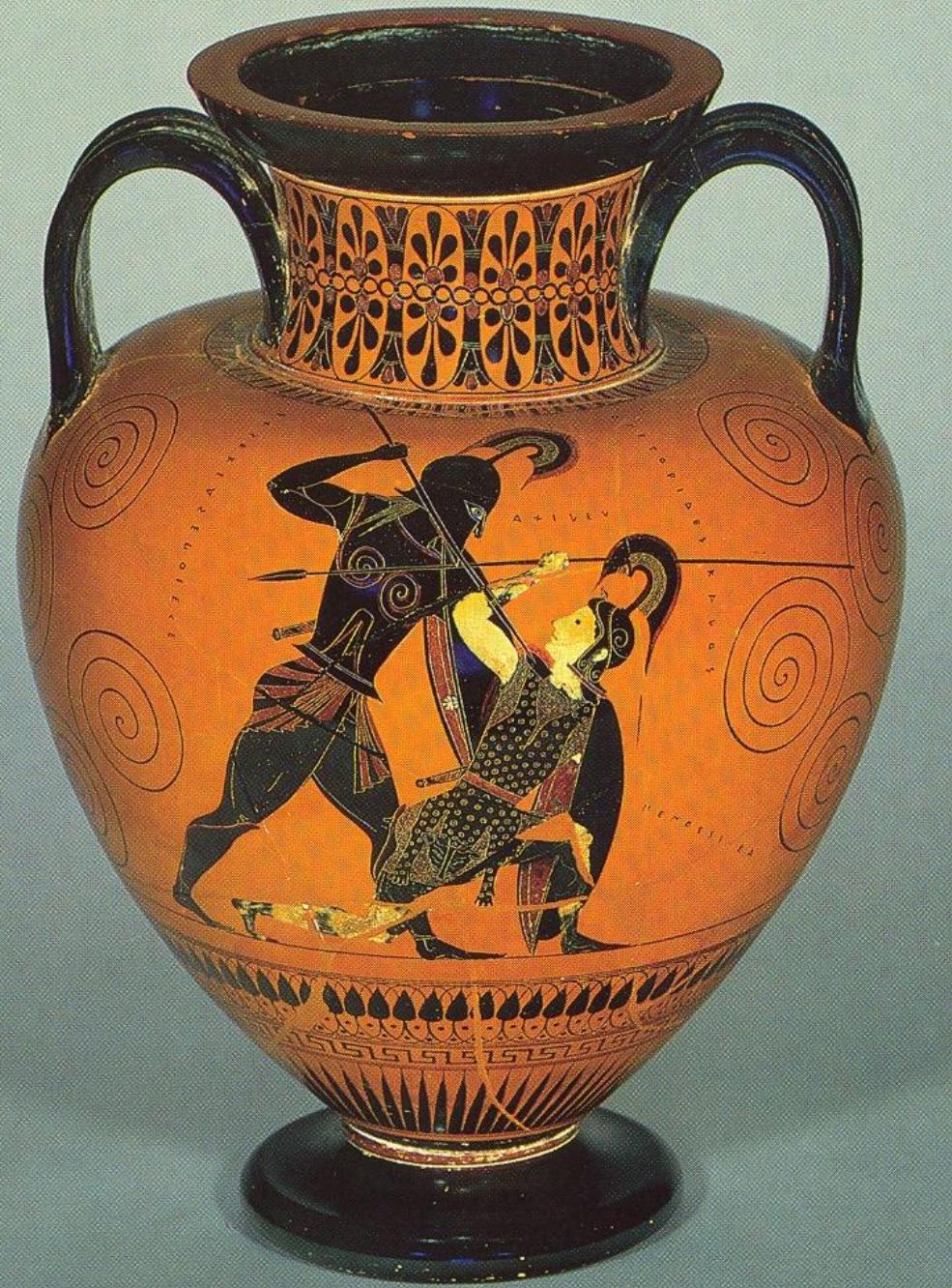


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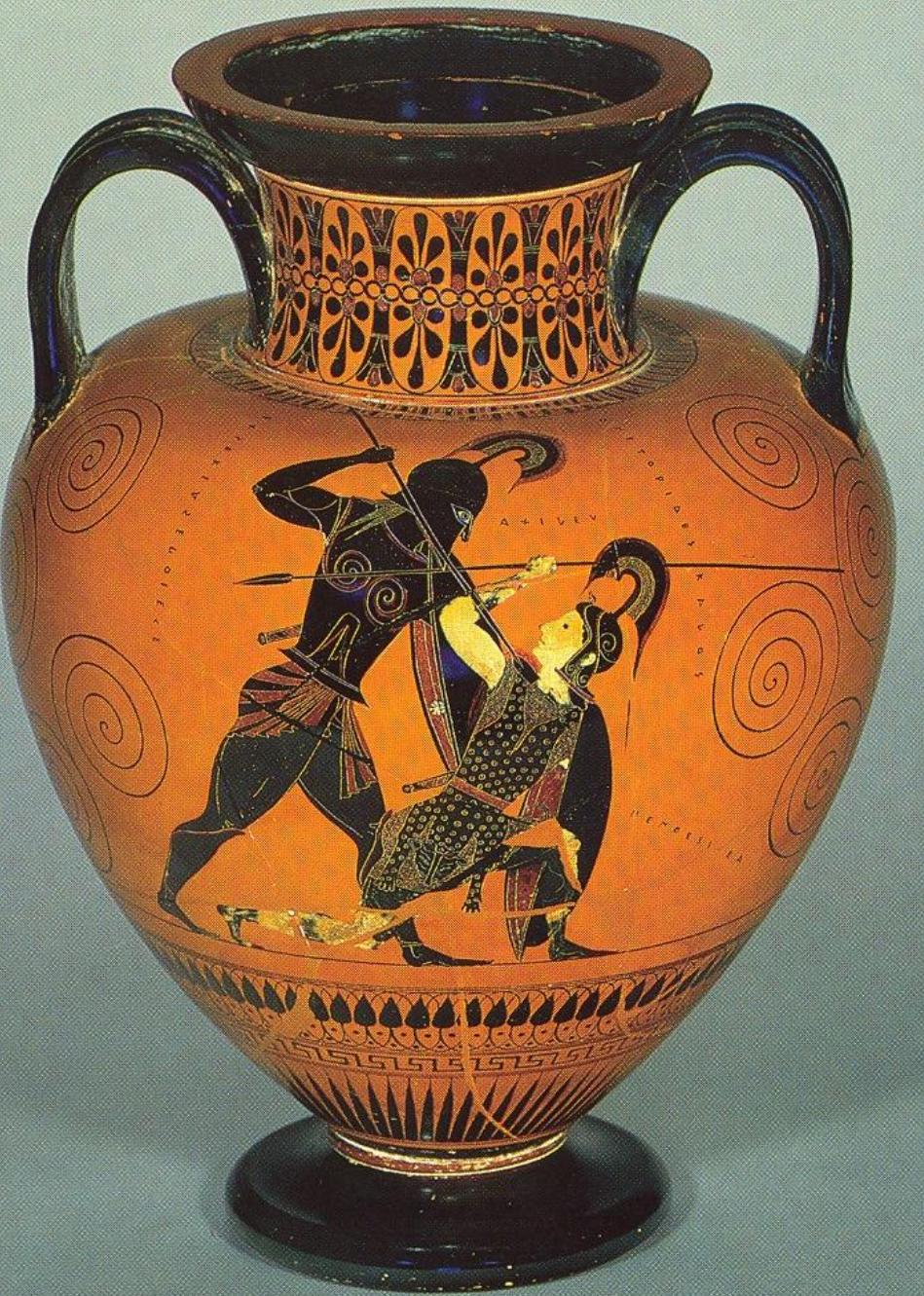
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Athenian black-figure
amphora. c. 530 BCE



