



Co-financed by Greece and the European Union

Greek Art and Culture

Summer Schools for Greek children, children from European high Schools and from Schools in America, Australia and Asia

The project “Academy of Plato: Development of Knowledge and innovative ideas” is co-financed from National and European funds through the Operational Programme “Education and Lifelong Learning”

Greek Culture

The **modern culture of Greece** has evolved over thousands of years, beginning in **Mycenaean Greece**, continuing most notably into **Classical Greece**, through the influence of the Roman Empire and its Greek Eastern successor the **Byzantine Empire**.

Modern Greek culture has also been influenced by:

- The Latin and Frankish states
- The Ottoman Empire
- The Venetian Republic
- The Genoese Republic
- The British Empire

Historians credit the Greek War of Independence with revitalising Greece and giving birth to a single entity of its multi-faceted culture.

Ancient Greece and Western Civilization

The ancient Greeks provided the foundation of modern Western culture.

Modern democracies owe a debt to Greek beliefs:

- government by the people
- trial by jury
- equality under the law

Ancient Greece and Western Civilization

The ancient Greeks pioneered in many fields that rely on **systematic thought**:

- Biology
- Geometry
- Physics
- History
- Philosophy

They introduced important **literary forms**:

- Epic and lyric poetry
- History
- Tragedy and comedy

The Greeks also created an **ideal of beauty** that strongly influenced Western art.

Greek art

Greek art is divided roughly in three periods:

- Greek Bronze age (Cycladic – Minoan -Mycenean art) and Ancient period (Archaic – Classical - Hellenistic - Greco-Roman art)
- Byzantine period (5th cent. AD – 1453 AD)
- Modern and contemporary period (1453 AD - today)

Architecture

The Bronze age: The Minoan Palaces

The Minoans began building palaces around 1900 BC to act as cultural, religious, administrative, and commercial centers for their increasingly expanding society.

The Minoan palaces are Knossos, Malia, Phaistos, and Zakros.



*Reconstruction of the Palace
at Knossos*

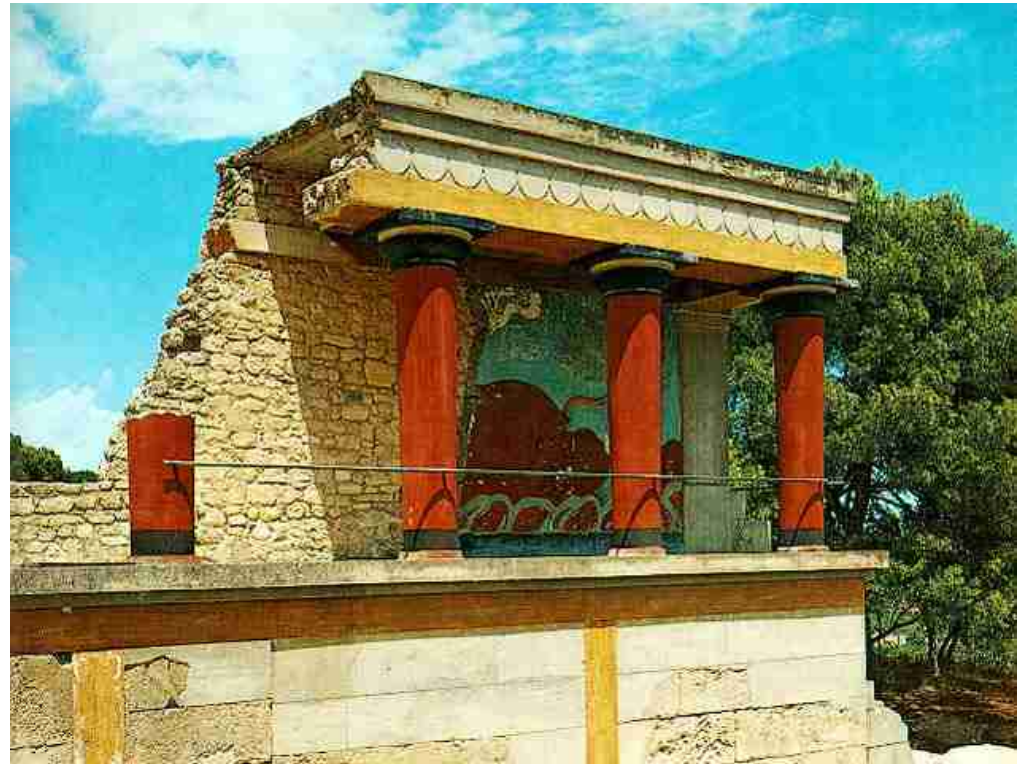
The Bronze age: The Minoan Palaces



Restored room at Knossos



The main chamber of the Throne



The Bronze age: The Mycenaean Palaces

The Mycenaean civilization flourished between 1600 BC and 1100 BC.

The major Mycenaean cities were:

- Mycenae and Tiryns in Argolis
- Thebes and Orchomenus in Boeotia
- Pylos in Messenia
- Athens in Attica
- Iolkos in Thessaly

The major works of architecture are:

- Fortresses (cyclopean walls)
- Palaces
- Tombs



The Bronze age: The Mycenaean palaces



The palace of Mycenae (reconstruction)

The Bronze age: The Mycenaean Palaces



Lion Gate in Mycenae

The Bronze age: The Mycenaean Palaces



Reconstruction of a Mycenaean
"great hall" or *megaron*

The Bronze age: The Mycenaean Palaces



The great hearth in the megaron, Palace of Pylos

The Bronze age: The Mycenaean Palaces



Cyclopean Walls at Tiryns

The Bronze age: The Mycenaean Palaces



"Treasury of Atreus" tholos tomb at Mycenae

Ancient Greek Architecture

Ancient Greek architecture is best known from its temples, many of which are found throughout the region, mostly as ruins but many substantially intact.

