

## Antiquities Collection - Greek Stylistic Periods

### Archaic Period: approx. 7<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Century BCE

- Greek cities ruled by tyrants (the ancient Greek word *tyrannos* does not always have negative connotations)
- Trade brings influence from Egypt and the Middle East
- Figures are rigid and square, in stiff formal pose and frontal organization; highly stylized faces, bodies, and rendering of fabric; eyes are almond shaped, hair is tightly curled, mouth usually in the form of the 'archaic smile' which is an attempt to deal with the problem of showing the mouth simultaneously from the side and front
- Male figures often shown nude, female figures always shown clothed
- Black figure pottery is most common
- Examples of sculpture in the SBMA collection:
  - *Bearded Head*, Cypriot, second half of 6th Century BCE
  - *Head of A Youth*, Greek, probably Sicilian, end of 6th century BCE

### Classical Period: 5<sup>th</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> Century BCE

- Democracy in Athens until it is switched over to oligarchy and then eventually conquered by king Philip II, the father of Alexander the Great
- Sculpture moves towards naturalism – more complex positioning of bodies and drapery, musculature becomes more naturalistic, faces show little emotion
- First depictions of female nudity in art
- Red figure pottery replaces black figure pottery in popularity
- Examples of sculpture in the SBMA collection:
  - *Athena*, Roman copy of an original from the late 5th century BCE
  - *Torso of Doryphoros*, Roman copy of the *Doryphoros* by Polykleitos, ca. 440 BCE
  - *Torso of Herakles*, Roman copy of an original from the last quarter of 4th century BCE by Lysippos
  - *Draped Apollo Kitharista*, Roman copy of an original from the 4th century BCE
  - *Funerary Loutrophoros*, Greek (Attic), second half of the 4th century BCE
  - *Lansdowne Hermes*, Roman copy of an original from the 4th century BCE

### Hellenistic Period: 4<sup>th</sup> – 1<sup>st</sup> century BCE

- The breakup of Alexander the Great's empire after his death into smaller kingdoms
- The emergence of cosmopolitan palace culture with monumental buildings and sculpture
- Rise of Rome and the addition of Greece into the Roman empire
- Hyper idealized bodies in art – extreme musculature in some male figures, exceptionally complicated drapery, emotions shown on faces, complex compositions, more complex renderings of enemies showing their humanity
- Red figure pottery continues to be used until roughly the 2<sup>nd</sup> century BCE
- Examples of sculpture in the SBMA collection:
  - *Head of Aphrodite*, Roman copy of an original from the 4th century CE
  - *Satyr and Nymph*, Roman copy of an original from the 2nd century BCE