Artistic Representation

Name

Institution
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Through the several sculptures and art paintings that illustrate human living circumstances and feelings, we can understand the financial and societal alterations of the past times.

The artistic representation first began during the Paleolithic era. In this period, people obtained food by tracking undomesticated animals, supplies for their garments and implements. Cave painting that demonstrates human survival and animal themes were numerous. During that time, one could see artists depicting forms of the human body, precisely female figures, in sculptures. The figure expresses themes of human life demonstrated in figures. For instance, the most famous figure is the Venus of Willendorf. The woman of Willendorf (figure 1-5) demonstrates women's childbearing as one of the themes of continued survival of the genus in the Paleolithic era. The obvious huge size of the abdomen breasts and the pudendum serve to indicate the fruitfulness. The woman's face was covered with hair or containers. Perhaps, people at those times thought, the human body was more significant or ignored to carve the particulars of the face, due to lack of appropriate techniques.

In Near East during ancient times, human form had been altered. For instance, the human figure from Ain Ghazal, Jordan (figure 1-15) reflects changes in life style in the Neolithic era: people are depicted with clear eyes, well defined nose and a small undefined mouse. On the other hand, the human body had no noticeable bodily genitals. The Neolithic era began when people altered their way of life. The advancement in agriculture and domesticated animals breeding were demonstrated in art works. In contrast, Paleolithic ancestors used chipped stone tools in their art crafts, and they depended on gathering and
hunting to survive. However, in the Neolithic period, Neolithic ancestors primarily used polished stone, artificial cultivation and breeding of livestock to live. From art works, we can observe that the topics and concerns of human life in the Neolithic period are different from that of Paleolithic times.

Animals are an important object both in Paleolithic and Neolithic times because the art focus was on survival. The reason for hunter artist to paint the animals was that these animals were vital for their survival. The Paleolithic paintings showed the details of animal or human bodies in a realistic way. On the other hand, as food becomes scarcer in the Neolithic, humans begin to grow food, own animals and build stronger shelters. Artist began painting advanced ways of hunting animals. Neolithic painting compositions were more complex than Paleolithic, and they developed to show the single objects interconnected in movement, such as a group of people while hunting.

Early Cycladic, Minoan, and Mycenaean artworks represented the expression of life across three different geographic areas during the Prehistoric Aegean period. Cycladic sculptors used marble to produce statuettes. These marble statuettes were abstracted and used simple geometries, such as big triangular shapes. Most Cycladic statuettes depict nude women. Figure 4-2 illustrated a nude woman that is about a foot and a half tall, but only a half inch thick, and the body was rendered in highly schematic manner. Male statuettes were also found: simple geometric shapes and large flat planes were used as in the female figure. Minoan art also includes small statuettes, such as the Snake Goddess illustrated in figure 4-12, and decorated vases. These figural arts typically present human features with narrow waists and frontal eyes, and the figures are colored according to gender. In addition to early
Cycladic art, elegance, graceful movement, curve lines and even human anatomy were also demonstrated in these images. These art works showed female's status in the social setting, and people were focused on females more than ever before.

The Ancient Greece art history reveals itself through The Geometric and Orientalizing Periods, the Archaic Period, the Early and High Classical Periods, the Late Classical Period and the Hellenistic Period. The art revolves around architecture, sculpture, painting, and jewelry making. In the Archaic period, geometric sculptures were the prevailing form. For example, the Lady of Auxerre’s hair has quadrilateral shape, and her fingers are straight. Patterns on her skirt reflect double quadrilateral shape. Although the sculpture did not demonstrate the muscle of the lady's body, the technique of geometric sculptures has been developed. As time goes on, the quadrilateral sculpture changed to human's body detail sculpture. The Kroisos shows the human's muscle and genital organs. It also kept the geometric form in hair with quadrilateral shape. The technique of human sculptures has been well developed at that time.

In most of time, human forms were represented by physical movements and emotional expression. The technique of sculptures has been well developed, which means the economic has been well-developed. From the Paleolithic period to the Neolithic period, the art works show the art at the beginning of its development, which served to reflect the human's lifestyle as it had been evolving. The Ancient Greece art history shows the technique of sculptures, which has been highly developed.