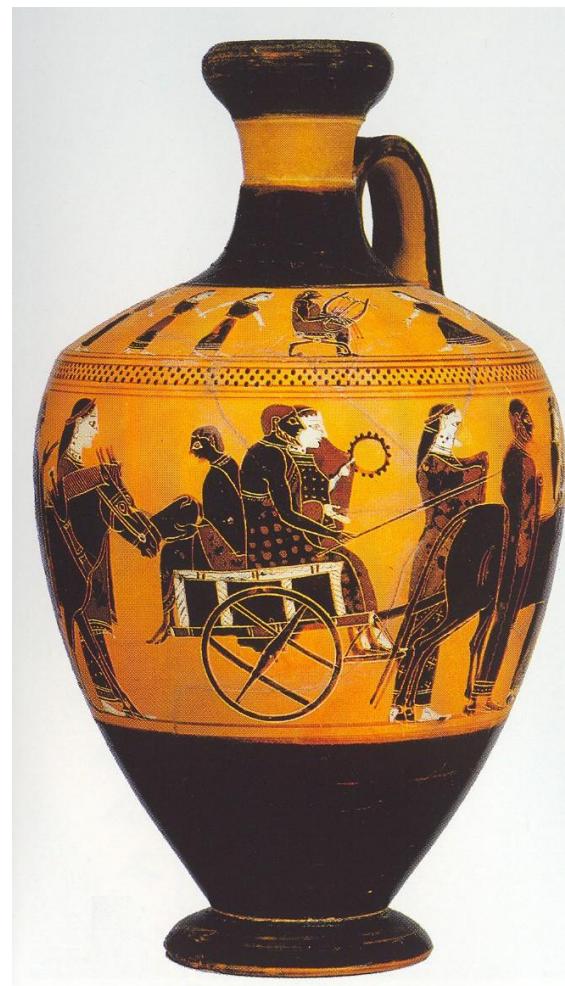
Athenian black-figure
amphora. c. 530 BCE



Athenian black-figure
kylix. c. 540 BCE



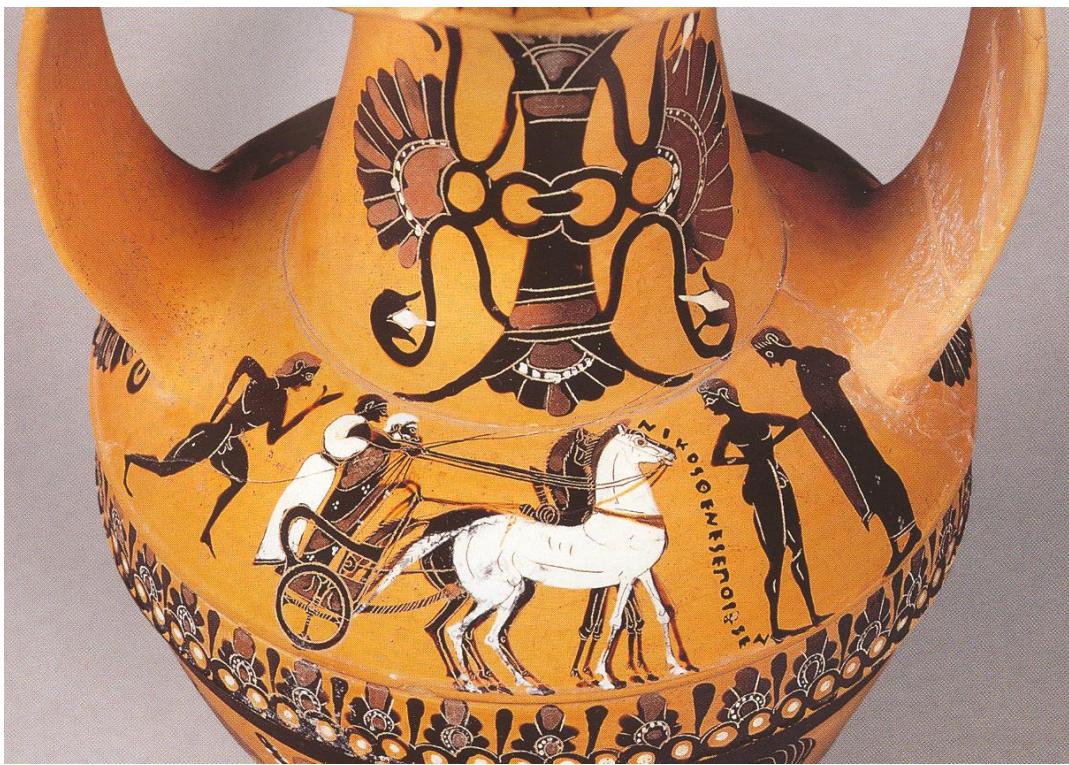
Athenian black-figure
amphora. c. 540 BCE



Athenian black-figure
lekythos. c. 550 BCE



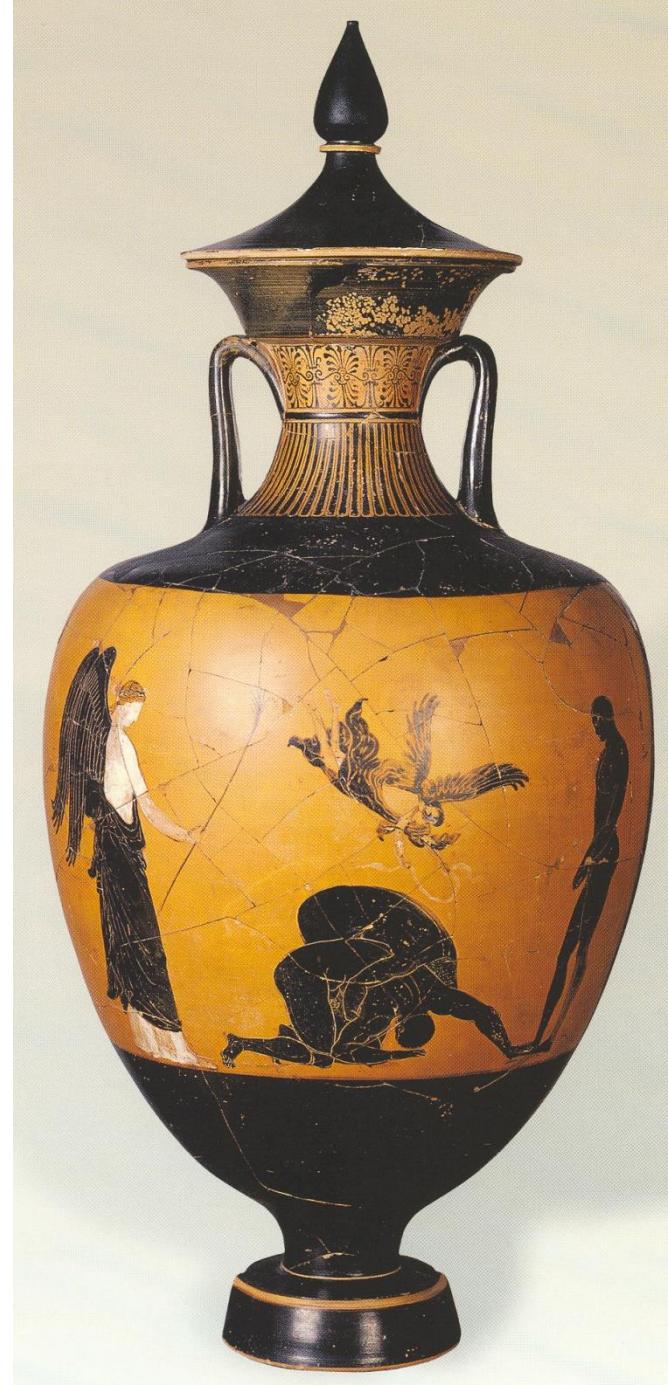
Athenian black-figure hydria.
c. 520-510 BCE



