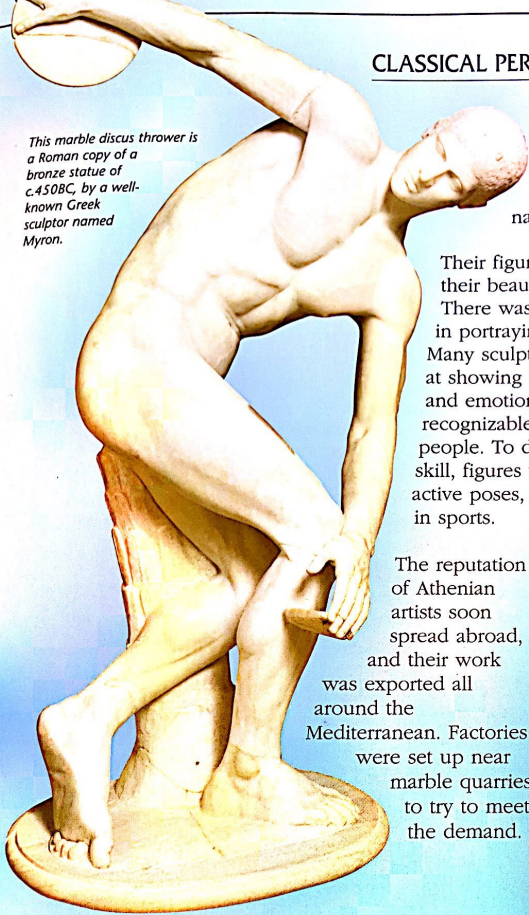


CLASSICAL PERIOD c.480-323BC

This marble discus thrower is a Roman copy of a bronze statue of c.450BC, by a well-known Greek sculptor named Myron.



The sculptors of the Classical period perfected the art of portraying the human body in a realistic, natural-looking way.

Their figures were noted for their beauty and serenity. There was a growing interest in portraying the female body. Many sculptors became skilled at showing facial expressions and emotions, and produced recognizable portraits of famous people. To demonstrate their skill, figures were often shown in active poses, such as taking part in sports.

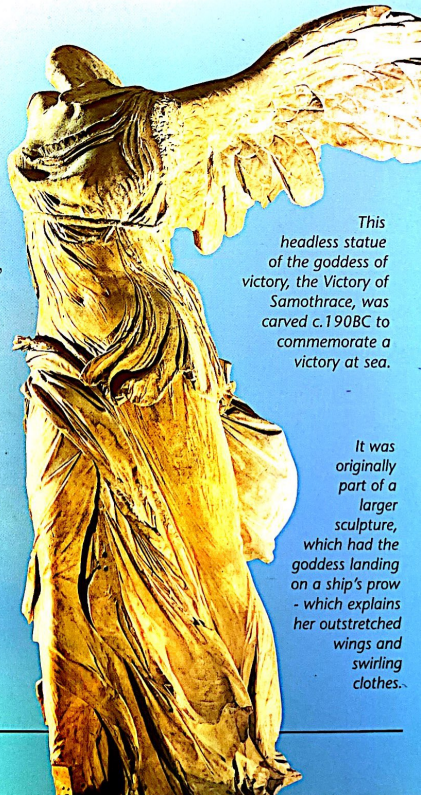
The reputation of Athenian artists soon spread abroad, and their work was exported all around the Mediterranean. Factories were set up near marble quarries, to try to meet the demand.



This marble head of the goddess Aphrodite is one of the most famous works of a sculptor named Praxiteles.

HELLENISTIC PERIOD c.323-100BC

In the Hellenistic Period, sculptors began to portray a much wider range of characters. Where Classical artists had concentrated on gods and famous men, children, foreigners and old people were now possible subjects. Sculptures from this time could be very dramatic too. Instead of just calm, serene poses, Hellenistic sculptors tackled subjects such as old age, pain and even death.



This headless statue of the goddess of victory, the Victory of Samothrace, was carved c.190BC to commemorate a victory at sea.

It was originally part of a larger sculpture, which had the goddess landing on a ship's prow - which explains her outstretched wings and swirling clothes.