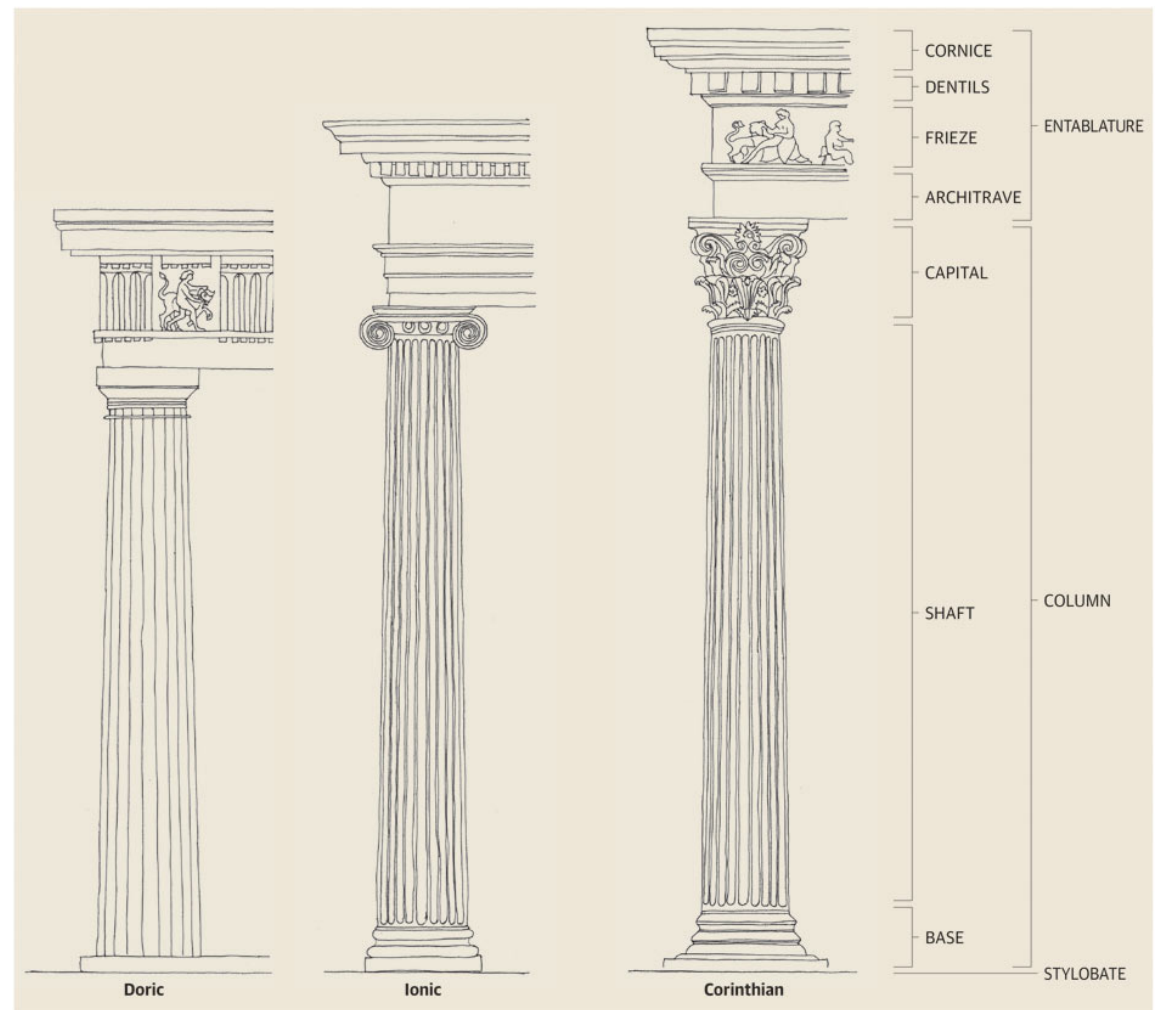
Other important types of buildings are:

- open-air theatres
- the public square (*agora*)
- the town council building (*bouleuterion*)
- the monumental tomb (*mausoleum*)
- the *stadium*

Ancient Greek Architecture

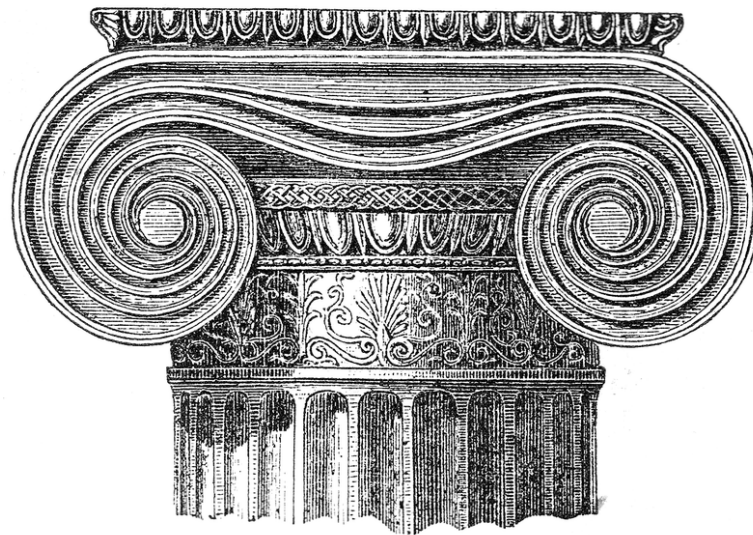
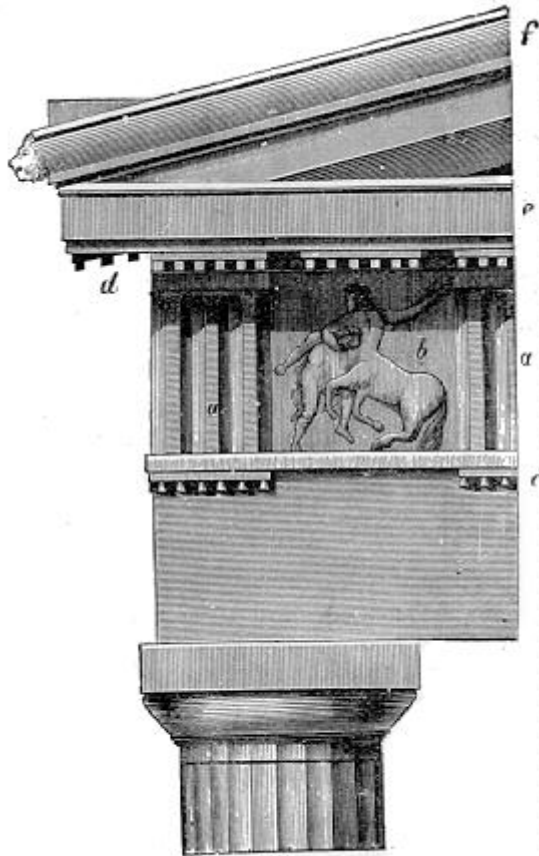
The Greeks developed three architectural systems, called orders, each with their own distinctive proportions and detailing. The Greek orders are:

- Doric
- Ionic
- Corinthian



Ancient Greek Architecture

Orders of Ancient Greek architecture



Left: Architectural elements of the Doric Order showing simple curved echinus of capital

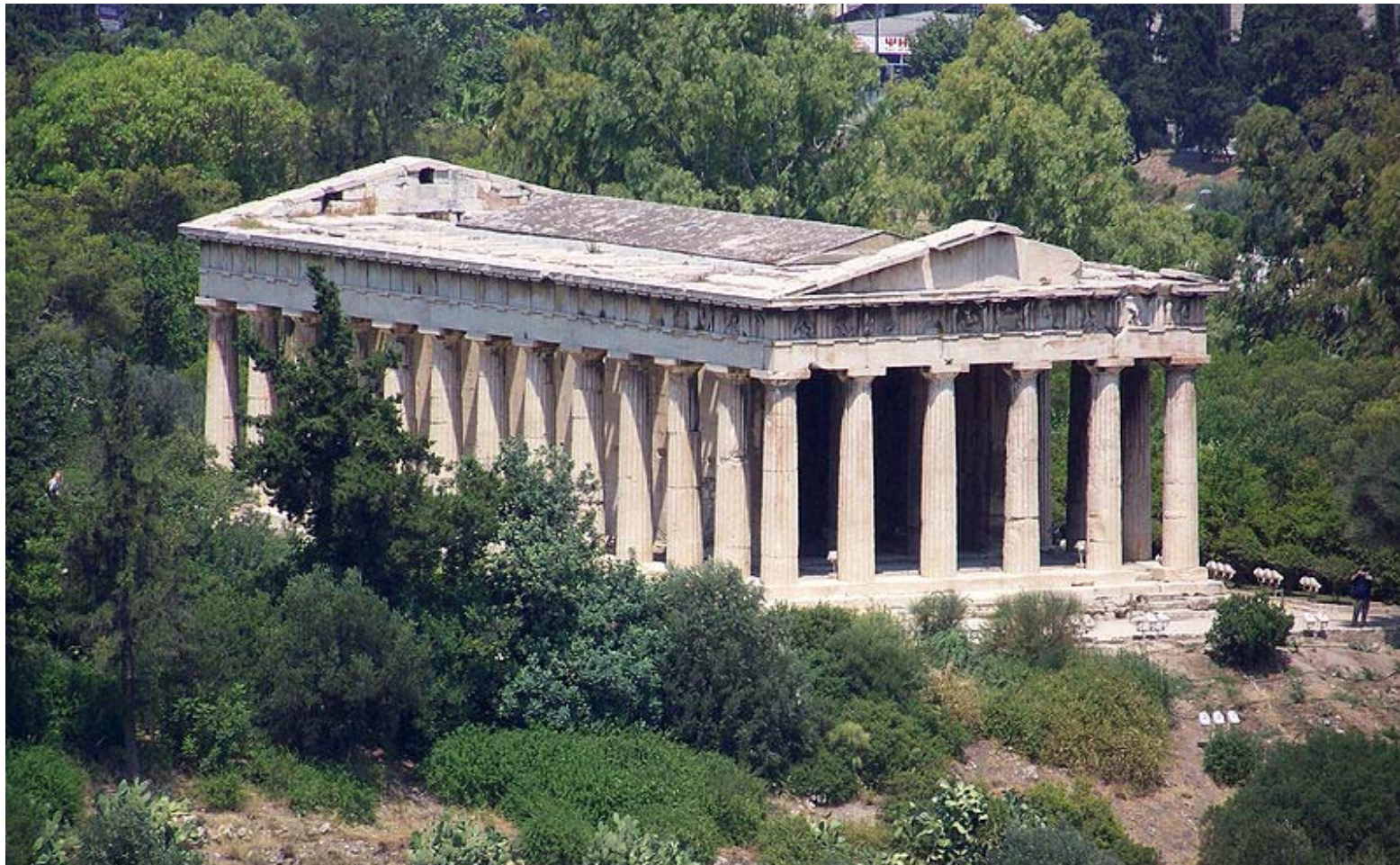
Above left: Capital of the Ionic Order showing volutes and ornamented echinus