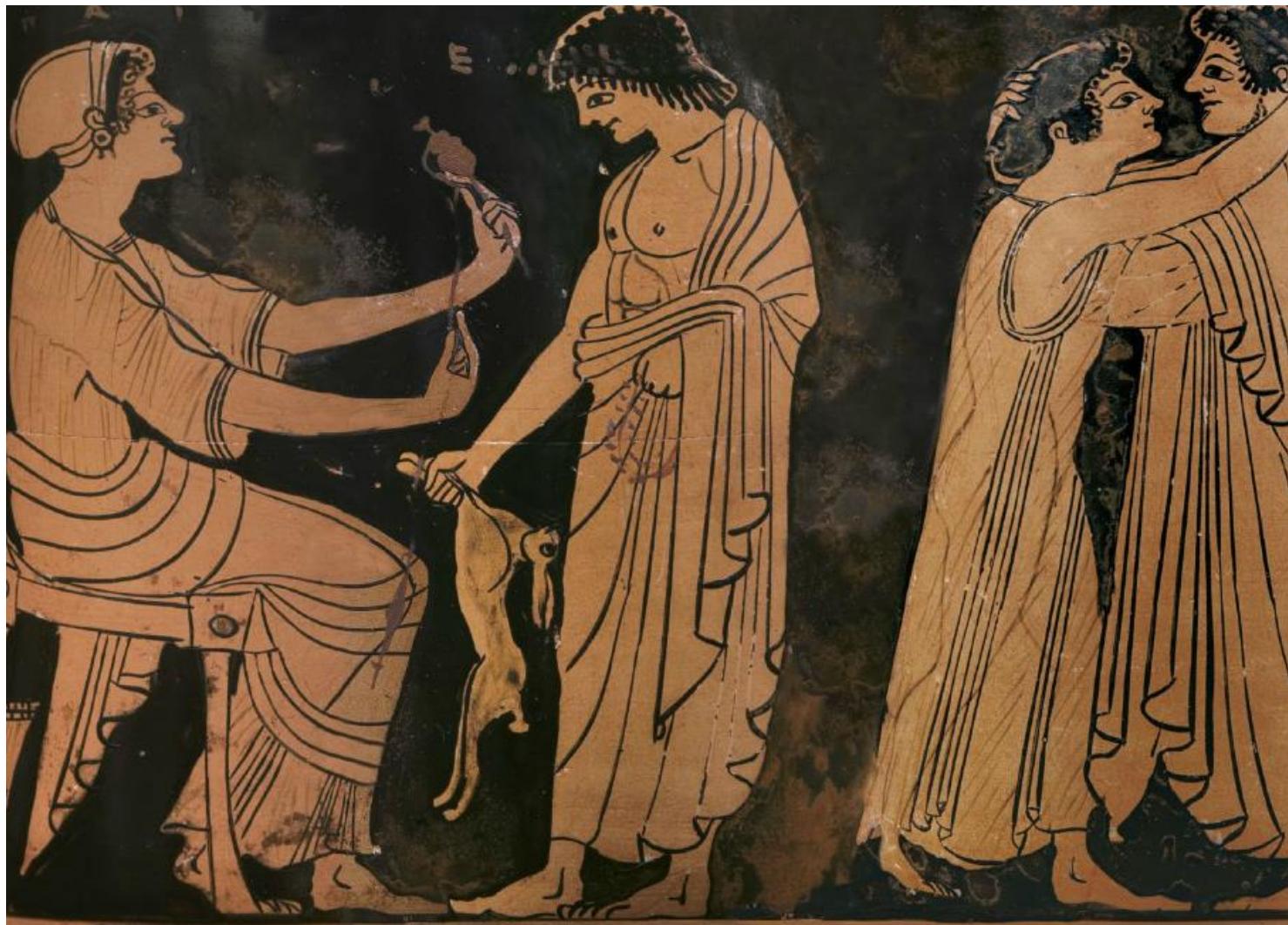
Athenian black-figure amphora.
c. 520-510 BCE



Panathenaic amphora.
c. 490 BCE

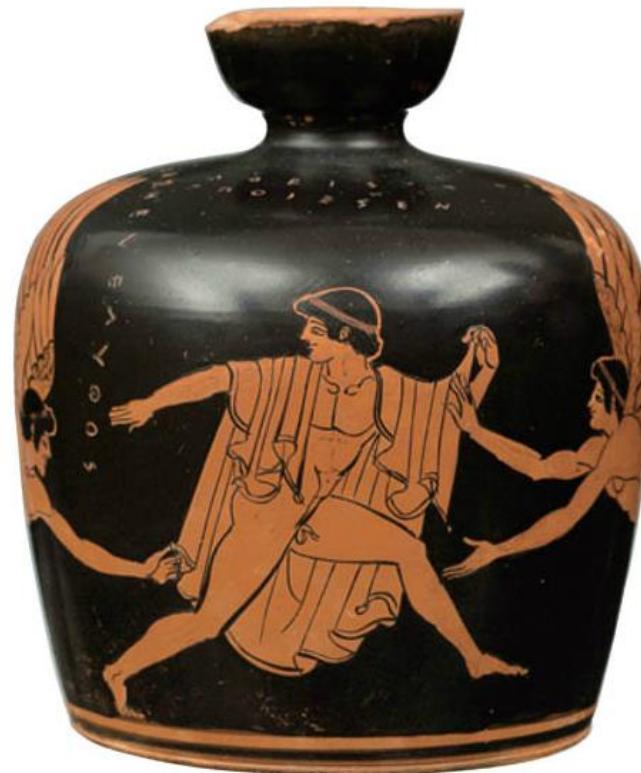


Red-figure vase painting:



