

Questions from Prof. Leslie Mechem Webinar

Tuesday, July 7, 2020 1:30pm EDT

Interested in the the black pot with the woman on the swing. Which museum is it in and what are the dates?

Submitted: Lucille R. '64

ANSWER

The red figure pot is in the Antikensammlung Berlin collection now housed in the Altes and Pergamon Museums and dates to the mid-5th century BCE.

Would this have happened in Sparta also? With regard to same sex between men

Submitted by: Ryan G. '72

ANSWER

Spartans also had same sex relationship between men. We don't have visual evidence but Spartan men spent most of their lives in barracks preparing for war. They had to sneak away to visit their wives. I can't imagine there wasn't sex between men in the barracks and also on campaign. Women spent a lot of time together since their men were off to war so much. They probably had same sex relationships as well.

In Ancient Greek art/decoration, are women more frequently depicted in sexual acts than men? If so, why? Also, is it intentional that all of the penises depicted are quite small (or seem to be)? Why?

Submitted by: Elizabeth G. B. '08

ANSWER

Athenian men valued small penises and they weren't circumcised so penises come to a point. Women are more frequently depicted having sex with men than men having sex with men. There is some kind of unease with depicting men having sex with each other even though they were having sex with each other.

Was all of the pottery and art in Ancient Greece made by men? Could women create art beyond weaving?

Submitted by: Christine R P'20'

ANSWER

As far as we know all of the pottery and art was made by men and they weren't considered artists in our sense of the word. They were craftsmen. Architects were more highly valued than potters and sculptors. Weaving was valued but not considered art in our sense of the word. There isn't even a word for art in ancient Greek. There is one vase painting of what looks like a woman painting a "portrait" on a round object. I'm not sure I'm convinced. There were female poets but not many. So, no, women did not create art.