ART SHEETS: Coloring Antiquity

Bring life to the Antiquities from the collection at the Tampa Museum of Art!

Today we are familiar with white marble sculptures from Ancient Greece and Rome. However, did you know the people who make them also painted them bright colors to make them look more realistic? Here is an example of a marble sculpture of Venus, goddess of Love and Beauty from Ancient Rome. What would she look like if she were colored to look more lifelike?


Instructions

1. Print out page two of this document
2. Grab some markers, colored pencils, or crayons
3. Color in the Torso of Aphrodite. Use your imagination to determine what color her dress might have been. Does it have patterns? More than one color?
4. Feeling extra creative? You’ll notice Aphrodite doesn’t have a head or hands. What do you think her head might have looked like? Draw one for her.

5. Double bonus round: on page three you will find a line drawing of one of the ceramic vases in our collection. This vase features the hero, Hercules, fighting two, fierce Amazon warriors. In Ancient Greek vase painting, the artists had a limited number of colors. Here you can see that the vase is primarily painted orange, black, and white. What might it have looked like if the artist had access to more colors? Print out page three and have fun giving this vase more colors.

Image: Black-Figure Neck Amphora (Storage Vessel), Attributed to the Leagros Group, Greek, Attic, ca. 520-500 BC, Ceramic, Tampa Museum of Art. Museum Purchase, 1982.011
Line Drawing of **Black-Figure Neck Amphora** (Storage Vessel), Attributed to the Leagros Group, Greek, Attic, ca. 520-500 BC, Ceramic, Tampa Museum of Art. Museum Purchase, 1982.011