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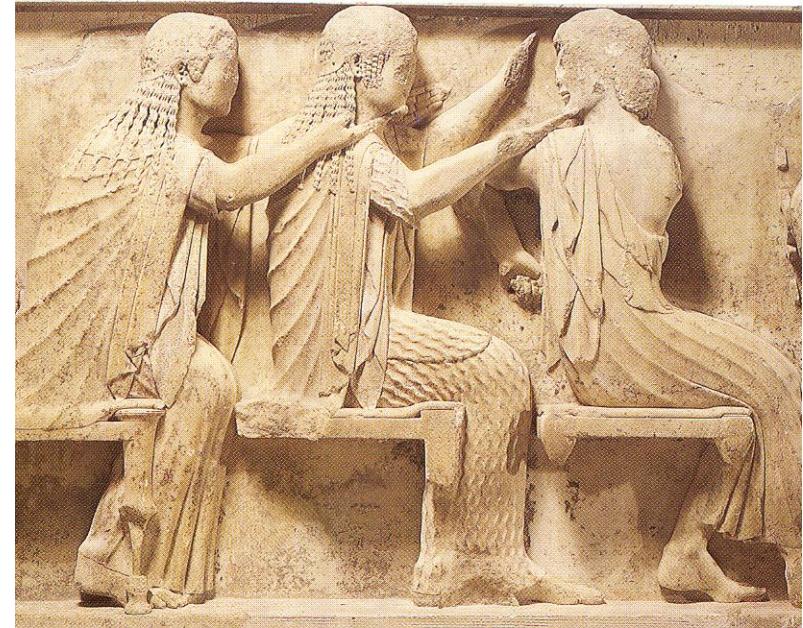
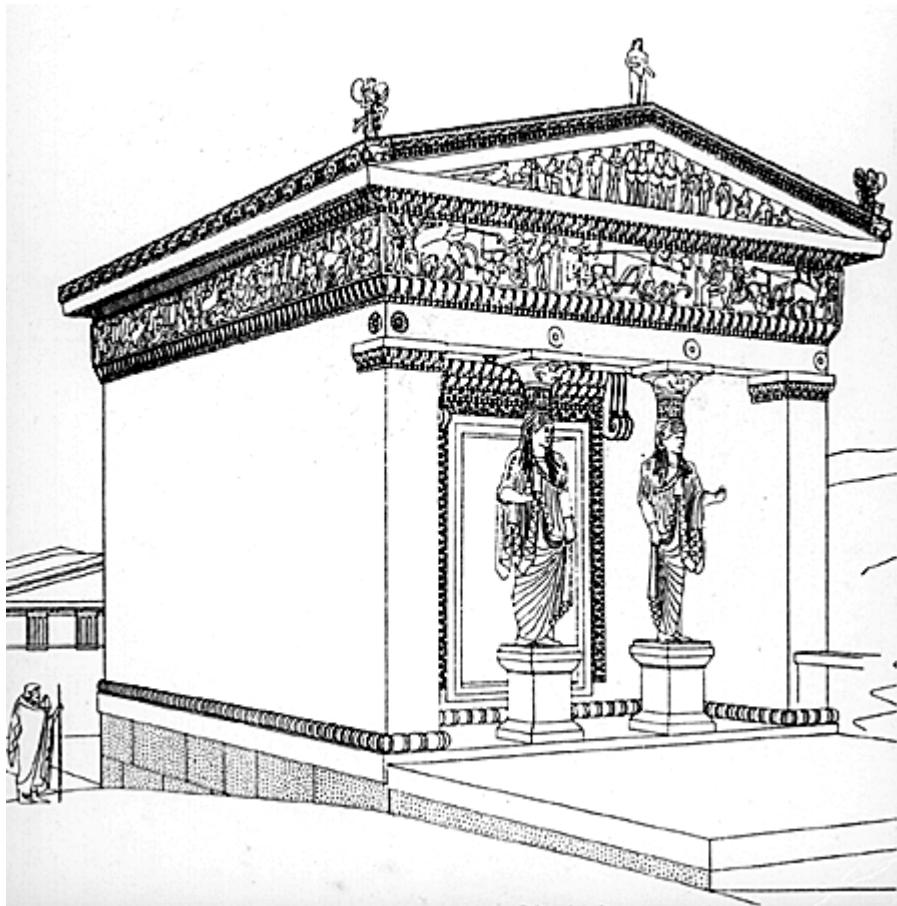
- appeared in Athens around 530 BCE
- dominated Attic pottery until the end of the 4th century BCE
- depicts red, *reserved* figures (the colour of the clay) on a background which was painted black
- complete reverse of the black figure style
- uses painted lines or thick black brush marks ('relief lines') to complete the outline of the figure and render anatomical detail



