



COLOURS OF KORE

DISCOVERY BOOK

“Athens was never white,
but her statues, bereft of
colours, have conditioned the
sensibilities of Europe.”

— André Malraux, art historian and
French Minister of Cultural Affairs, 1948

ROM



FUN FACTS

Ancient Greece:

an area including what we now call Greece, and its people and cultures from about 2,000 – 3,000 years ago

Evidence:

information that shows if something is true

EXAMPLES OF COLOUR DETECTIVES IN MUSEUMS

Archaeologists:

study human history and prehistory.

Palaeontologists:

study fossils or prehistoric plant and animal remains.

Think of the art and architecture of **Ancient Greece**. Do you imagine lots of white marble? You're not alone! This is what we've learned from movies, books... even museums. Many of the statues at ROM are white.

But the reality is that art and architecture in Ancient Greece weren't white. They were painted with bright colours!

At ROM is a *kore* (KOR-ay) from the Acropolis Museum in Athens. A **kore** is a statue of a young woman. This *kore*'s paint has not completely faded. This shows us how colourful the statue was when it was first created.

What else have you learned about ancient art? What **evidence** might change your mind? Use this Discovery Book to be a **Colour Detective** at ROM. Can you find clues that challenge things you've learned about museum objects?

You will need materials to draw, write, and colour.

Still curious? Learn more at the **Colours of Kore** Virtual Tour: <https://bit.ly/ROMKore>.



COLOUR A KORE

► Kore exhibit, Level 1

The Acropolis was the ancient **citadel** on a rocky hill above Athens, Greece. It contained many buildings, including temples like the Parthenon.

Hundreds of **korai** like this one stood on pedestals in the Acropolis. They were created as gifts for the goddess Athena.

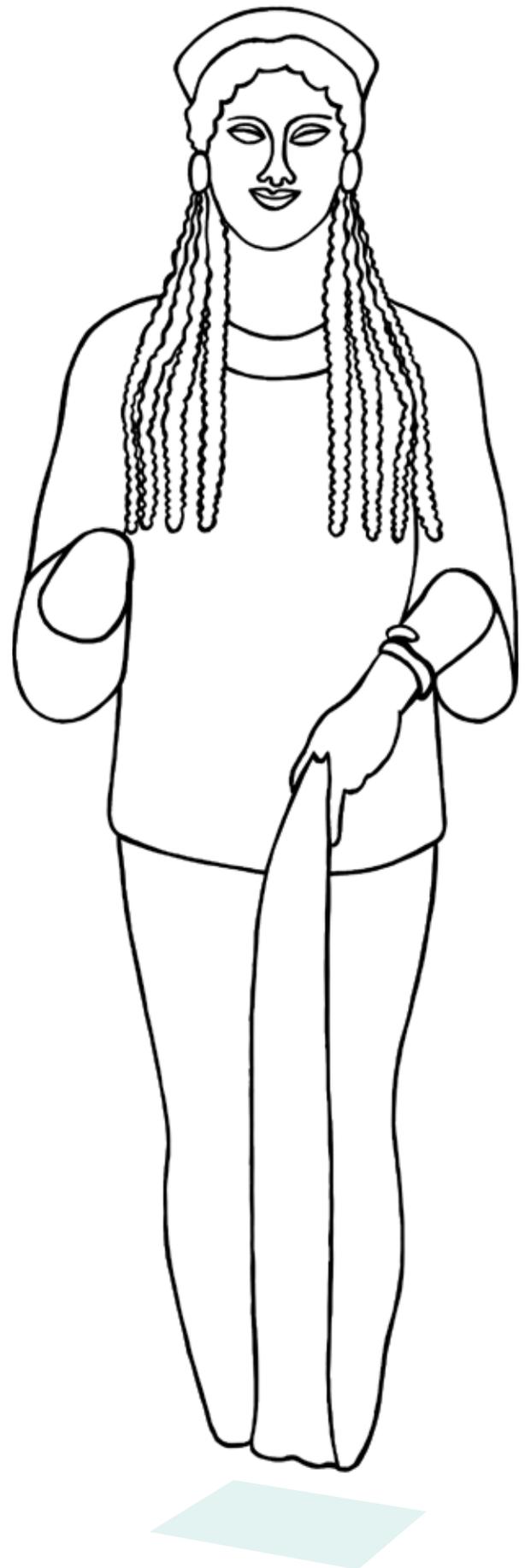
This *kore* was damaged in an attack 2,500 years ago, in the year 480 BCE. It was buried in a pit with 13 other *korai*. Because it was buried, its paint was protected.

