



Ancient Greek art: an overview.

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University of Athens



Εθνικόν και Καποδιστριακόν
Πανεπιστήμιον Αθηνών
— ΙΔΡΥΘΕΝ ΤΟ 1837 —

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Ancient Greek art: an overview (75202)



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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)
- Protogeometric 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:

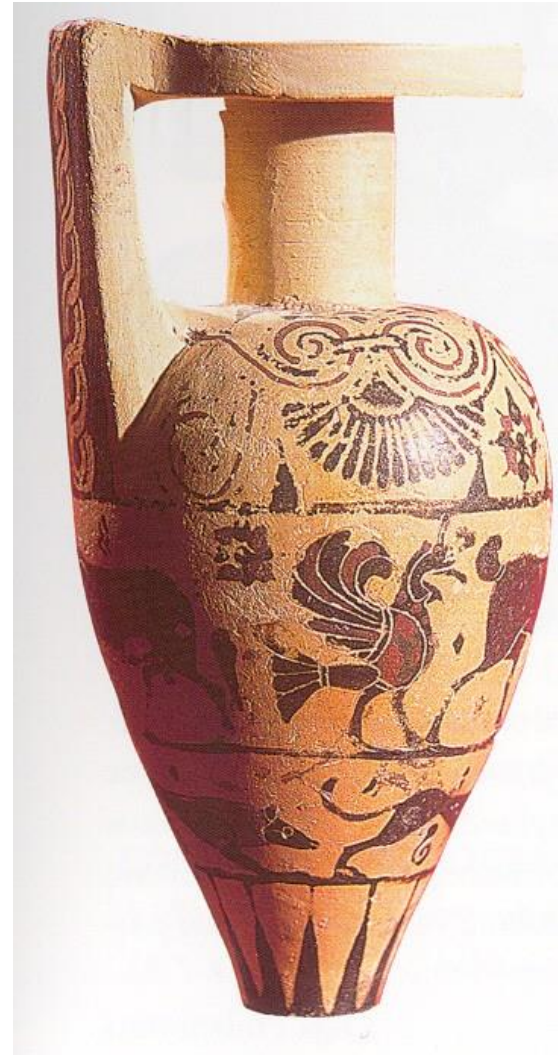
- Plantzos 2016: ch. 3.
- National Archaeological Museum:
https://www.latsis-foundation.org/content/elib/book_14/nam_en.pdf (pp. 187-196)
- Kerameikos: <https://www.latsis-foundation.org/eng/e-library> (pp. 116-173)

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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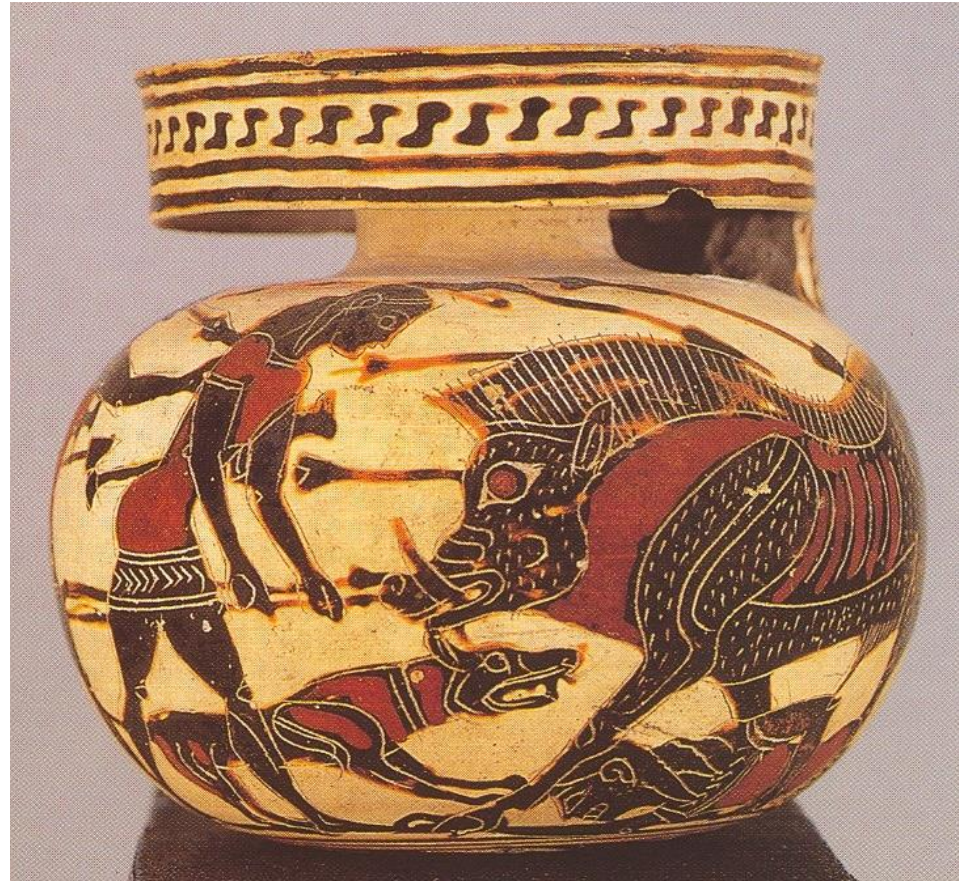
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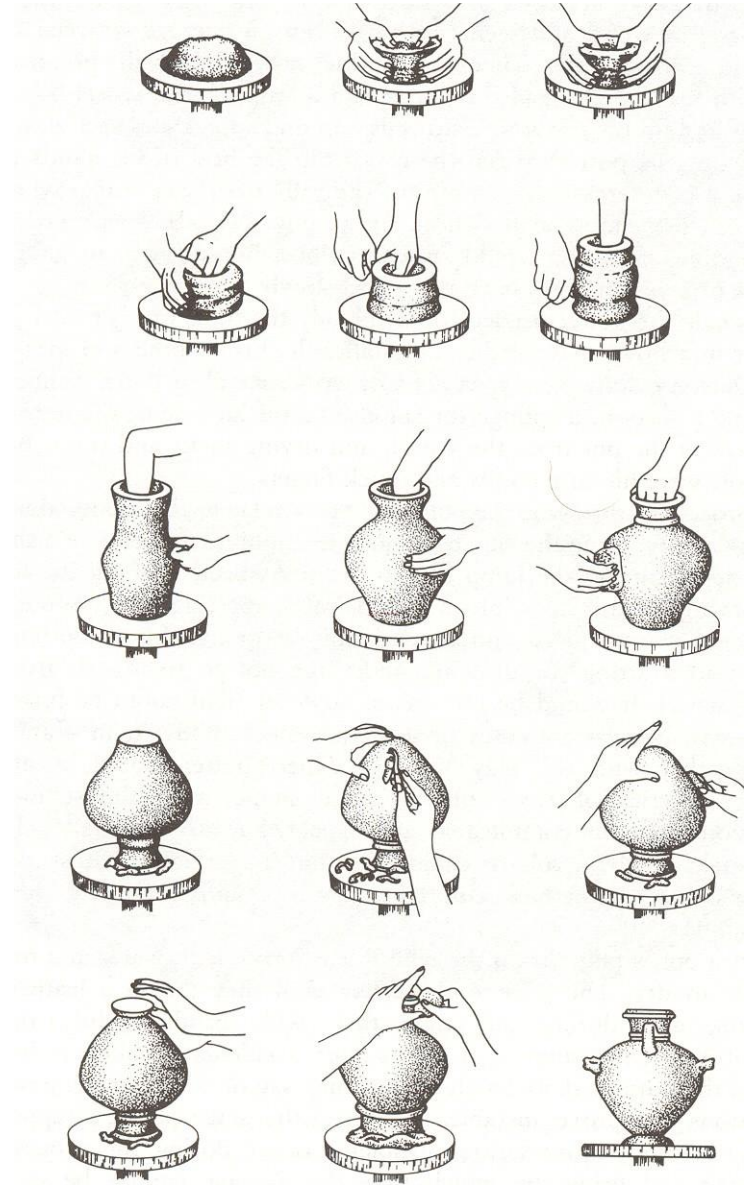
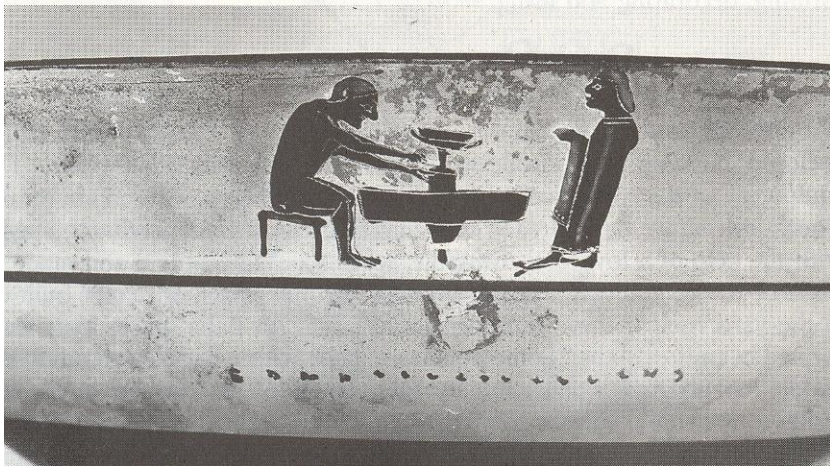