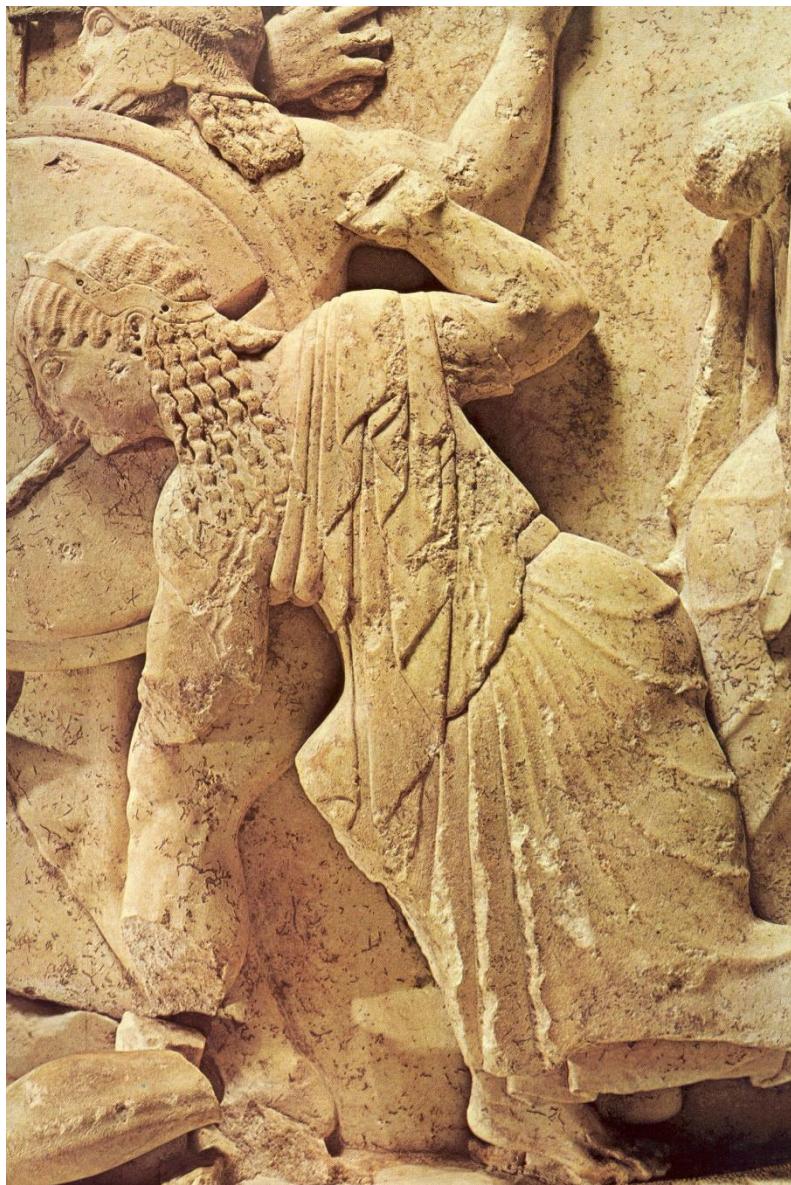
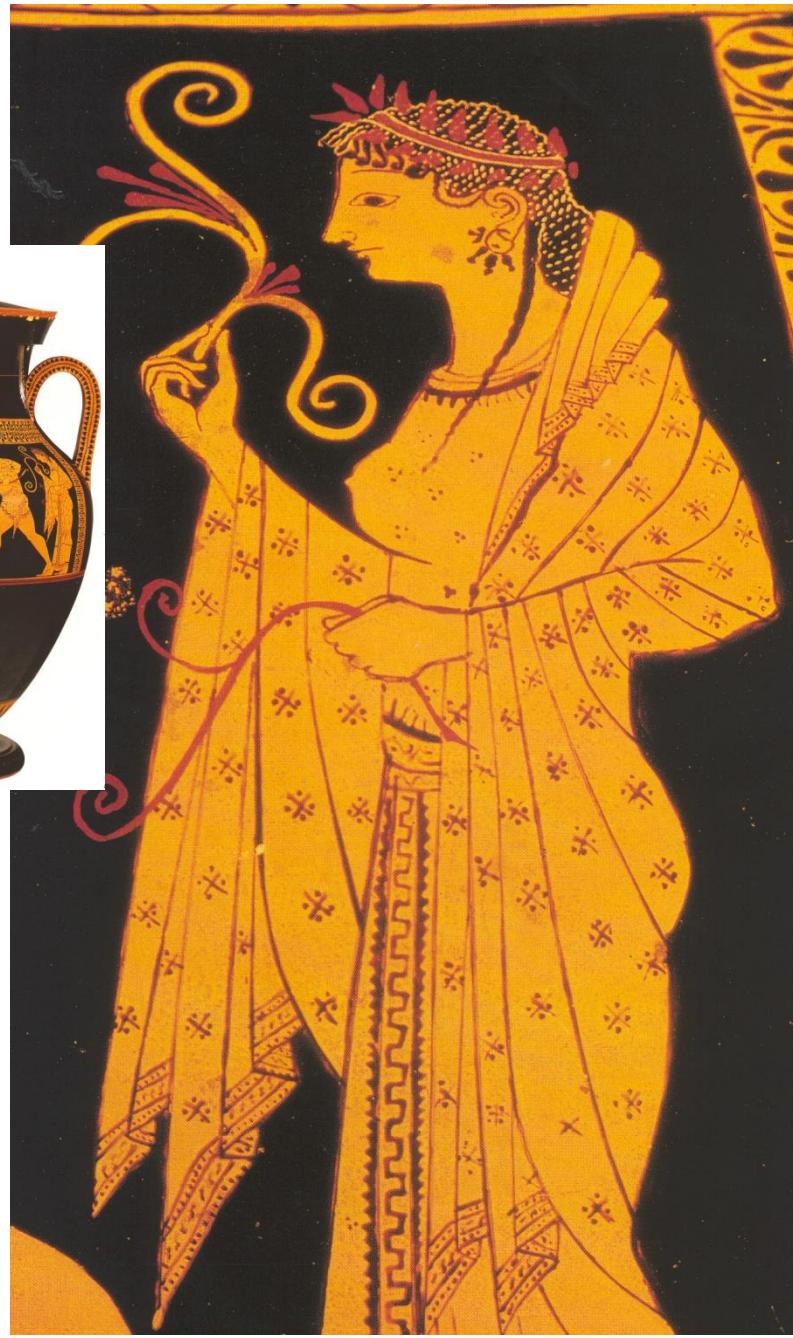
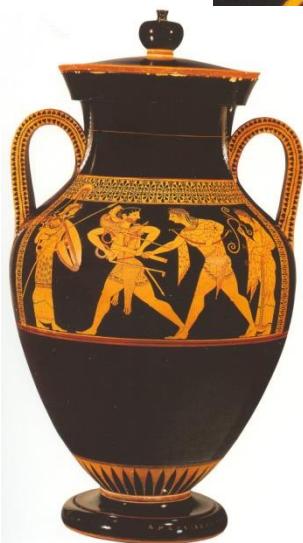
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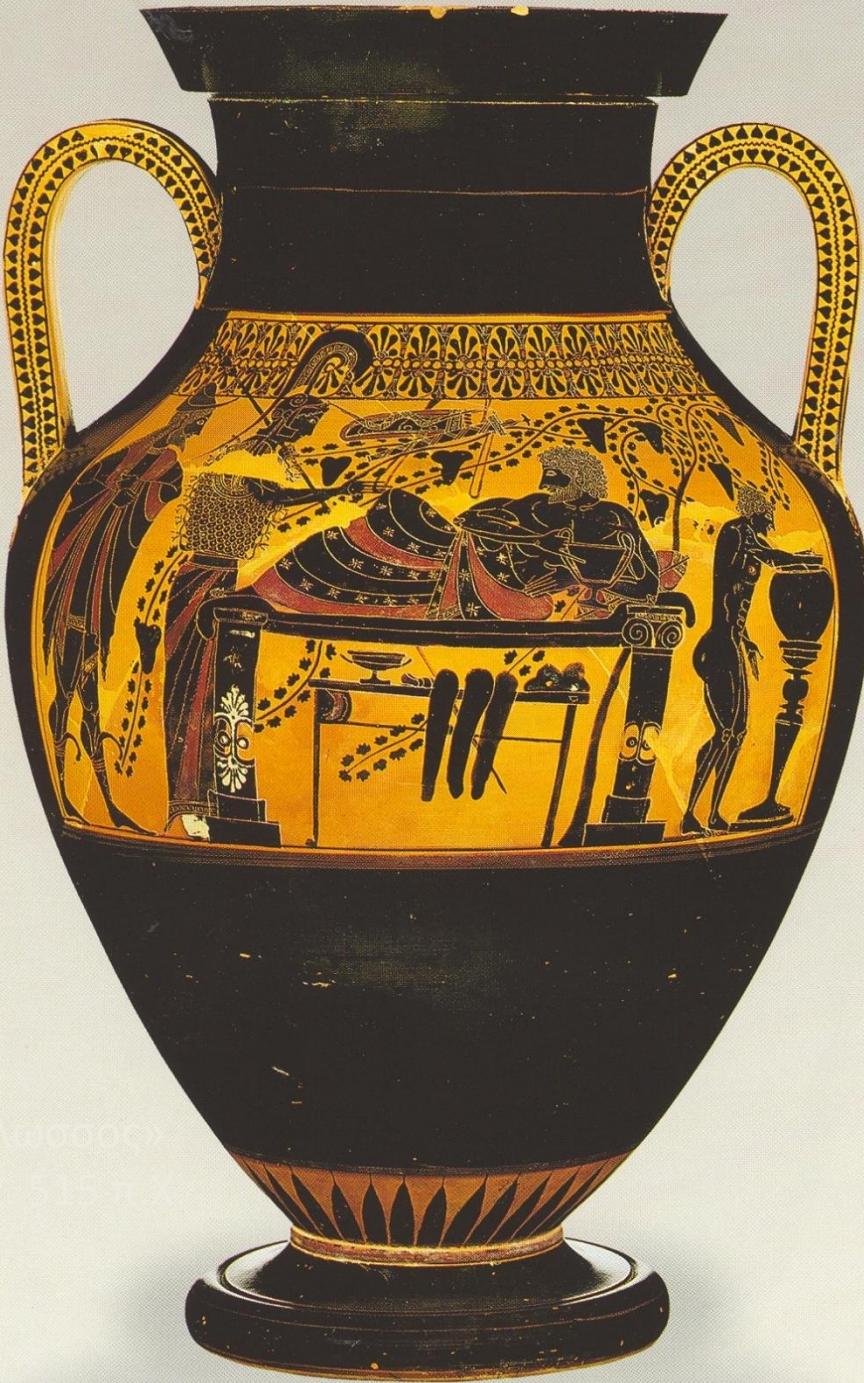
