

Q: Did sculptors of the Hellenistic period want to improve upon the aesthetics of classical sculpture, or was classical sculpture considered a supreme model?

A: Yes, they did want to improve upon classical sculpture, while at the same time considering it a model. They owed much to their classical predecessors, and built on their work perfecting such things as the naturalistic rendition of the human body. It has often been noted that, generally speaking, Hellenistic sculpture is more dynamic than Greek classical sculpture. Sculptors now wanted their sculptures to be admired from more than one vantage point. This resulted in the more dynamic poses of the sculpted figures, and thus, a more dynamic viewing experience. The heightened dramatic intensity emanating from many Hellenistic sculptures was also part of the new dynamism in sculpture. Subject matter and composition came together to create this new character.

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