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Technical process:



- 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'





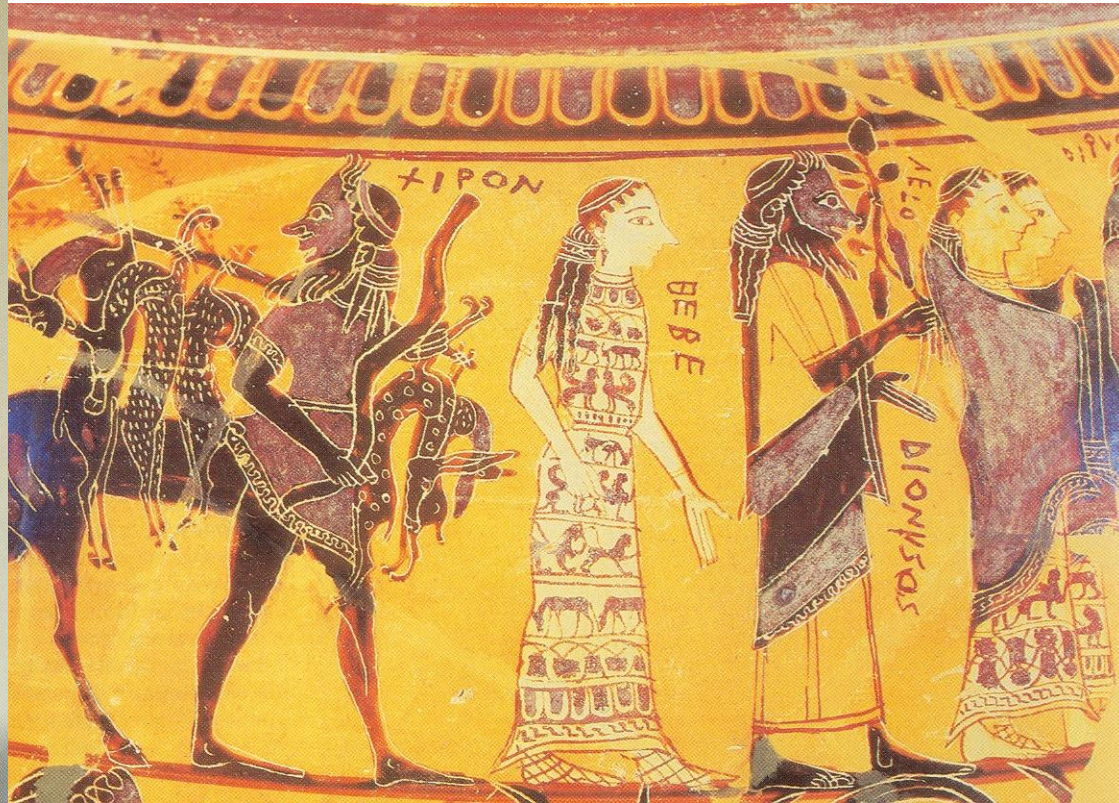
**Athenian black-figure amphora.
c. 615-605 BCE**