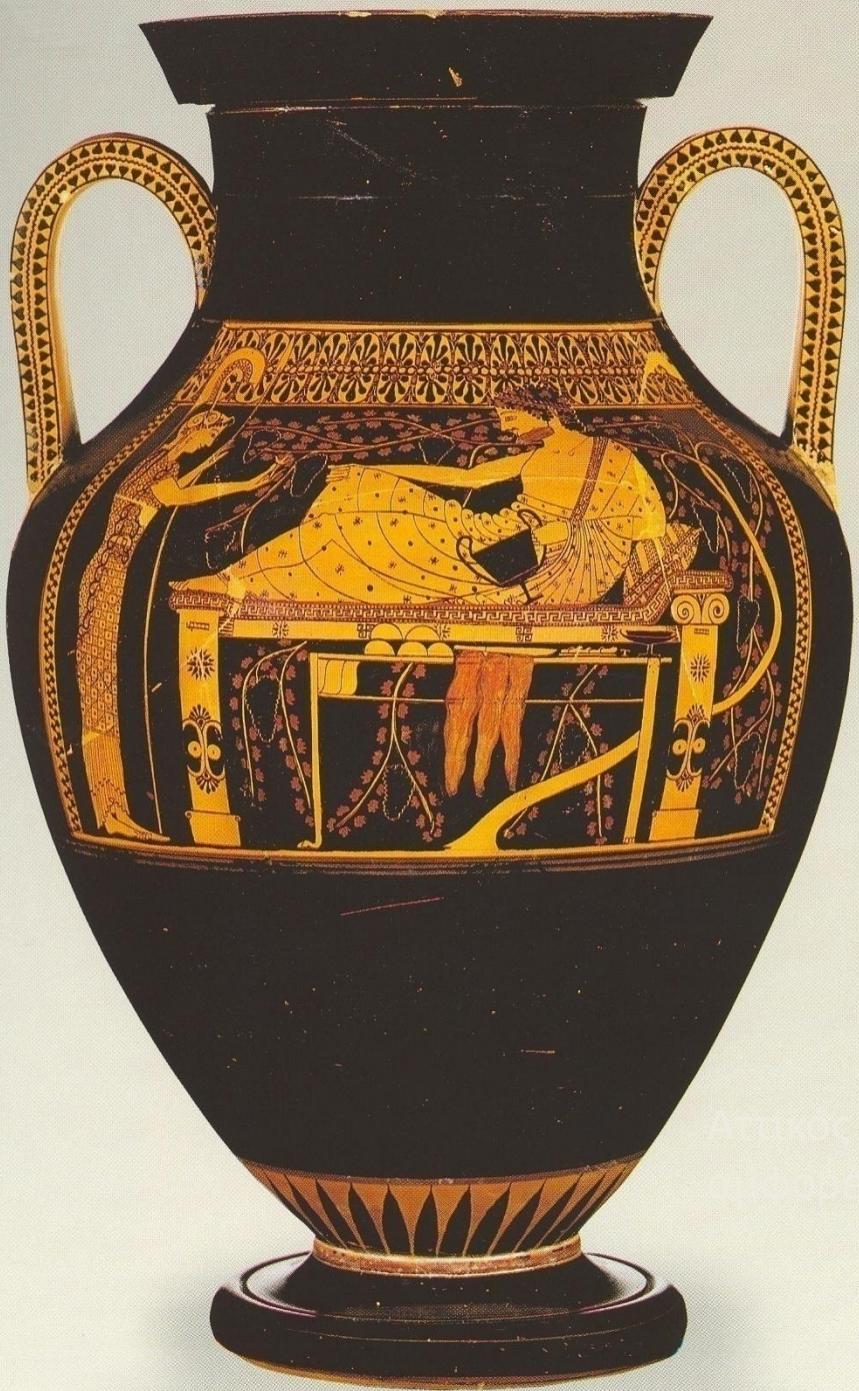
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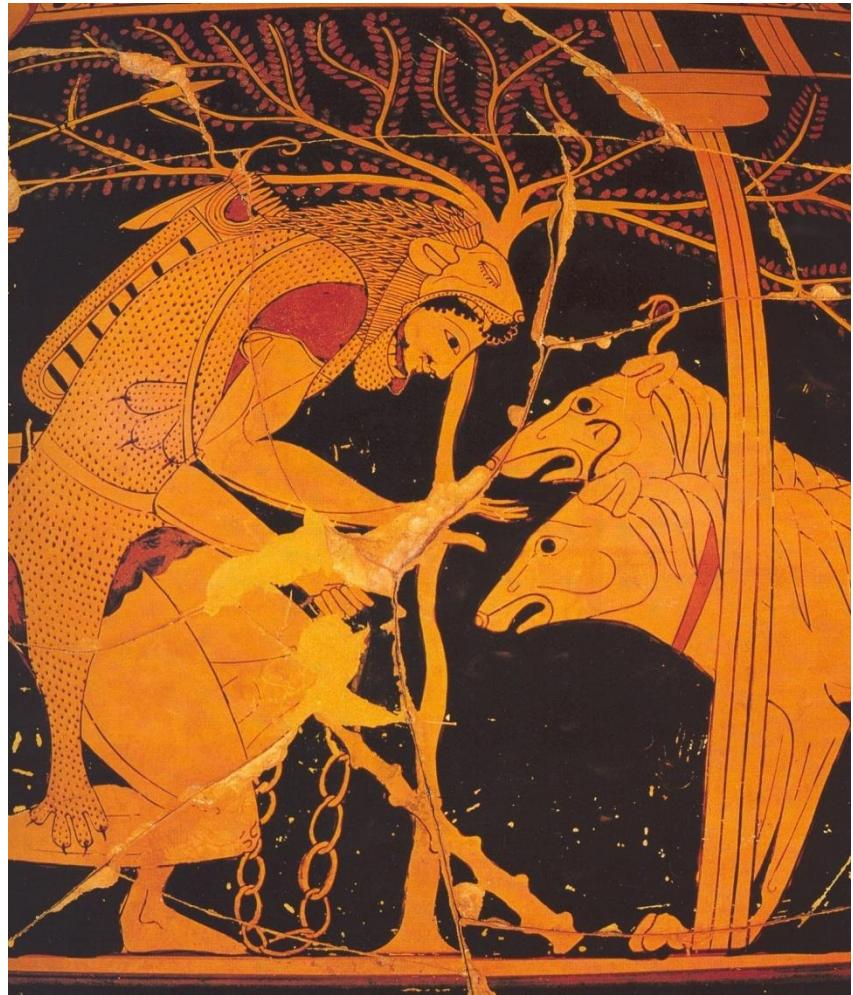
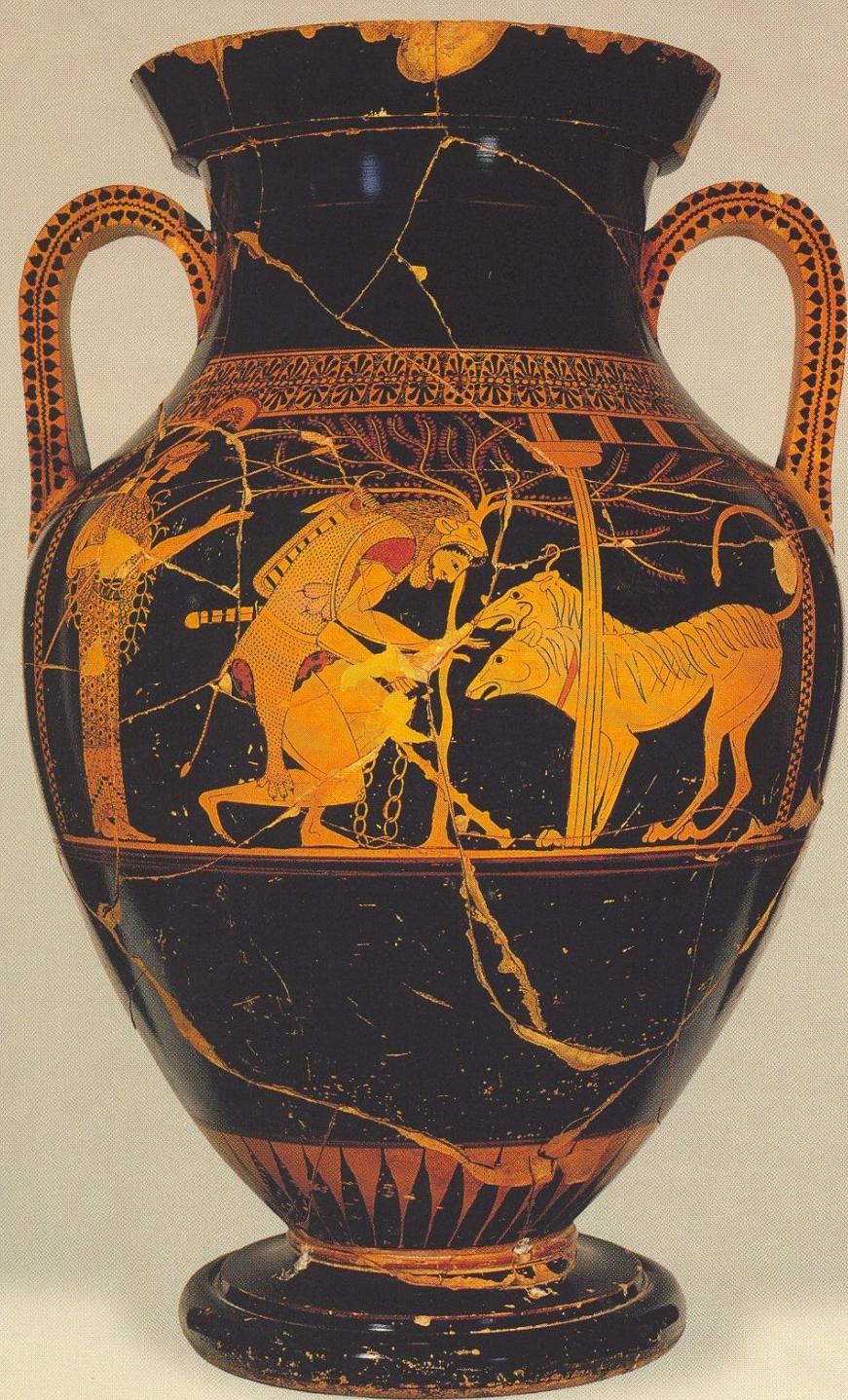


