

*Art History II*

# ART OF ANCIENT EGYPT

## 3500 – 300AD



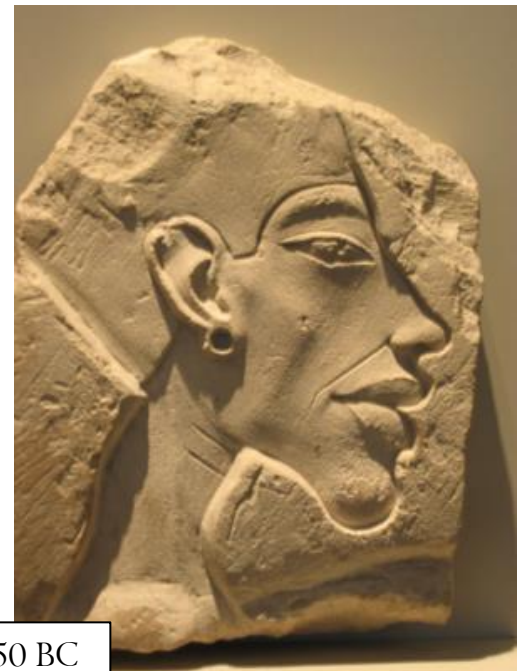
The Great Pyramid of Giza stands on the northern edge of the Giza Plateau, located about 10 miles west of Cairo. The Greeks listed the Great Pyramid of Giza as the first wonder of the world and it is the **only** one of the Seven ANCIENT Wonders still remaining to this day.

Ancient Egyptian is arguably the first developed cultures of the world. This civilization grew from the earliest farming and hunting groups located along the Nile River in Africa. The Egyptians believed their pharaohs (rulers) were gods who would live after death.

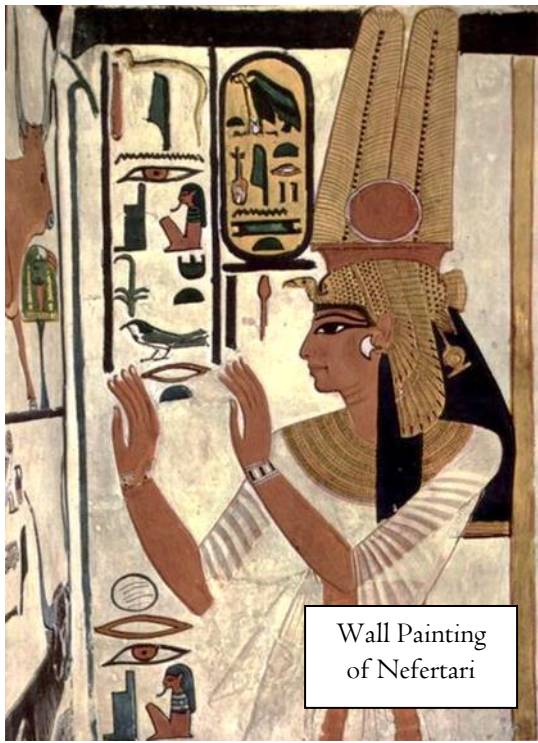
Ancient Egyptian art aimed at preserving order and stability, or the prevailing relationships between the king, people, and the gods. To do this, ancient Egyptian art followed certain rules or a style that made it distinctive and unmistakable. Additionally, Ancient Egyptian art was heavily influenced by religion, specifically the belief in life after death so that ancient Egyptian artists developed funeral art to an amazing degree. Egyptian temples and pyramids, and the paintings and sculpture found inside them, have become treasures of the entire art world and human civilization itself.



Temple of Ramses II



King Akhenaton 1350 BC



Wall Painting of Nefertari



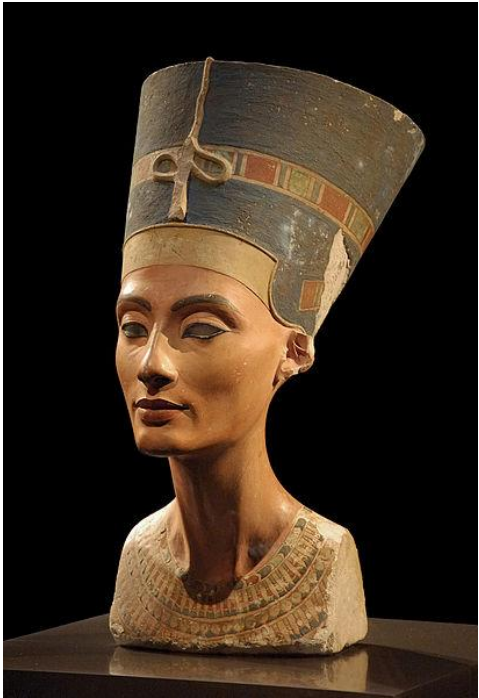
Sample of Ancient Egyptian Hieroglyphics. Ramses Cartouche



King Mycerinus and His Queen 2548-2530 B.C.E.

### Characteristics of Ancient Egyptian Art

- heavily influenced by everyday life, especially religion and life after death
- not focused on exact replication, just representations
- all art looked similar to preserve a sense of stability amongst the people
- The Egyptians strictly upheld the style of frontalism, adhering carefully to stylistic rules
- the subject's head is always drawn in profile with the full eye shown
- The upper body is depicted from the front and the legs face in the same direction as the head with one foot in front of the other
- The person in the picture sits or stands stiff and rigid in a formal posture, but the face is calm and usually slightly tilted toward the sky.



Thebes, Egypt. One of the four sarcophagi (tomb cases) for the most famous Egyptian pharaoh, Tutankhamun. 1361-1352 BC. Discovered in November, 1922

Famed throughout the ancient world for her outstanding beauty, Akhenaten's queen *Nefertiti* remains the one of the most well known of the queens of Egypt. The famous statue of Nefertiti, found in a sculptor's workshop in Akhetaten, is one of the most immediately recognizable icons from this period of history.