**Athenian black-figure lebes.
c. 580 BCE**



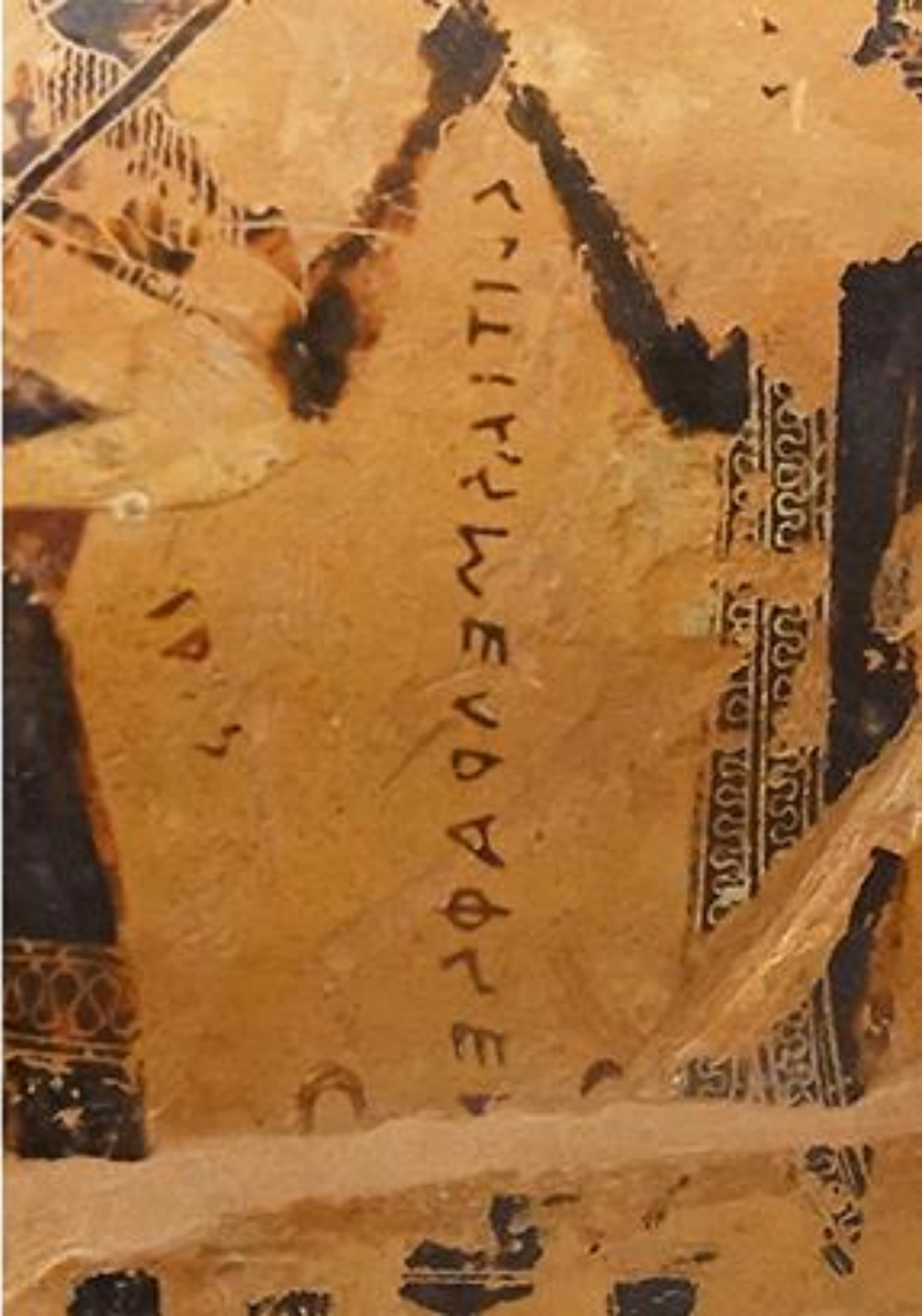
**Athenian black-figure lebes.
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**Athenian black-figure lebes.
c. 580 BCE**