Above right: Capital of the Corinthian Order showing foliate decoration and vertical volutes

Ancient Greek Architecture

The Doric Order

The Temple of Hephaestos, Athens



Ancient Greek Architecture

The temple of Zeus in Acragas, Sicily



Ancient Greek Architecture

The Ionic Order

The Erechtheum, Acropolis, Athens



Ancient Greek Architecture

The Corinthian Order

The Temple of Zeus Olympia, Athens, ("the Olympieion")



Ancient Greek Architecture

The Parthenon, Athens



Ancient Greek Architecture

The Theater of Epidaurus



Ancient Greek Architecture

The Bouleuterion at Priene, Asia Minor



Ancient Greek Architecture

The *Stadium* at Epidauros



Ancient Greek Architecture



The Mausoleum at
Halicarnassus or Tomb of
Mausolus

Byzantine architecture

Most of the surviving structures of Byzantine era are sacred in nature, with secular buildings mostly known only through contemporaneous descriptions.

Two main types of plan are in use:

- the basilican, or axial, type
- the circular, or central, type

Byzantine architecture

Saint Sophia, Istanbul



Byzantine architecture

Saint Sophia, Istanbul



Byzantine architecture

Church of Holy Apostles
in ancient agora of Athens



Byzantine architecture

Temple of St. George - Rotunda, Thessaloniki



Byzantine architecture

Church of the Acheiropoietos, Thessaloniki



Modern - Contemporary architecture

- After the Fall of Constantinople and the following trends of Greek migration to the diaspora, the Greek architecture was concentrated mainly on the Greek Orthodox churches of Diaspora. These churches were used also as a meeting-place. The architectural style of these buildings was heavily influenced by the western European architecture.
- After the Greek War of Independence and the creation of the modern Greek state, the modern Greek architecture tried to combine the traditional Greek architecture and Greek elements and motives with the western European movements and styles.
- The 19th century architecture of Athens and other cities of the Greek Kingdom is mostly influenced by the Neoclassical architecture.

Modern - Contemporary architecture

Plaka, the old historical neighborhood of Athens, clustered around the northern and eastern slopes of the Acropolis is a typical example of neoclassical architecture.



Modern - Contemporary architecture

Symi, a small island in the Dodecanese, has some of the finest neo-classical architecture in Greece, with tiers of beautifully restored and delicately coloured neo-classical houses.



Symi

Modern - Contemporary architecture

Cycladic Architecture

The superb linear Cycladic architecture sees his spare lines represented at their best in the island of Mykonos.



Mykonos

Modern - Contemporary architecture

- Neoclassical architecture is represented by architects like Theophil Freiherr von Hansen, Ernst Ziller and Stamatis Kleanthis.
- Famous foreign architects who have also designed buildings in Greece during the 20th and 21 century, are Walter Gropius, Eero Saarinen and Mario Botta. Several new buildings were also constructed by Santiago Calatrava for the 2004 Athens Olympics, while Bernard Tschumi designed the New Acropolis Museum.

Modern - Contemporary architecture

The National Library of Greece, built by Theophil Hansen in the neoclassical style



Modern - Contemporary architecture

Iliou Melathron, built by Ernst Ziller for Heinrich Schliemann,
today houses the Numismatic Museum



Greek art: painting

Bronze age

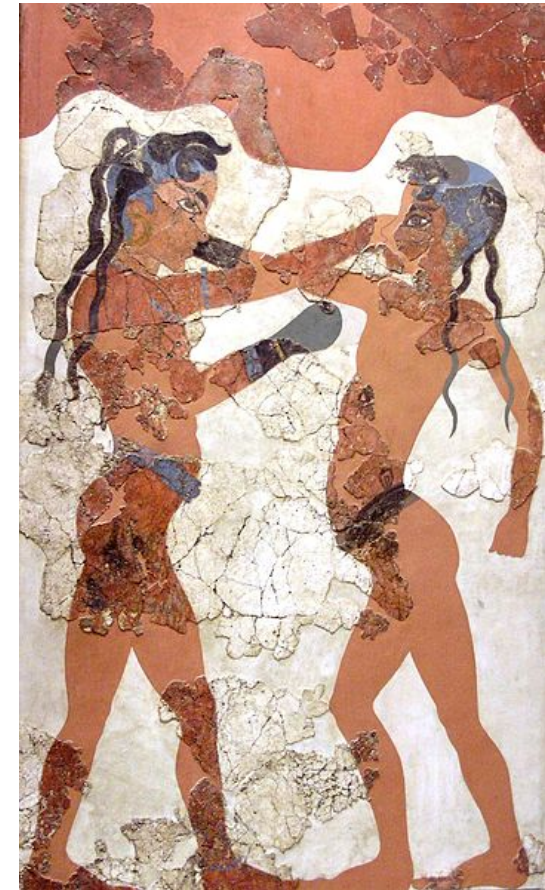
Wall paintings from Akrotiri, an excavation site of a Minoan Bronze Age settlement on the Greek island of Santorini.



Fisherman



Blue monkeys



Boxing Children

Greek art: painting

Bronze age

Wall paintings from Knossos, Crete.



Above: "Prince of lilies" or "Priest-king Relief", Right: Bull-leaping (taurokathapsia)



Three women who were possibly Queens.



