

**Q:** Did Augustus commission many portraits of himself?

**A:** Yes, Augustus was keen on using the power of image to spread his influence and consolidate the empire. He was represented in more than one role. He could, for example, be represented as a general, a priest, a person of divine lineage, or a consul and citizen. In his portraits, he was always depicted as youthful and vigorous, no matter what his age at the time the artwork was made.

Tags: [Imperial Rome](#), [Portrait Sculpture](#)

**Q:** How tall is the *Augustus of Prima Porta*?

**A:** It is a little over two meters high

Tags: [Imperial Rome](#)

**Q:** Was the *Augustus of Prima Porta* painted?

**A:** Most art historians believe that it was painted, although there is disagreement about how brightly and to what extent.

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**Q:** Did subsequent emperors want to disseminate their image through sculpture, like Augustus did?

**A:** Yes. New emperors had portrait busts created. Then, copies of these portraits were made and circulated in different parts of the empire. These copies could also be adapted to the creation of full-length statuary, so that an emperor became associated with certain recognizable traits, independent of how much the sculpture resembled the him.

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**Q:** Technically speaking, how were Roman mural paintings achieved?

**A:** The pigments were often ground stones and minerals. The technique for mural painting that was used by the Romans is the same basic fresco technique that would be used subsequently for centuries. In its rough lines, the pigment is mixed with water and applied to a fresh lime-plaster wall. The fresh lime-plaster binds to the pigment and changes the paint's composition so that it becomes a part of the wall. For this reason, the paint has to be applied before the lime plaster dries.

Tags: [Fresco](#), [Roman Wall Painting](#)