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





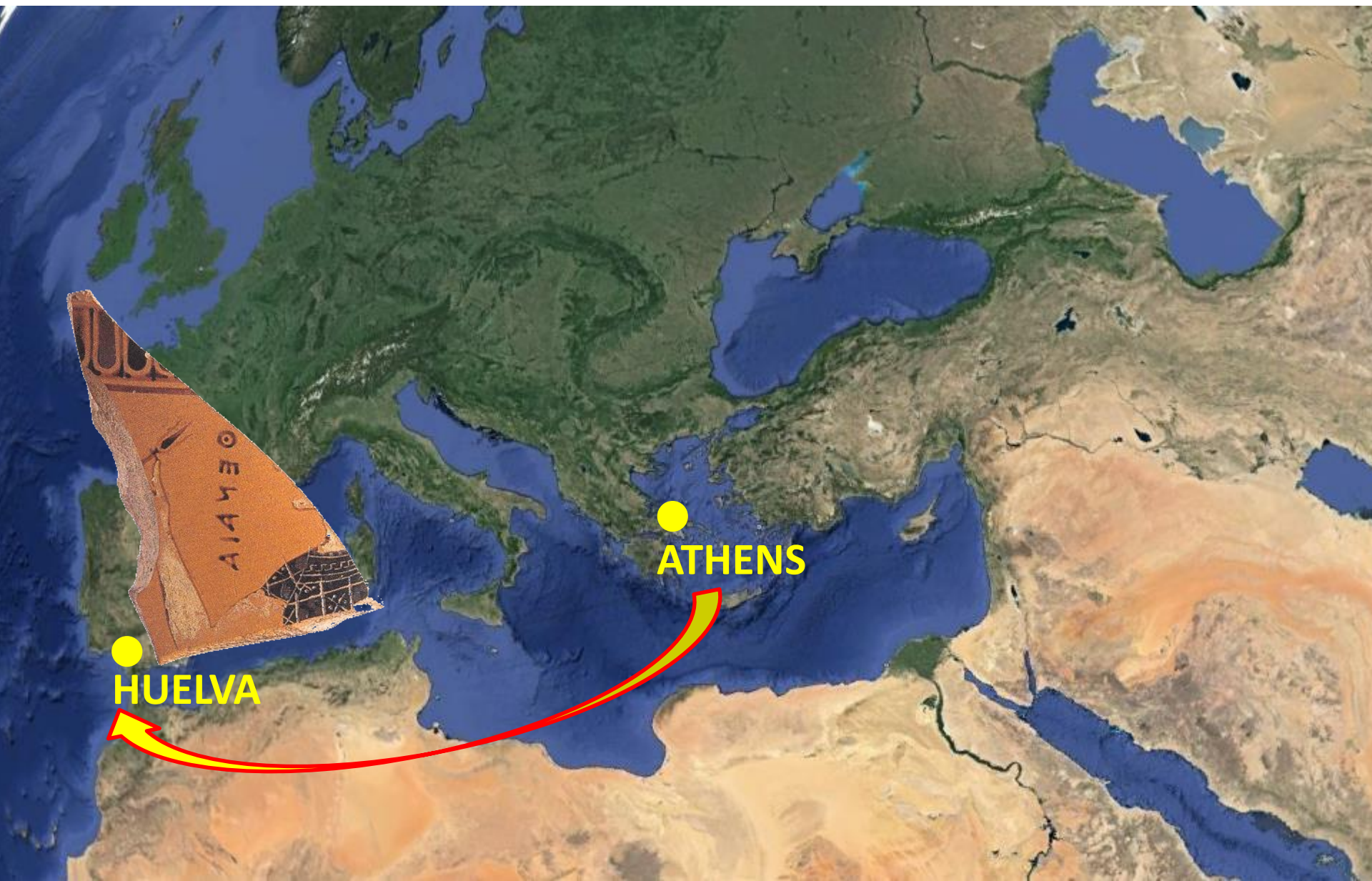




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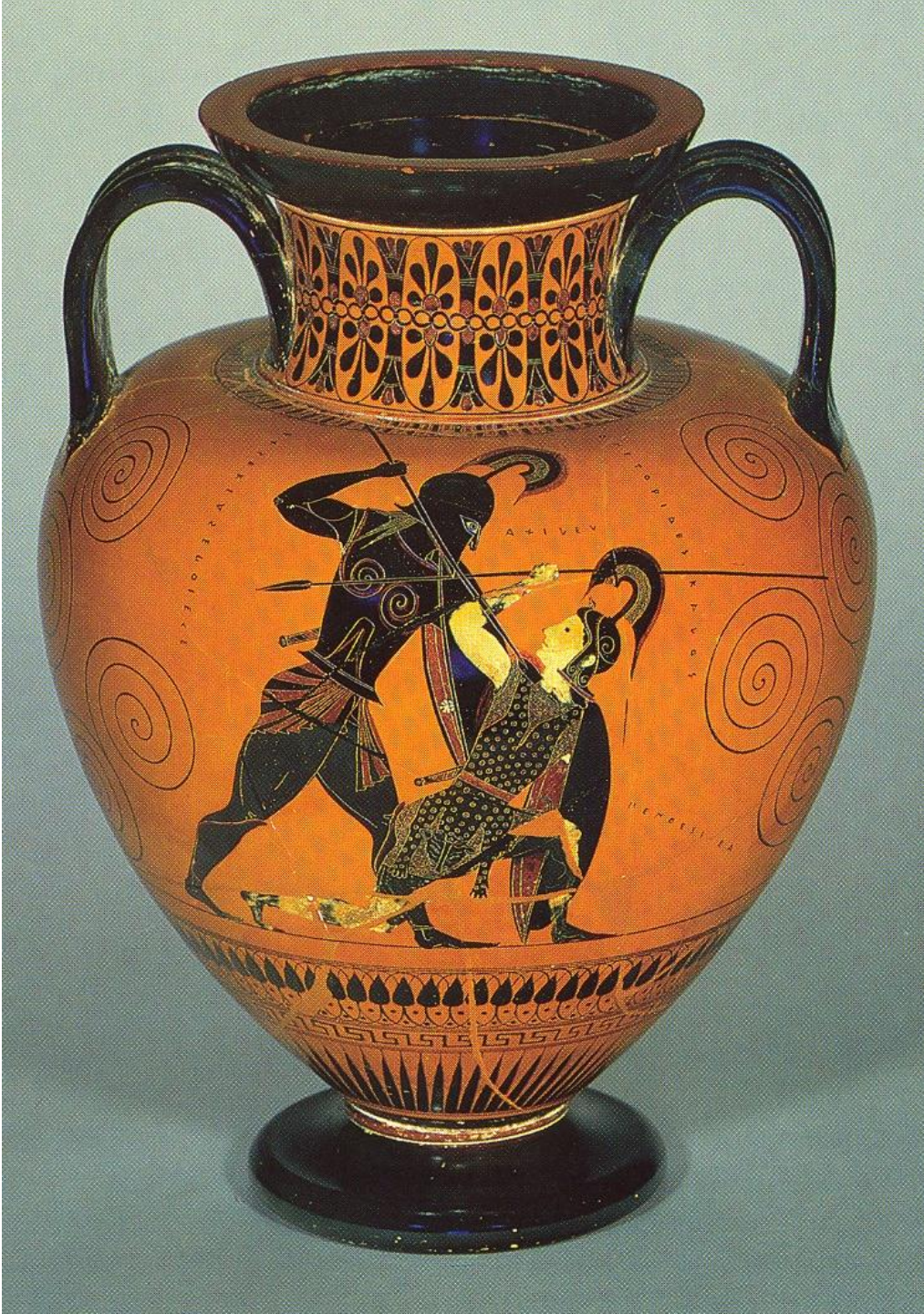