Delphi, the Siphnian Treasury.
c. 525 BCE





АТТИКОС («Лафос»)
ок. 515 г. до н. э.



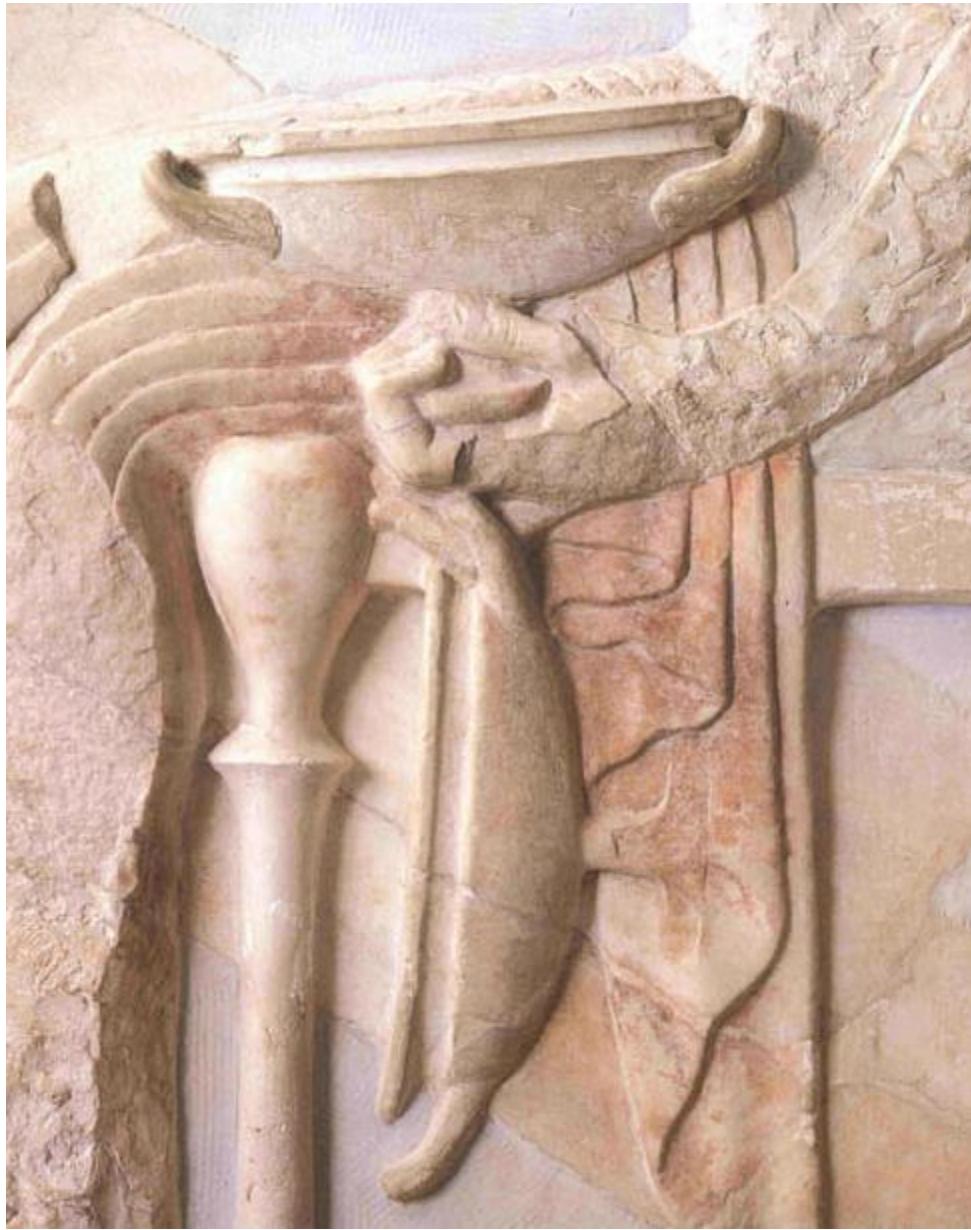
Athenian “bilingual” amphora.
c. 520 BCE