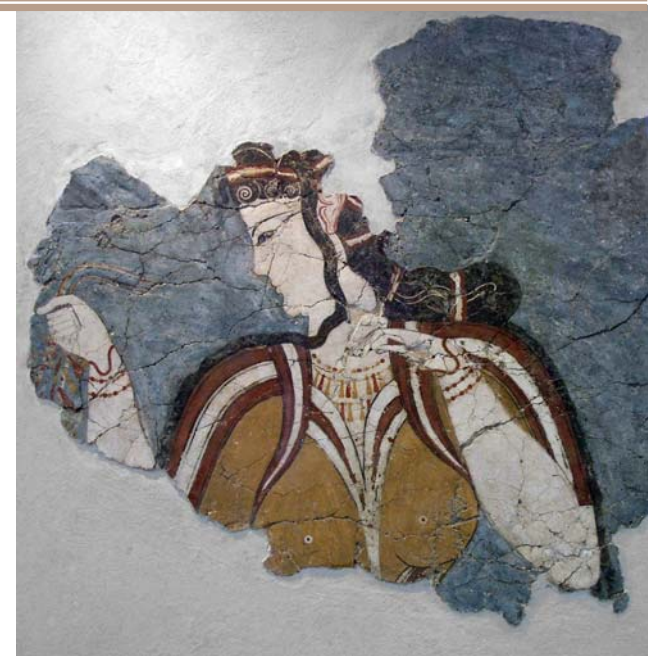
Greek art: painting

Bronze age

Wall paintings from different centers of the Mycenaean civilization.



Left: Two men in a chariot from Tiryns, Right: Warriors fighting in a river from Pylos



The so-called "Mycenean lady"



Ancient Greek painting

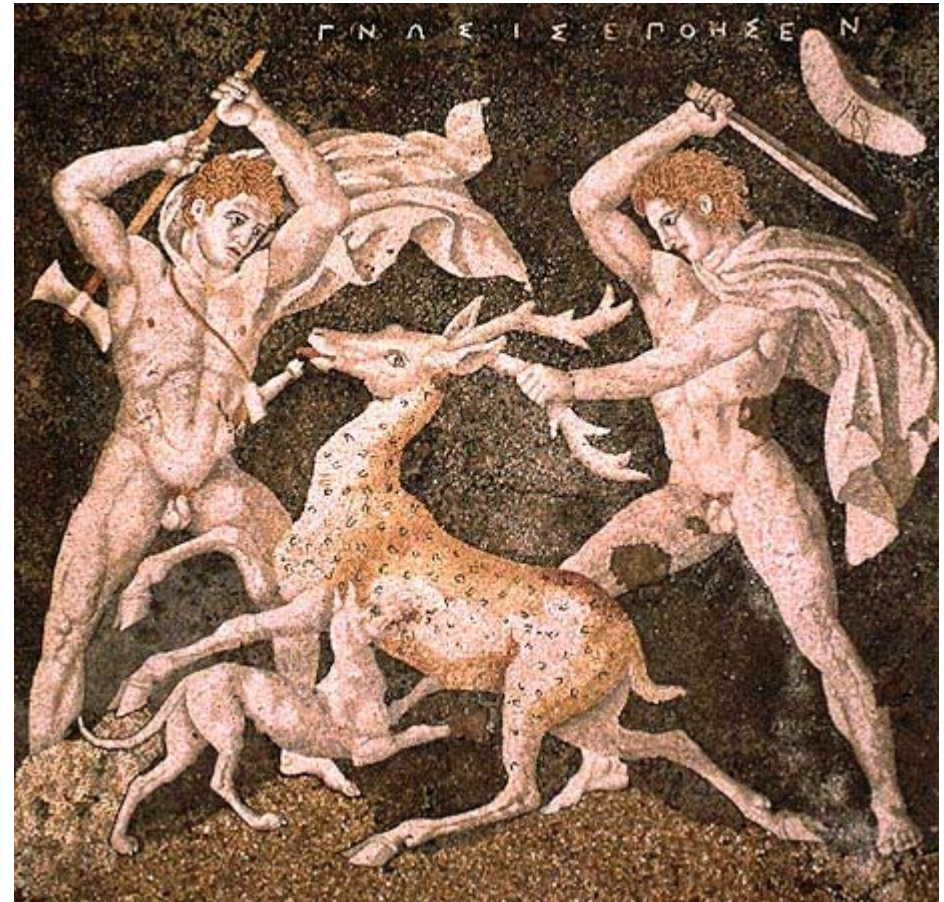
Although we know from written sources that the Greeks painted pictures from the Bronze Age through to the Roman conquest and beyond, most of them have been destroyed. The most copious evidence of ancient Greek painting survives in the form of vase paintings.



Left: Late Geometric amphora, from the Dipylon, Athens, Centre: Archaic black figure amphora (Achilles killing Penthesilea) by Exekias, Right: Classic red-figure amphora (Oedipus and the Sphinx), by the Achilles Painter .

Ancient Greek painting

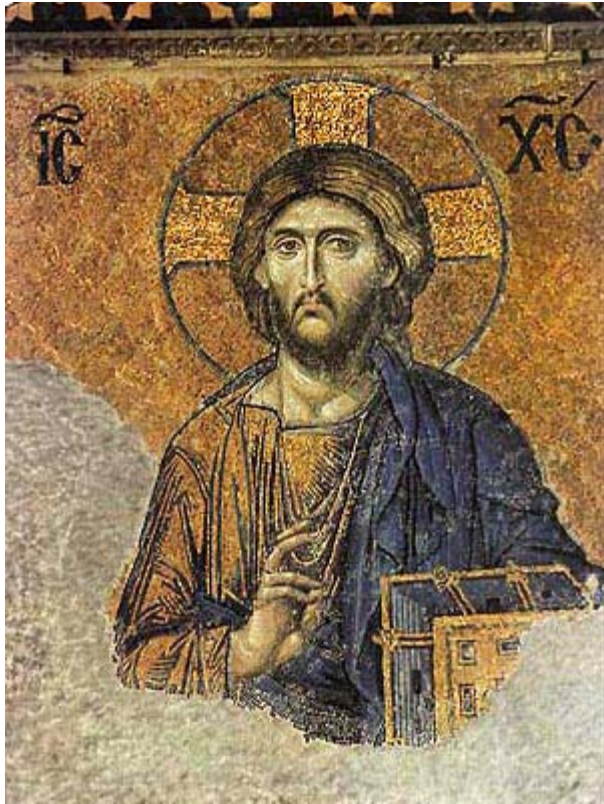
Ancient Greek mosaics



Left: Hellenistic mosaic from Pella (Dionysus riding a panther), Right: Hellenistic Deer_hunt_mosaic_from_Pella.

Byzantine Greek painting

Byzantine painting involves mainly wall paintings, icons and mosaics.



Left: The most famous of the surviving Byzantine mosaics of the Hagia Sophia in Constantinople - the image of Christ Pantocrator on the walls of the upper southern gallery. Right: Wall painting from the church of saint Demetrius in Thessaloniki, depicting the entry of the emperor Justinian II into the city after the victory over the Slavs.

Byzantine Greek painting



Left: The oldest icon of Christ Pantocrator, from Saint Catherine's Monastery, Mount Sinai, Right: The Annunciation from Ohrid, one of the most admired icons of the Paleologan Mannerism.

Modern and contemporary Greek painting

Domenikos Theotokopoulos -El Greco



Left: The Disrobing of Christ at Sacristy of the Cathedral, in Toledo, is one of the most famous altarpieces of El Greco. Right: Portrait of A Man (presumed self-portrait of El Greco)

Modern and contemporary Greek painting

Theodoros Vryzakis



Left: The sortie of Messolochi Right: Germanos of Patras blessing the flag at Agia Lavra.