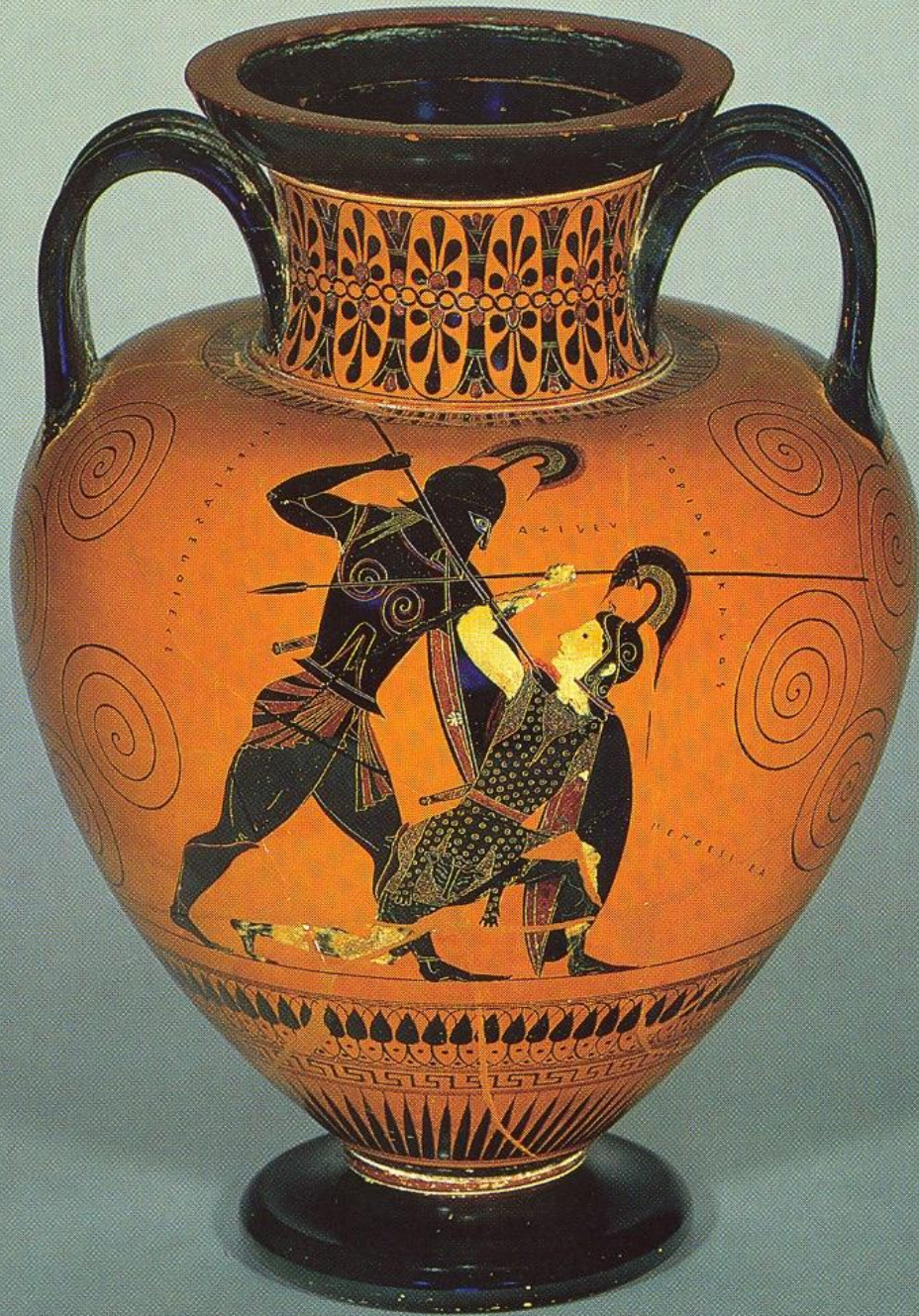
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**Athenian black-figure
amphora. c. 530 BCE**



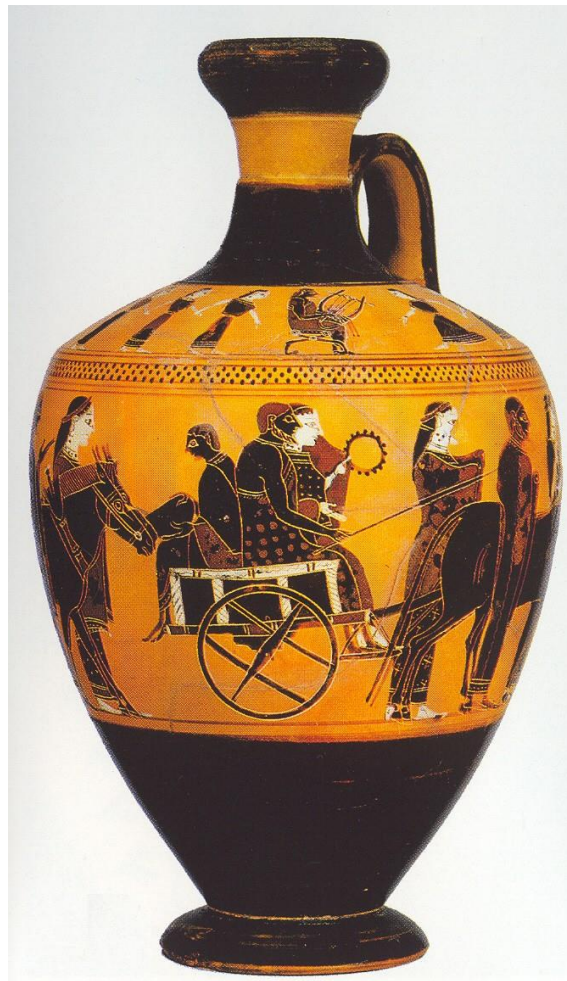
**Athenian black-figure
amphora. c. 530 BCE**



**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:



Red-figure vase painting:

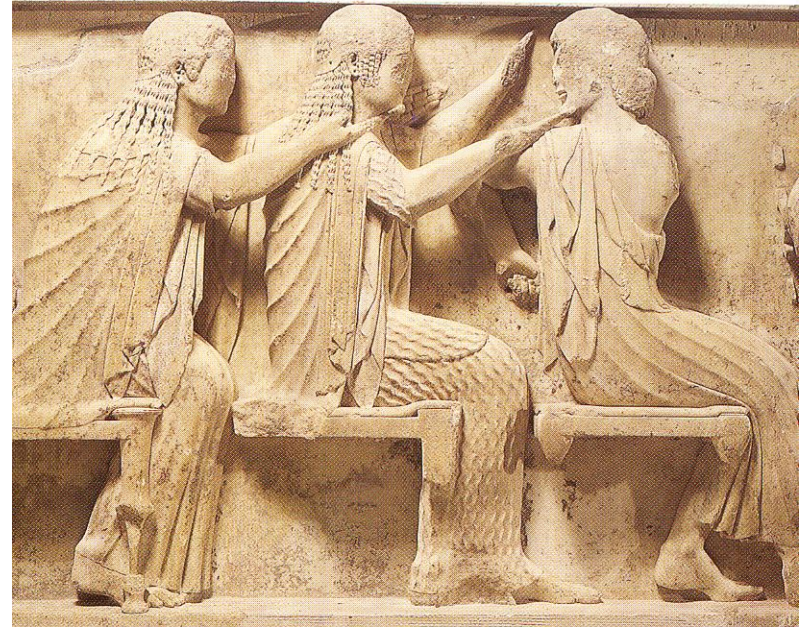
- appeared in Athens around 530 BCE
- dominated Attic pottery until the end of the 4th century BCE
- depicts red, *reserved* figures (the colour of the clay) on a background which was painted black
- complete reverse of the black figure style
- uses painted lines or thick black brush marks ('relief lines')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



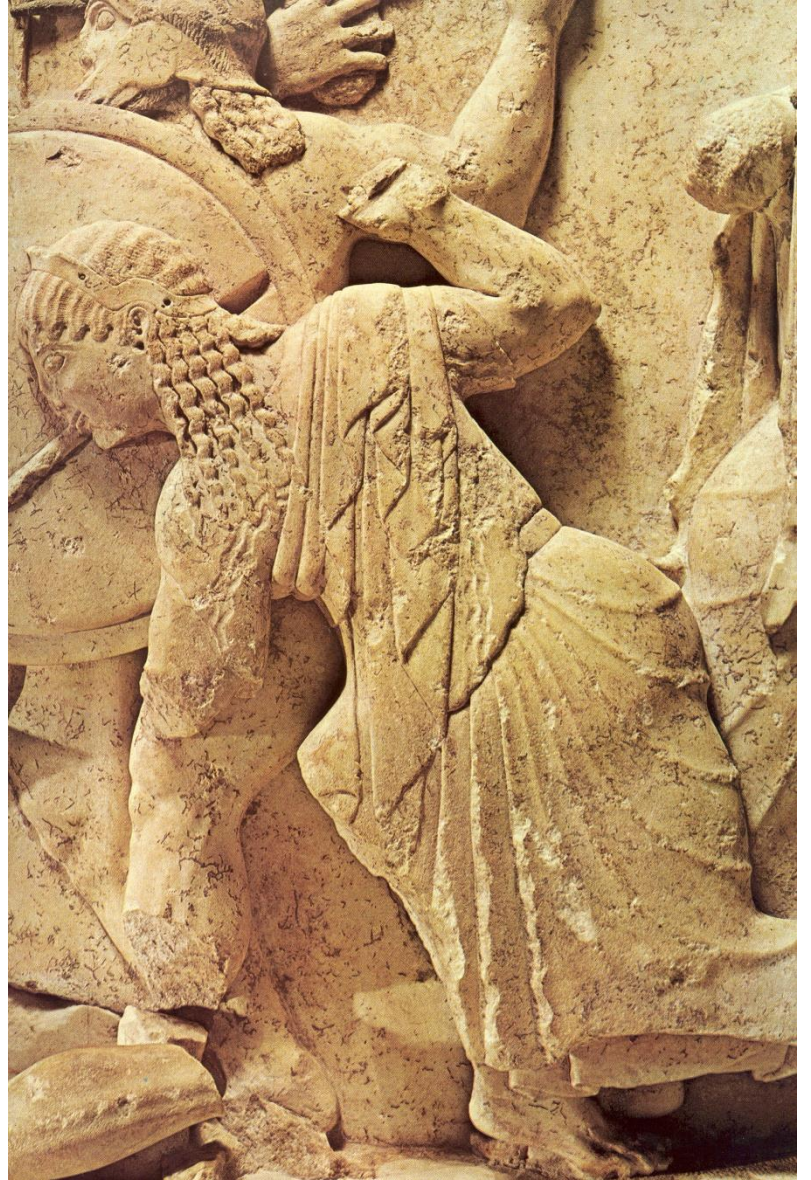
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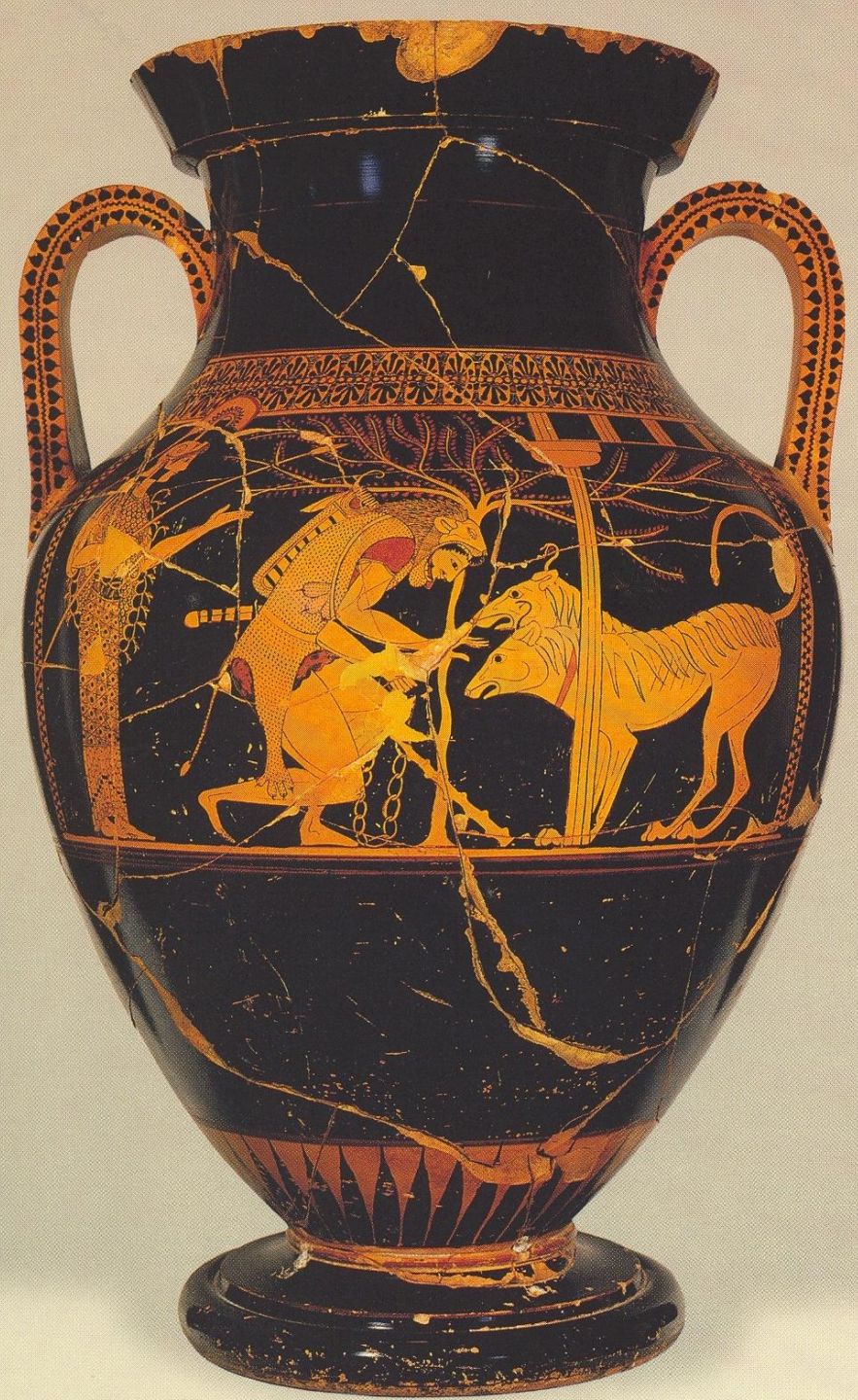


