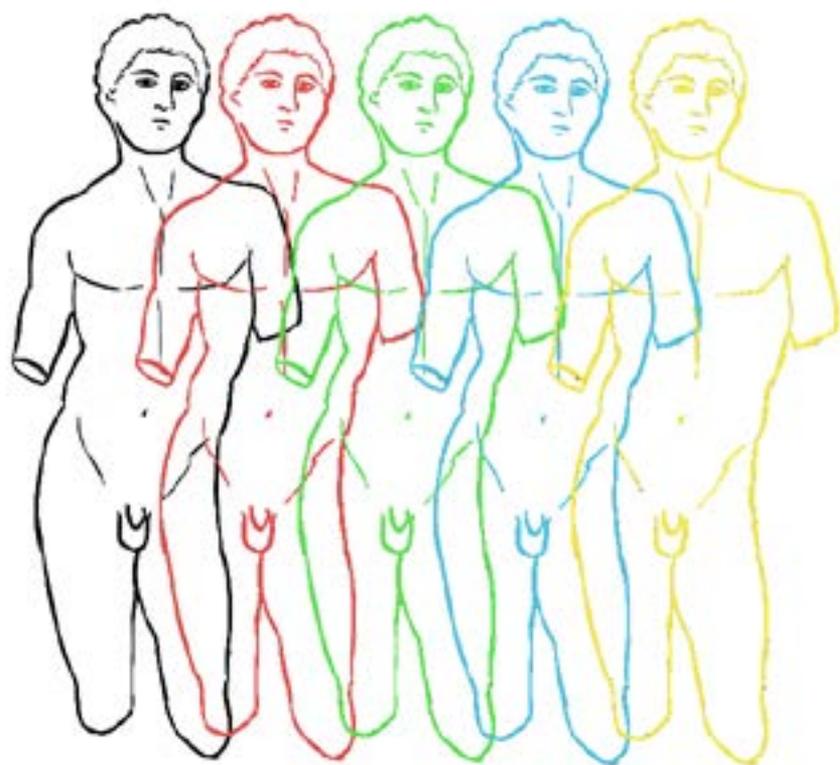


Pigments Of Your Imagination

A Color Restoration Book



PIGMENTS OF YOUR IMAGINATION: A COLOR RESTORATION BOOK

Imagine a statue from Ancient Greece or Rome. Is it white? Well, of course it is. That's all we know and have been taught. Most films, shows, and video games have depicted Greek and Roman statues in a stripped form. The reality of the situation is that this idea was originally introduced by a man named Johann Winckelmann, a philosopher in the mid-1700's. He omitted the presence of color, which resulted in race being ignored in subsequent scholarship. The vision he created for these pieces was to see the "beautiful" white marble, and only that. He portrayed the Greeks and Romans as "too sophisticated to color their art," which resulted in "color in sculpture coming to mean barbarism" (Sarah Bond, *Whitewashing Ancient Statues: Whiteness, Racism, and Color in the Ancient World*). The Greeks and Romans used many colors to depict people through sculpture, such as using paints in order to accentuate detailing in the human body and face. Additionally, the Greeks often used red and yellow, as a base to begin their work on sculptures of figures. The use of paint reflected the society's multichromatic culture. The Greek and Roman Empires encompassed many lands ranging from Mesopotamia to Britannia and Macedonia to India. Further, throughout the lifespan of the Greek and Roman empires, there was little to no color prejudice in existence within their societies. A different ethnicity was less important than your allegiance to the empire. (Mary Beard, *Racism in Greece and Rome*)

Learn More:

For more information on this subject, check out "Whitewashing Ancient Statues: Whiteness, racism, and Color in the Ancient World", written by classicist, Sarah Bond, on Forbes or Hyperallergic. As well, there is an interview with her about this subject and her article on Vice.com



Portrait of Agrippina the Younger
Roman
ca. 40 CE



Torso of a fighting giant
Roman
117-138 CE



Portrait of Hadrian
Roman
ca. 130 CE



Fragmentary sarcophagus front and lid depicting The Slaughter of the Niobids
Roman
2nd century

Fragmentary sarcophagus front and lid depicting The Slaughter of the Niobids
Roman
2nd century



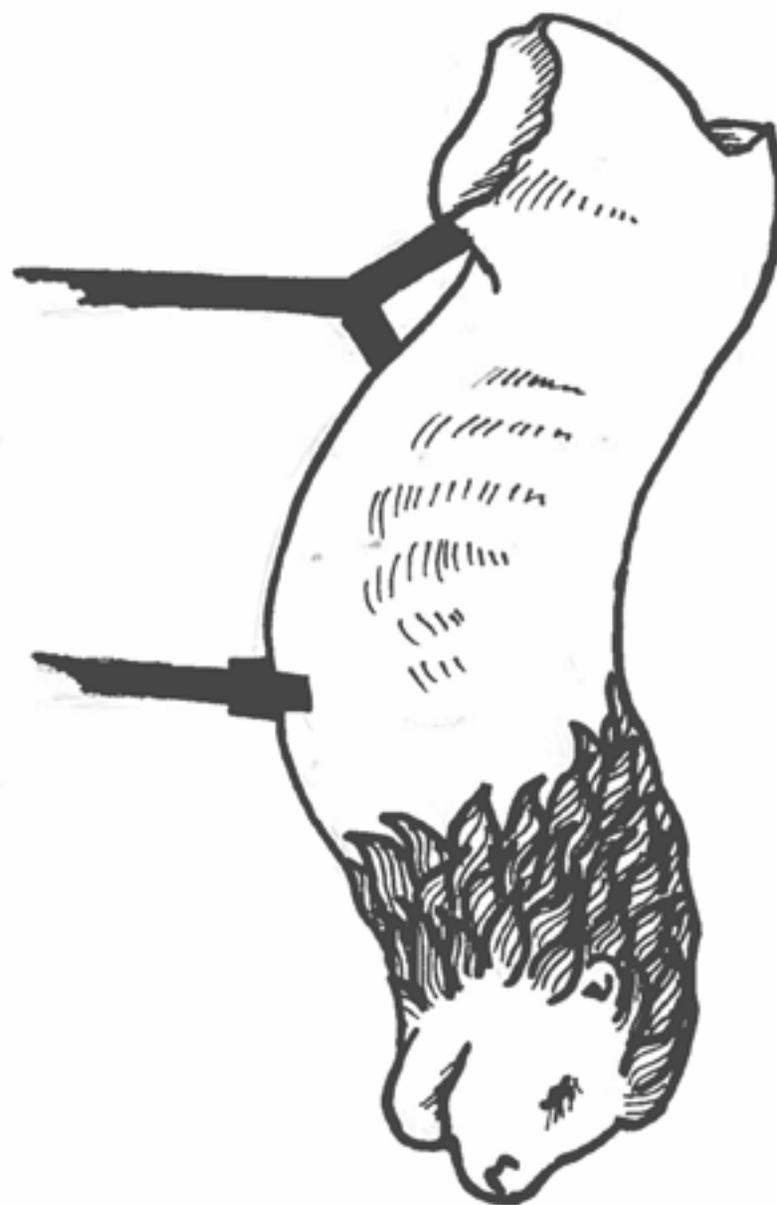
Relief of a Man Burning Incense
Graeco-Phoenician
ca. CE 70



Grave marker (Radeke Stele)
Attic (Ancient Style)
4th century BCE



Youthful Figure Wearing a Torque
Roman
138-192 CE



Funerary Lion
Greek
ca. 390-380 BCE

RISD MUSEUM

Summer Teen Intensive 2017

Created in conjunction with artist Sonja John