Modern and contemporary Greek painting

N. Lytras – N. Gyzis

Left: Nikiphoros Lytras, Antigone in front of dead Polynikes (1865)

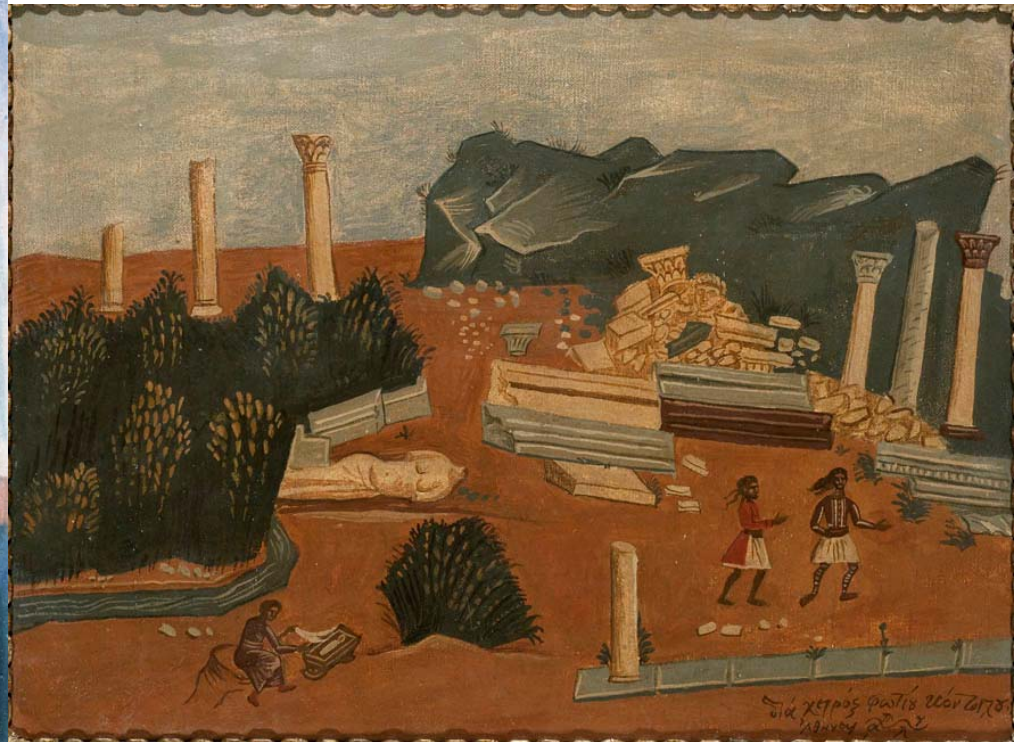
Right: Nikolaos Gyzis ,After the destruction of Psara



Modern and contemporary Greek painting

Konstantinos Parthenis - Photis Kontoglou

Left: K. Parthenis The Harbor of Kalamata, Right: Photis Kontoglou, The Greece of the Three Worlds



Modern and contemporary Greek painting

Yannis Tsarouchis- Nikos Engonopoulos

Left: Y. Tsarouchis, The sailor, Right: N. Engonopoulos,
Alexandros Philippou and the Greeks without the Spartans



Modern and contemporary Greek painting

Yannis Moralis – N. Hatzikyriakos-Ghikas

Left: Yannis Moralis, *By the Outdoor Photographer* Right: N. Hatzikyriakos-Ghikas, *The Studio*



Modern and contemporary Greek painting

Dimitris Mytaras–Yannis Gaitis–Alekos Fassianos

Left: A. Fassianos, Palmist in his Room, Centre: D. Mytaras, Woman with a Dog, Right: Y. Gaitis, Sirens - Odysseus



Greek art: sculpture

Bronze Age Cycladic idols



Greek art: sculpture

Bronze Age

Minoan and Mycenaean figurines



Greek art: sculpture

Archaic period

In the geometrical period the forms were chiefly terracotta figurines, bronzes, and ivories.

In the archaic period the Greeks began again to carve in stone.

After about 575 BCE, figures began wearing the so-called archaic smile.

Two types of figures prevailed:

- The standing nude youth (kouros),
- The standing draped girl (kore),

Greek art: sculpture

Archaic period

Left: Kouroi (Kleobis and Biton) , Right: Peplos Kore



Classical Greek sculpture

Left: Kritios Boy, Centre: The charioteer of Delphi, Right: Bronze Sculpture, thought to be either Poseidon or Zeus



Classical Greek sculpture

Left: A votive sculpture found near the Varvakeion school reflects the type of the restored Athena Parthenos Right: Ephebus of Antikythera



Classical Greek sculpture

Myron – Polyklitus - Praxiteles

Left: Myron, Discobolus, Centre: Polyklitus, Diadumenos, Right: Praxiteles, Aphrodite of Cnidus (copies after the original works)



Classical Greek sculpture

Scopas - Lysippos



Left: One of many Roman copies of Pothos, a statue by Scopas, restored here as Apollo Kitharoidos

Right: Farnese Hercules, a Roman copy from the original by Lysippos

Hellenistic Greek sculpture

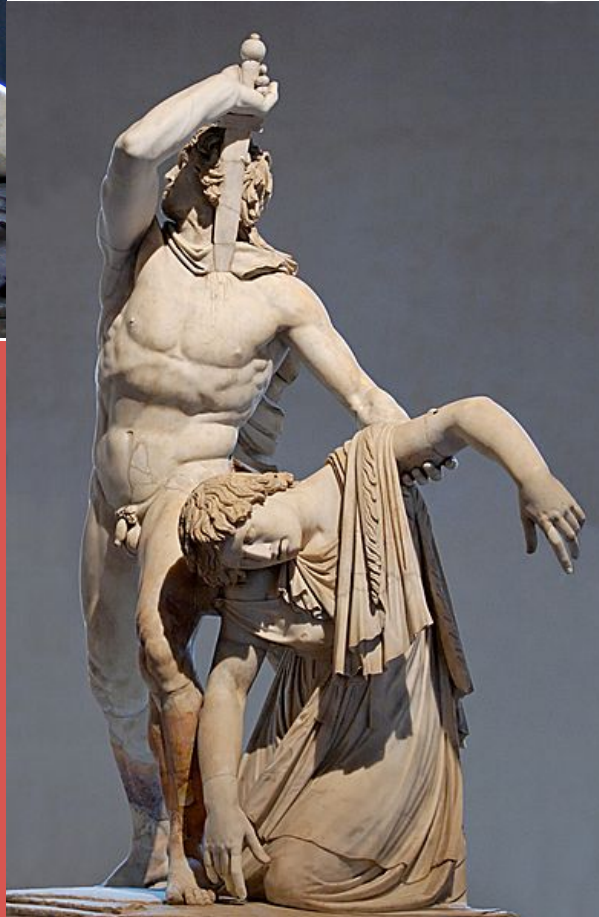
Left: Nike of Samothrace (Louvre), Centre: Laocoön and His Sons, by Agesander, Athenodoros and Polydorus (Vatican), Right: Venus de Milo, thought to be the work of Alexandros of Antioch (Louvre)



Hellenistic Greek sculpture



Above: The Dying Gaul, a Roman marble copy of a Hellenistic work (Capitoline Museums, Rome), Below: Jockey of Artemision (National Archaeological Museum, Athens)



Gaul killing himself and his wife, Roman copy after the Hellenistic original, (Palazzo Massimo alle Terme)

Sculpture

Byzantine period

- During the Byzantine period, artists no longer conceived plastically, and the victory of pictorial over plastic art was complete.
- Moreover, the times were scarcely propitious to sculpture, since religion shunned statuesque representation of the Redeemer, the Madonna or Saints, which would have been too nearly related to the pagan cult.
- Hence there are very few works known to us of sculpture of the Byzantine period, or even of bas-reliefs of any size. Ambones and sarcophagi are more numerous, and still more so are the plastic decorations of buildings.