Delphi, the Siphnian Treasury.
c. 525 BCE





Αττικός «κόλλιπρος»
αίφρανος π. 5. 5 π.χ.



**Athenian "bilingual" amphora.
c. 520 BCE**



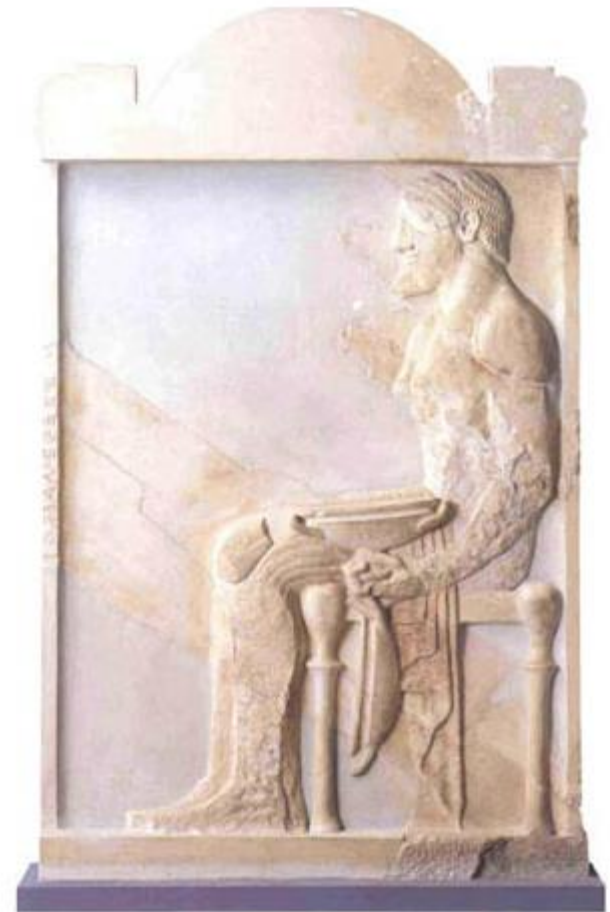


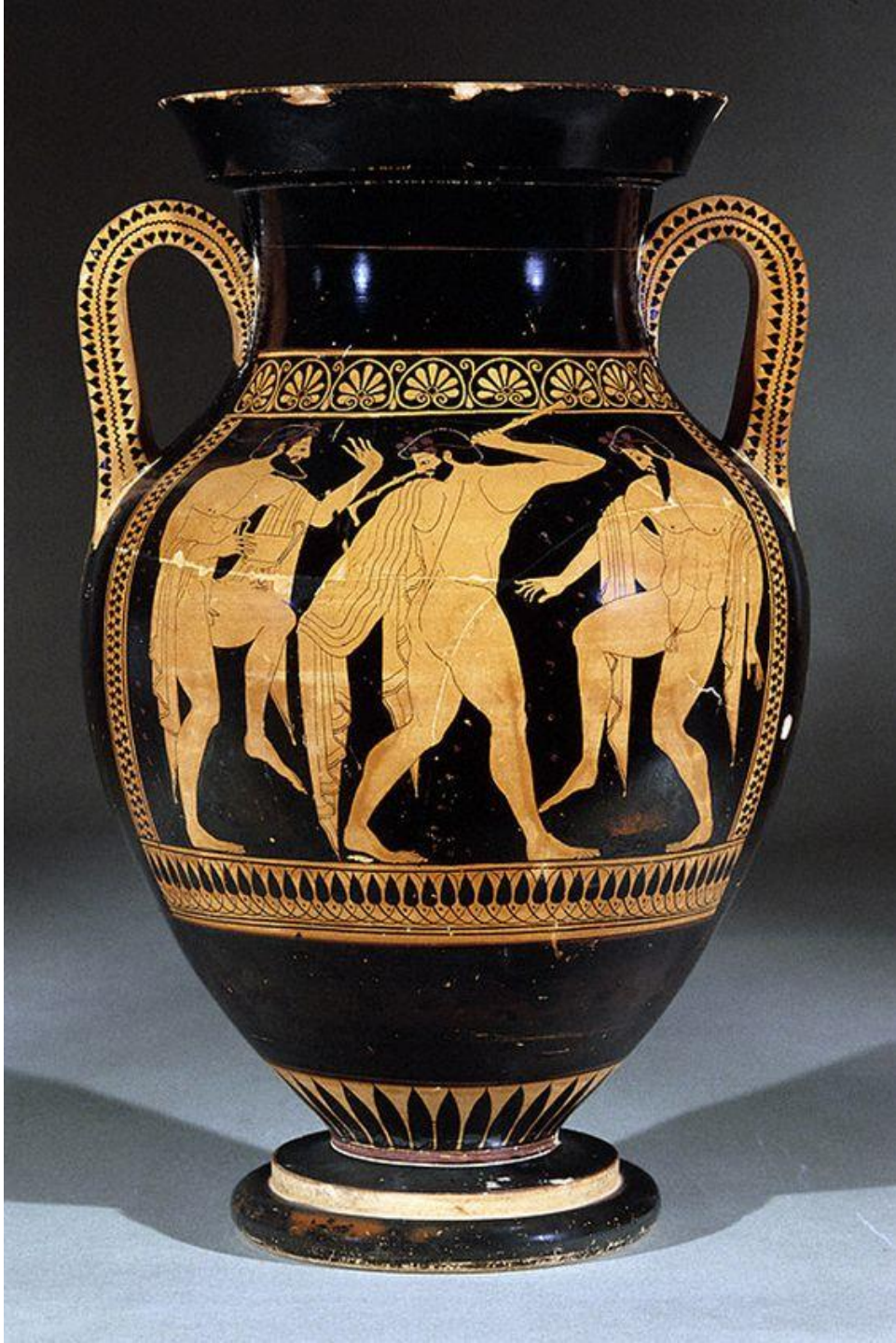
Athenian red-figure krater. c. 515-510 BCE