Look closely at the *kore*. Notice:

- Colours on the hair, jewellery, and clothing
- Details in the marble and in the paint

Citadel: a city's centre of defence. It is usually protected by walls. As a citadel, the Acropolis contained military and food supplies. It gave people a safe place to hide in times of danger.

Korai: plural of *kore*, or statues of young women



TRY THIS

Colour this drawing. You can use the clues in the real *kore* to guide you, or create your own patterns and details.

Share your creation, or have your grown-up share it with us [@ROMtoronto](#).

GREEK GLAM

► Gallery of Greece, Level 3

Examine the statues and objects in this gallery. Do you think the people on them seem realistic?

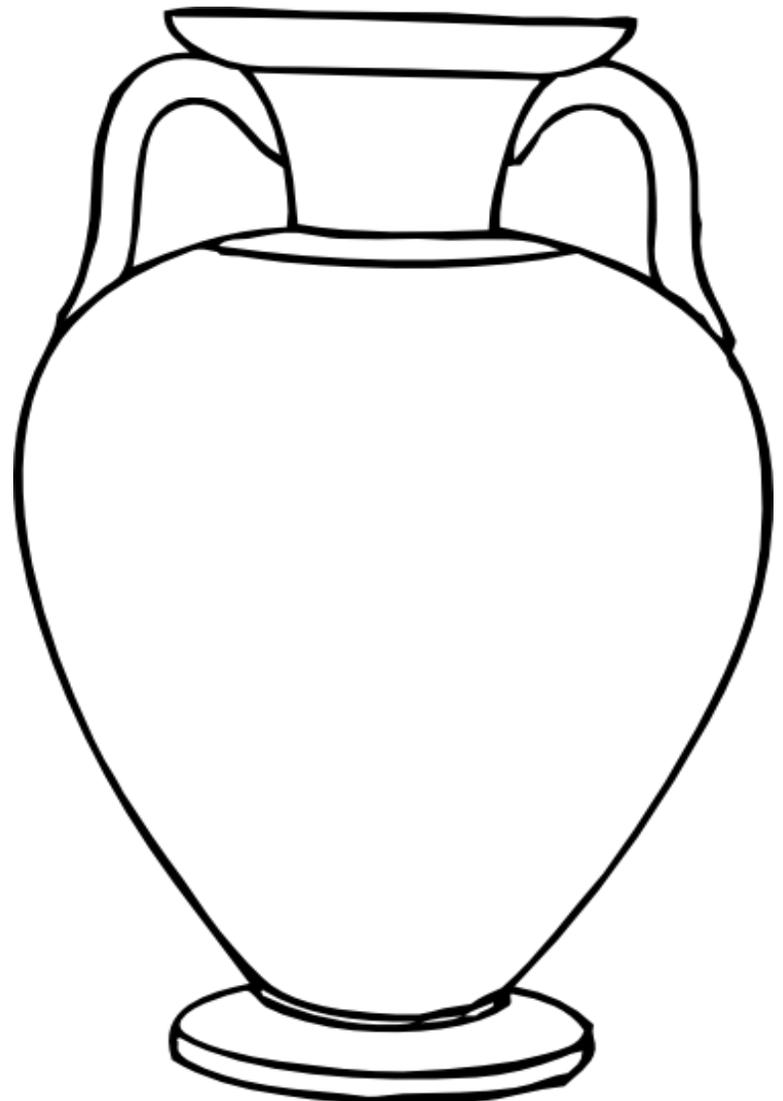
People in Ancient Greece liked to touch up their looks in artwork. This means that they wanted to look like their idea of “perfect” rather than real.

NOTICE

- Huge muscles
- Long, slim (but still muscle-y) arms and legs
- Narrow waists with big hips
- Beards on older men, smooth faces on younger men



This amphora (jug with handles) shows Herakles fighting a lion with his bulging muscles



TRY THIS

Sketch a scene from your life like it may have appeared on a Greek pot.

Share your art [@ROMtoronto](#).



Left: A model of the Acropolis. **Right:** A model of the inside of a temple of Athena.