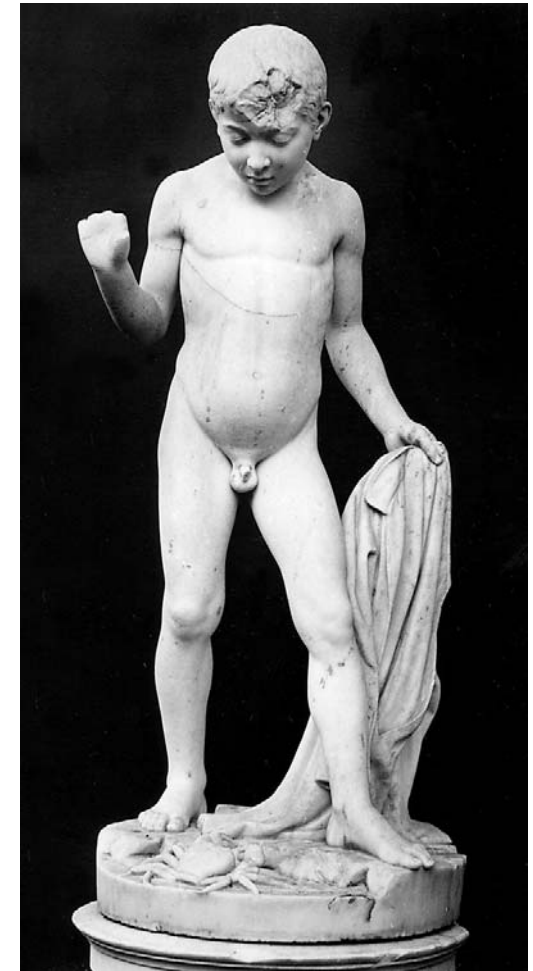
Modern and contemporary Sculpture Y. Chalepas

Left: Yannoulis Chalepas, 'Satyr Playing with Eros', Right: The tomb of Sofia Afentaki a work of Yannoulis Chalepas.



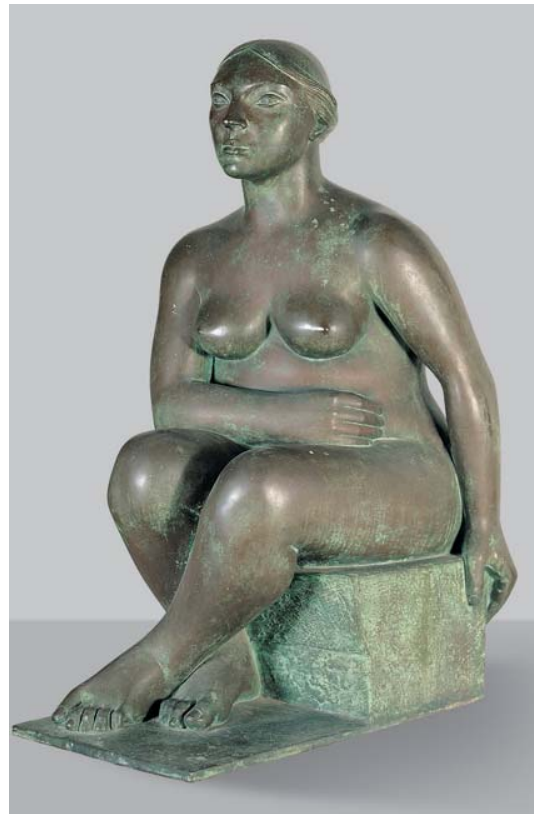
Modern and contemporary Sculpture

Left: Statue of Athena by Leonidas Drosis in front of the Academy of Athens, Centre: L. Drosis, Penelope, Right: Georgios VROUTOS, The Boy with the Crab



Modern and contemporary Sculpture

Left: Apartis Thanassis, Torso of a Portuguese Man or Male Torso,
Centre: Kapralos Christos, Warrior and Tombros Michael, Stout
Seated Woman, Right: Makris Memos, Spring Dance



Greek Music

- Greek music history extends far back into ancient Greece, since music was a major part of ancient Greek theater. Later influences from the Roman Empire, Eastern Europe and the Byzantine Empire changed the form and style of Greek music.
- In ancient Greece music played an integral role in the lives of people, being almost universally present in society, from marriages and funerals to religious ceremonies, theatre. Instruments included the double-reed aulos and the lyre, especially the special kind called a kithara. Music was an important part of education in ancient Greece, and boys were taught music starting at age six.
- Music in the Byzantine period is also closely related to the ancient Greek system, according to Greek and foreign historians.

Greek Folk Music

- Greek folk music or “demotika” are said to derive from the music played by ancient Greeks.
- Demotika tragoudia are accompanied by clarinets, guitars, tambourines and violins, and include dance music forms like syrtó, kalamatianó, tsámiko and hasaposérviko.



Greek Folk Music

There are several kinds of folk music, such as:

- “Nesiotika”, a general term denoting folk songs from the Aegean Islands. Among the most popular is Ikariótiko (song from Ikaria).
- Cretan Music. The dominant instrument is the Cretan lyra.
- “Epirotika”, the music of Epirus. Distinctive songs include lament songs, shepherd's songs etc. The clarinet is the most prominent folk instrument in Epirus, used to accompany dances, mostly slow and heavy, like tsamikos.
- Folk music from the Peloponnese. The most famous dance is the kalamatianos.
- Folk music in central Greece. The most prominent dances are syrtaki (Zorba's dance), zeibekiko, hasapiko.
- “Pontiaka”, music of Pontus. The prime instrument is the Pontic lyra.



Classical music

- It was through the Ionian islands (which were under western rule and influence) that all the major advances of the western european classical music were introduced to mainland Greeks.



- A prominent representative of this genre is Nikolaos Mantzaros. His widely known composition is the musical setting for the poem of Dionysios Solomos “*Ýmnos eis tīn Eleutherían*” (Hymn to Liberty), the first and second stanzas of which were adopted as the Greek national anthem.

- Manolis Kalomiris was the founder of the Greek National School of Music.





Rebetiko

- Rebetiko was initially associated with the lower and poor classes, but later reached greater general acceptance as the rough edges of its overt subcultural character were softened and polished.
- Rebetiko probably originated in the music of the larger Greek cities, most of them coastal, in today's Greece and Asia Minor. In 1923, after the population exchange between Greece and Turkey, many ethnic Greeks from Asia Minor fled to Greece as a result of the Greco-Turkish War. They settled in poor neighborhoods in Piraeus, Thessaloniki, and Athens. Many of these immigrants were highly educated and are traditionally considered as the founders of the Smyrna School of Rebetiko.
- During the 1930s, the relatively sophisticated musical styles met with, and cross-fertilised, the more heavy-hitting local urban styles exemplified by the earliest recordings of Markos Vamvakaris and Batis.



- Some of the earliest legends of Greek music, such as Manolis Chiotis, Markos Vamvakaris, Soteria Bellou came out of this music scene.

- The core instruments of rebetiko, from the mid-1930s onwards, have been the bouzouki, the baglamas and the guitar.



Famous Greek artists

Mikis Theodorakis is a Greek songwriter and famous composer. He scored for the films Zorba the Greek(1964), Z (1969), and Serpico (1973). He is viewed as Greece's best-known living composer.



Famous Greek artists

Manos Hatzidakis was a Greek composer and theorist of the Greek music. In 1960 he received an Academy Award for Best Original Song for his Song Never on Sunday from the self-titled movie.



Famous Greek artists

Nana Mouskouri is a Greek singer who has sold 300 million records worldwide in a career spanning over five decades .



