

Arts Fresco

Inside walls of important Minoan buildings and apartments were usually decorated with colourful paintings of the fresco technique. This decorative art appeared in the Aegean during the Middle Minoan period (1900 b.C) but has its origins in the passage from the Neolithic to the Early Minoan period (3650 - 2000 b.C) when colour plasters occur for the first time.

Frescoes have been found in Minoan palaces as well as in a number of luxurious villas. The frescoes were designed in line with the function of the areas they decorated. Thus, the walls of sacred rooms were decorated with religious representations while the frescoes of private rooms were of a purely decorative character. The special themes and the sophistication of the fresco reflected the prestige of the owners of the house. The representations were often developed on all the walls, one completing the other in a hierarchical and functional way.

Fresco style went through various phases. From the simple two-colour decoration it passed into the polychromy, ending up with a characteristic three colour combination of red, black and white.

The decorative themes of the frescoes are influenced by other art forms such as ceramics and are sometimes taken directly from them. The numerous similarities show that the first fresco artists may have been potters.


Frescoes from Knossos palace and also from the House of Ladies in Akrotiri (Thera), apart from examples of fine art, constitute extremely valuable source of information concerning the everyday life in Minoan Crete and rest Aegean area.

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Recourses

Learn more about

1. Frescoes from an excellent article which we found at http://projectsx.dartmouth.edu/classics/history/bronze_age/lessons/les/14.html#12
2. Labyrinth and Bull leaping (vaulting) <http://labyrinthwork.com/article CRETE.htm>

Also visit  (portal of Hellenic Ministry of Culture) at <http://www.culture.gr/2/21/211/21123a/e211wa03.html> and websites of

[Museum of Prehistoric Thera](#)

[National Archaeological Museum of Athens](#)

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