Athenian votive relief.
c. 510-500 BCE





ΕΑΡΡΥΘΛΕΝ
ΕΝΘΥΜΙΔΕΥ Η Ο Γ Ο Ν Ι Ο
Η Ο Σ Ο Ν Δ Ε Ρ Ο Τ Ε Ε Ν Θ Ρ Ο Ν Ι Ο Ν

**Athenian red-figure amphora.
c. 510 BCE**



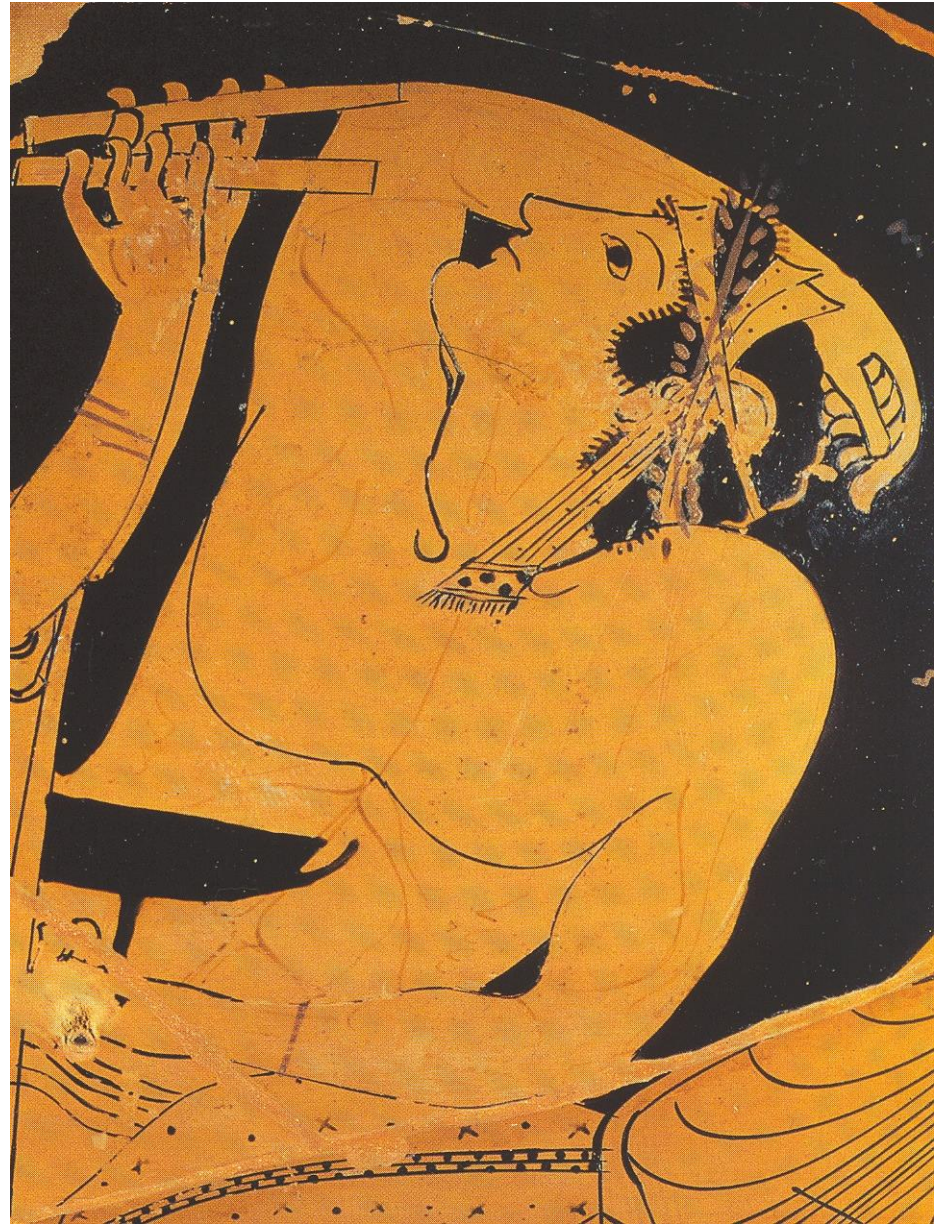
**Athenian red-figure hydria.
c. 510 BCE**



**Athenian red-figure hydria.
c. 510 BCE**



**Athenian red-figure
stamnos. c. 515 BCE**





**Athenian red-figure amphora.
c. 490 BCE**



ho pais kalos