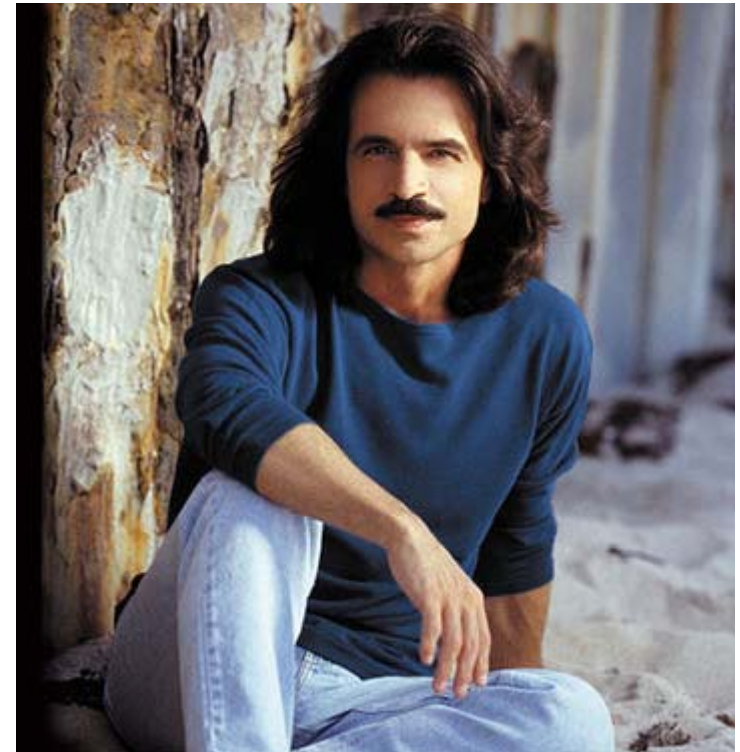
Famous Greek artists

- Evangelos Papathanassiou is a Greek composer of electronic, progressive, ambient, jazz, pop rock and orchestral music, under the artist name Vangelis.
- He is best known for his Academy Award-winning score for the film Chariots of Fire, composing scores for the films Blade Runner, Alexander and El Greco.
- In May 2000, Vangelis composed the music as well as designed and directed the artistic Olympic flag relay portion of the Closing Ceremonies of the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games.



Famous Greek artists

- **Yanni** is a Greek self-taught pianist, keyboardist, and composer who has spent most of his life in the United States.
- He earned Grammy nominations for his 1992 album, *Dare to Dream*, and the 1993 follow-up, *In My Time*. His breakthrough success came with the 1994 release of *Yanni Live at the Acropolis*, deemed to be the second best-selling music video of all time.



Greek culture: cinema

The 1950s and 1960s are considered by many as the Greek Golden age of cinema.

Directors and actors of this era were recognized as important historical figures in Greece and some gained international acclaim:

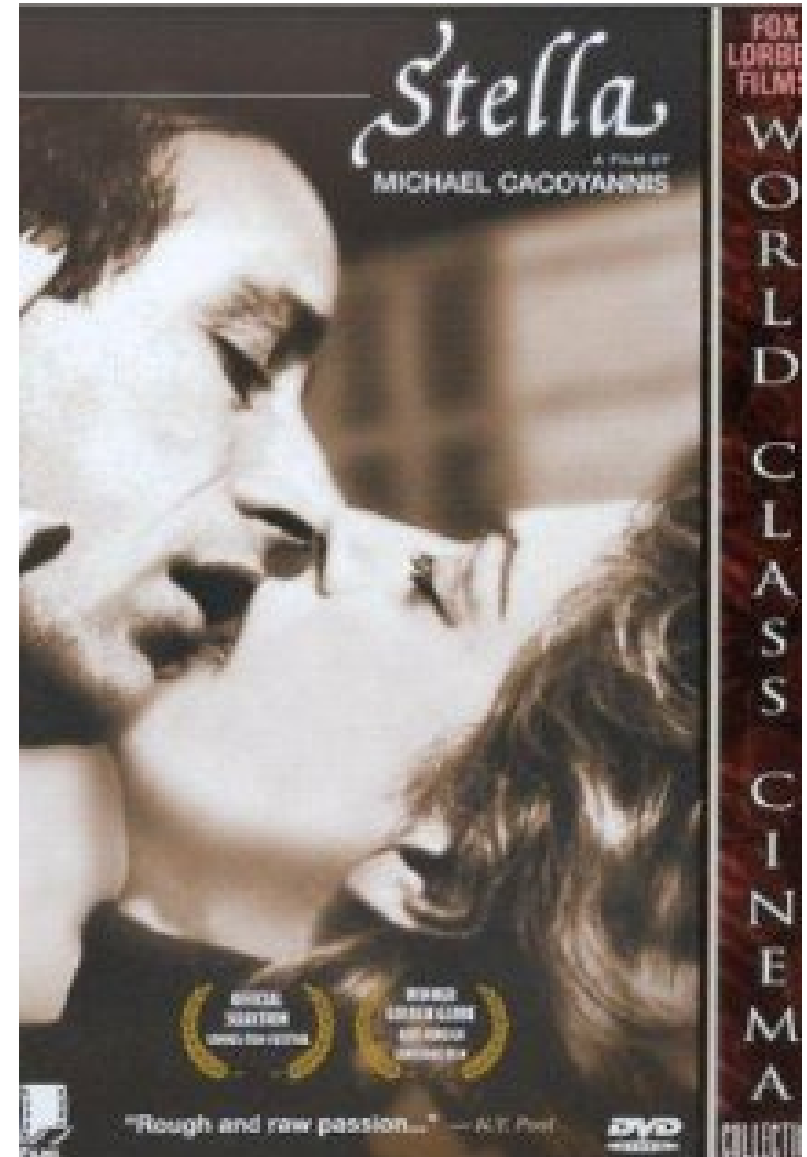
- Mihalis Kakogiannis
- Melina Mercouri,
- Nikos Koundouros
- Ellie Lambeti
- Irene Papas

Greek culture: cinema

Stella (1955), directed by Michael Cacoyannis and written by Iakovos Kambanelis.

Stars: Melina Mercouri, Giorgos Foundas and Alekos Alexandrakis

Won Golden Globe



Greek culture: cinema

Zorba the Greek (1964), directed by **M. Cacoyannis**.

Stars: Anthony Quinn, Alan Bates, Irene Papas.

