

**Q:** If the Archaic, classical, and Hellenistic periods in Greece are all known to have contributed to a rise in naturalism in sculpted figural representations, how can the different phases of this evolution be categorized and summarized?

**A:** Let's attempt to summarize the contributions in the domain of naturalism that these different periods made to sculpture. Statuary of the Archaic period was greatly influenced by the naturalism gleaned from Egyptian statuary. Archaic statuary contributed life-size sculptures of male and female figures in the round that departed from the Geometric figures of the Geometric period. Throughout the Archaic period, the *Kouros* and *Korai*—large male and female statues—became more full-bodied, less static, and more lifelike in their positions, while they remained ideal figures of young men or women. In the early classical period, sculptors developed an interest in skillfully representing people of different ages and moods, as in the Temple of Zeus at Olympia. In the second part of the fifth century BC, strides were made in the detailing, modeling, and lifelike dynamism of the human figure. Phidias's sculptures on the Acropolis exemplify this tendency. At the same time, figures were more ideal than early classical figures, and youth and serenity were chosen over diversity of age and mood. The Hellenistic period contributed naturalism to the representation of the human figure, with the representation of different poses, different emotions, and the particularities that age and personality impose upon the human figure.

Tags: [Greek Sculpture](#), [Naturalism](#)