

HOW TO LOOK AT SCULPTURE: QUESTIONS TO ASK

These questions apply particularly to Ancient Greek statues (now in museums), but most have wider application

In no particular order:

- Who is the subject?
- Is it a group statue (ie more than one figure)?
- Is it a single figure that was once part of a group sculpture?
- If there are multiple figures, what is the relationship/interaction between them?
- What is the material?
- What is the date/sculptural period (eg 580BC/Archaic; 450BC/ Classical)?
- Do we know who the sculptor is?
- Is it an original or a copy (Hellenistic, Roman or even more modern)?
- Is it damaged?
- Are there any attributes/attachments?
- Are any particular sculptural techniques in evidence?
- Where was it placed originally?
- Where is it now (if you're just looking a picture of it)?
- Where was it found? (Not always the same answer as the point above)
- WHAT WAS ITS PURPOSE? (votive; funerary/commemorative; allegorical; to celebrate victory - in battle or sport. Sometimes more than one applies)
- From what angle should it be viewed?
- How does the viewer interact with it?
- What effect does it have on the viewer?
- What is it about the sculpture that produces your response?
- Is a myth being depicted?