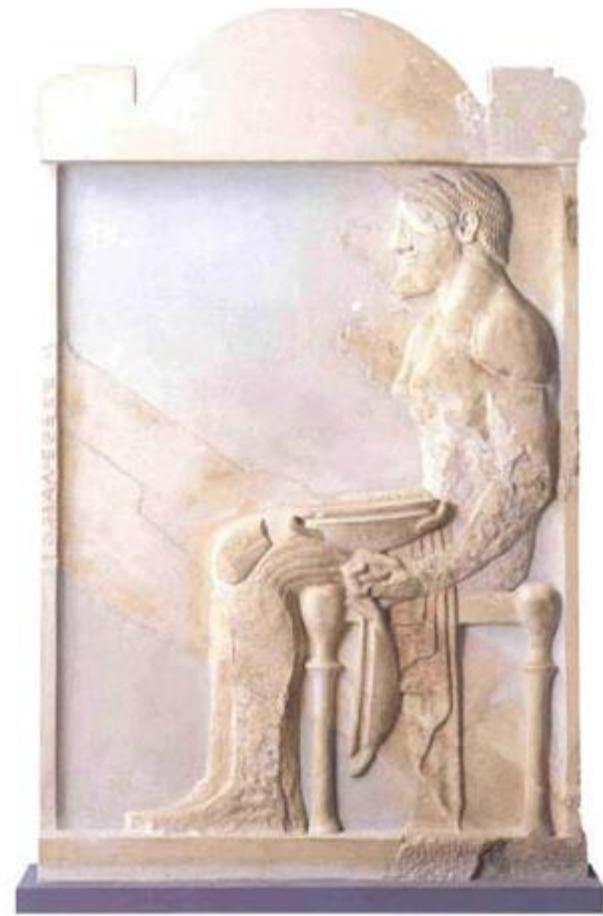


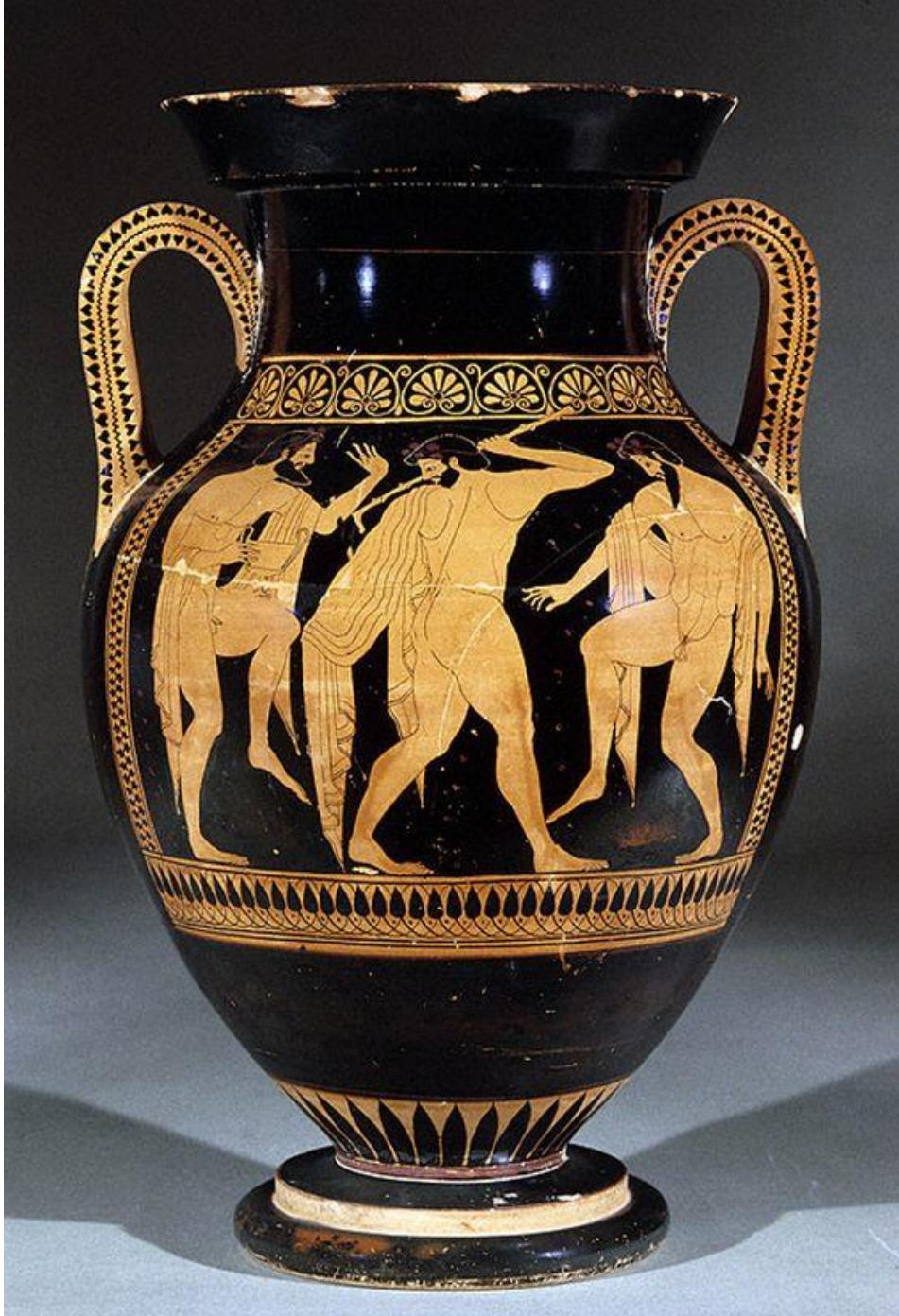
Athenian red-figure krater. c. 515-510 BCE





Athenian votive relief.
c. 510-500 BCE



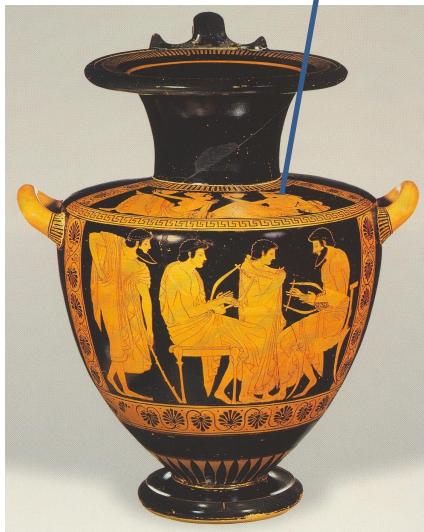


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ΕΥΘΥΜΙΔΕΙ Η Ο ΓΟΥΙΟ
ΗΟΣ ΟΥΔΕ ΠΟΤΕ ΕΥΦΡΟΝΙΟΝ

Athenian red-figure amphora.
c. 510 BCE



Athenian red-figure hydria.
c. 510 BCE

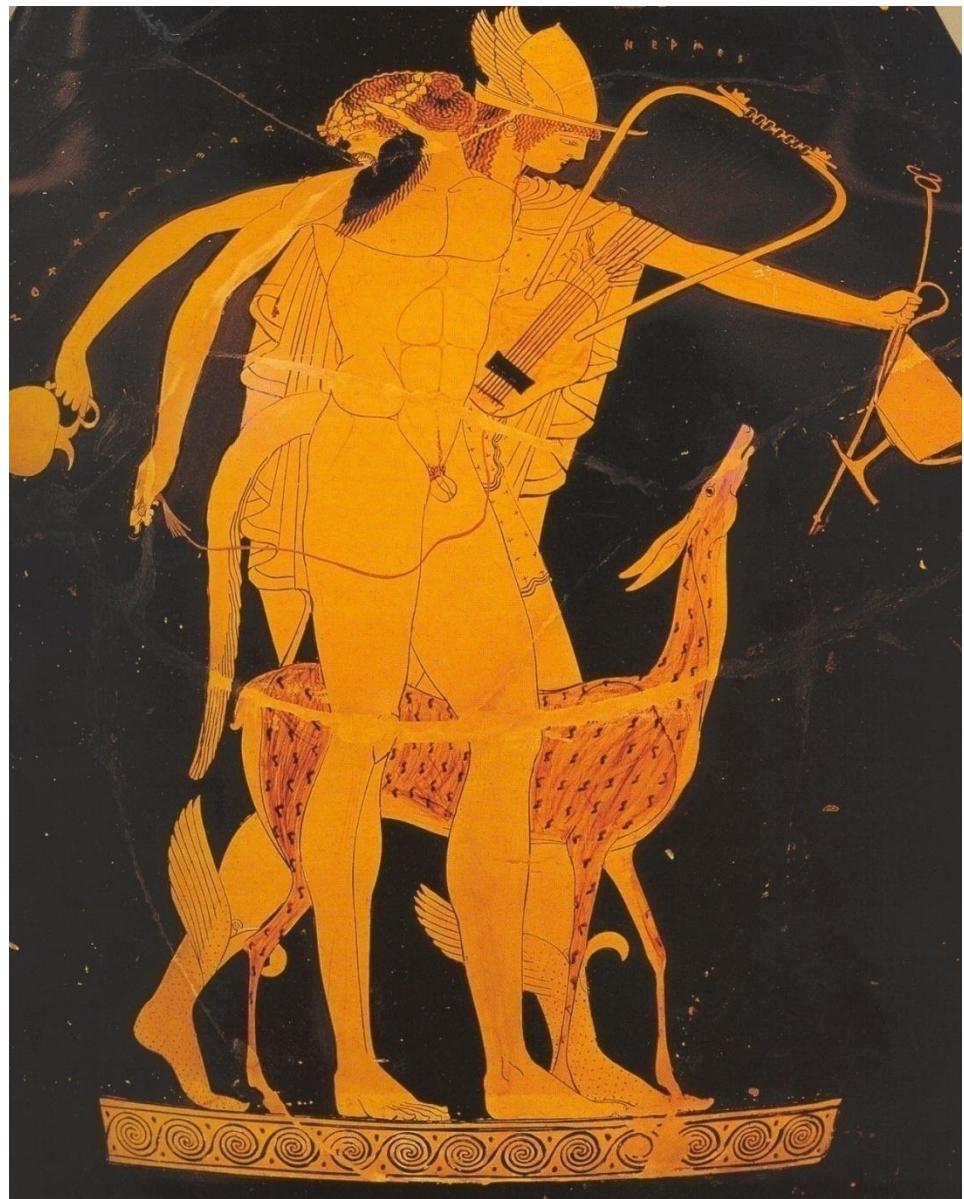


Athenian red-figure hydria.
c. 510 BCE



Athenian red-figure
stamnos. c. 515 BCE





Athenian red-figure amphora.
c. 490 BCE



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