Won 3 Oscars

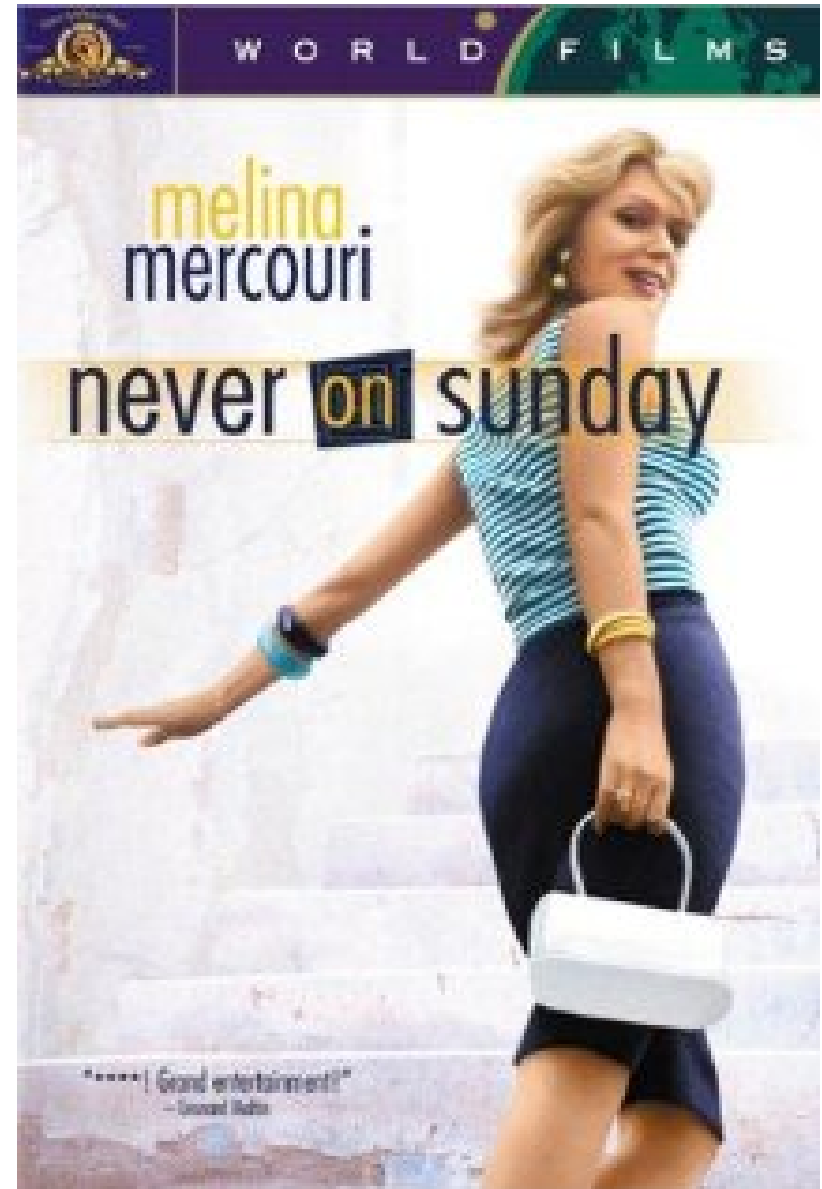
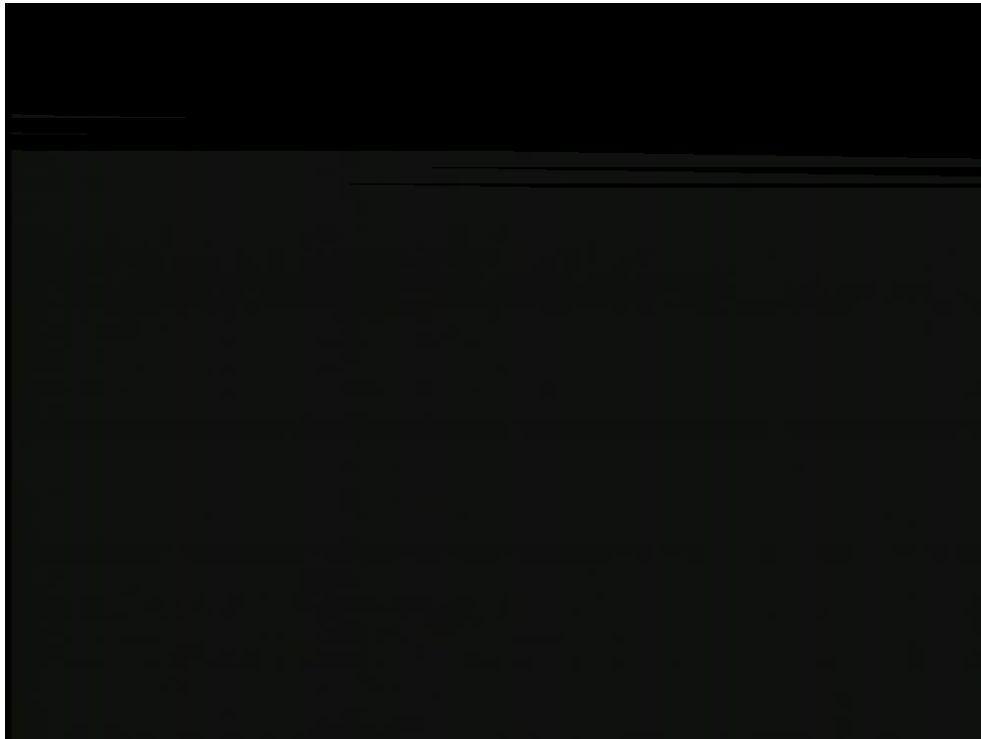


Greek culture: cinema

Never on Sunday (1960), directed by Jules Dassin.

Stars: Melina Mercouri, Giles Dassin and Giorgos Foundas.

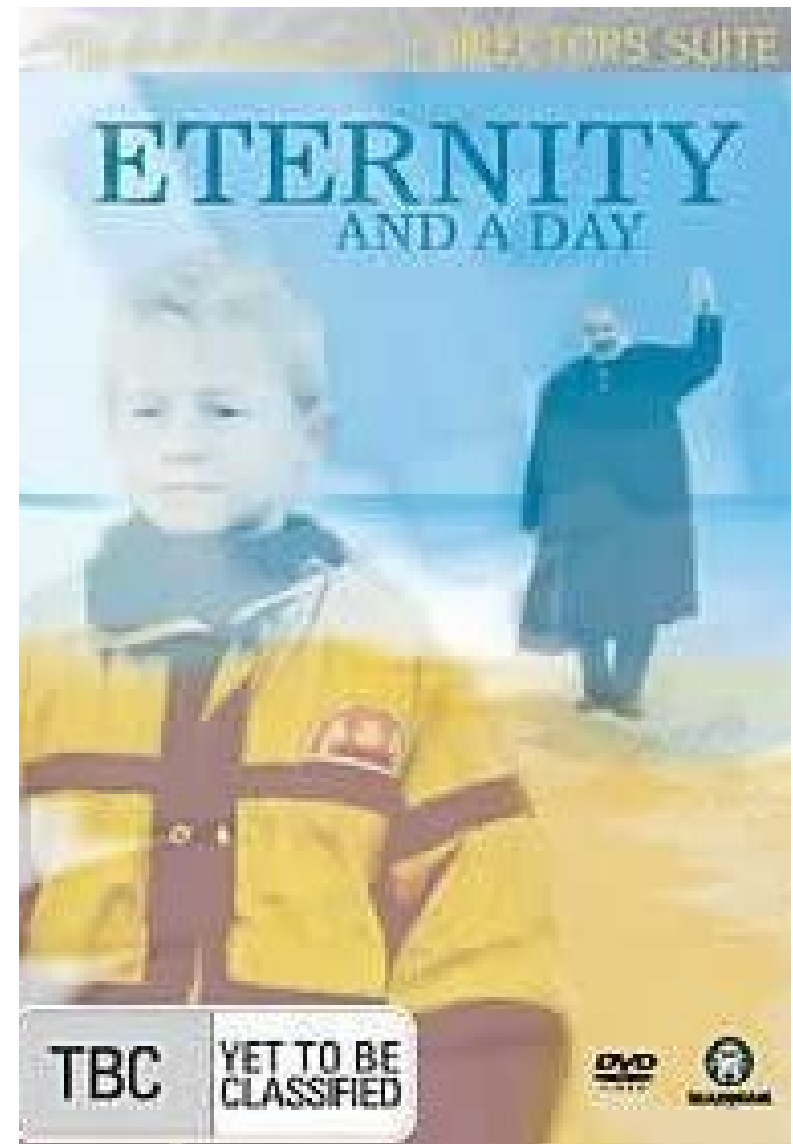
Won Oscar Best Music, Original Song (M. Hatzidakis). Four more nominations.



Greek culture: cinema

Eternity and a day, (1998) directed by Theo Angelopoulos.

Won the Palme d'Or and the Prize of the Ecumenical Jury at the 1998 Cannes Film Festival.



Greek culture: cinema

Politiki Kouzina (A Touch of Spice) (2003), directed by Tasos Boulmetis.

Stars: Georges Corraface.

10 wins





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