Photos Model of the Acropolis (left); ROM956.118. Temple of Athena (right); ROM962.228.16.

ACROPOLIS ACTION

► Gallery of Greece, Level 3

The *kore* visiting ROM was found at the Acropolis in Athens. On the Acropolis were temples dedicated to Athena. Athena's temples had many sculptures of young women. That's because she was the goddess of young, unmarried women. People gave her sculptures as acts of worship, or as payment for favours.

Of course, not everyone could afford to give large marble statues. This gallery also contains smaller statues given as offerings. Can you find them?

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Sculptures of women were also used as pillars to hold up the roof in Athena's temples. These sculptures were called **caryatids**.

If you were a god or goddess, what would hold up the roof in *your* temple? Why?

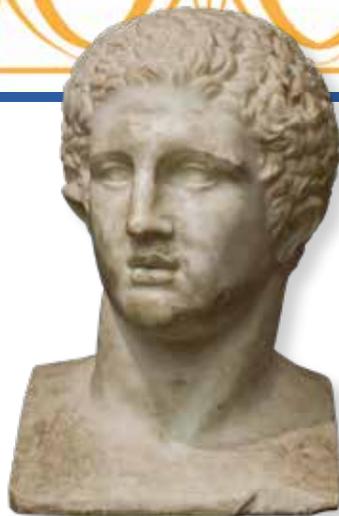


TRY THIS

Pose with friends or family like you're holding up a temple roof. (Don't stand too close together, or the roof will collapse!)

Take a photo and share @ROMtoronto.





Left: Greek bust of young Herakles

Right: Roman bust of Emperor Tiberius

GETTING REAL IN ROME

► Gallery of Rome, Level 3

Sculptures of faces are called portrait busts. Like Greek sculptures, Roman portrait busts would also have been fully painted. They're like ancient Roman selfies!

Unlike Greek artists, Roman artisans wanted to show the world as it really was. This makes the people in Roman statues easier to recognize than the ones on Greek art.

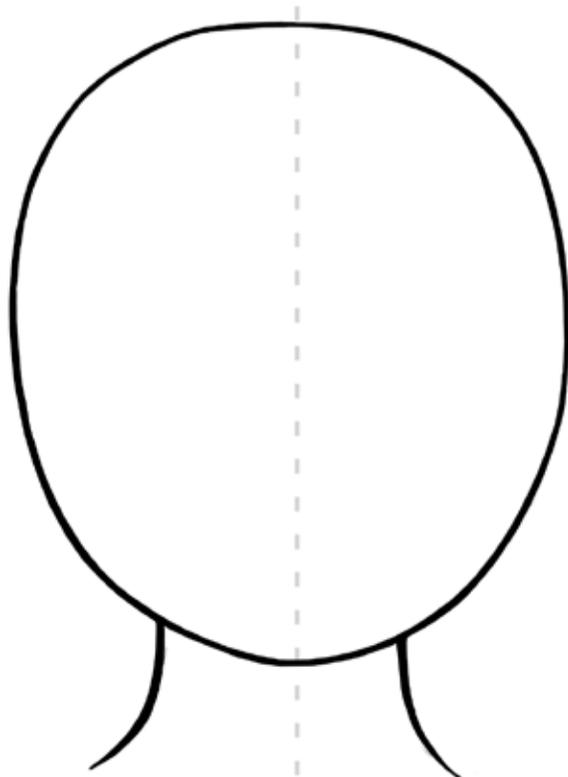
In an empire as large as Rome, people might never see their emperor in person. Statues showed them who he was and what he looked like.



TECH TRICK!

Does your phone have an app that can touch up selfies with filters? Try it out with selfies of the statues!

Share your weird and wonderful statue selfies [@ROMtoronto](#).



TRY THIS

Use the outline to draw a face, half in the "perfect" Greek style, and half in the more realistic Roman style.

Share your art [@ROMtoronto](#).



CONSIDER

There have been clues for years that ancient statues were brightly coloured instead of white. Why do many people still believe they were white?

COLOUR CLUES

ROM has many objects whose colours have faded over time. Look for clues about colours in:

- Gallery of Chinese Architecture
- Gallery of Africa: Egypt
- Daphne Cockwell Gallery dedicated to First Peoples Art & Culture
- Crest Poles or Totem Poles
- Joey and Toby Tanenbaum Gallery of Byzantium

Document your clues with photos or sketches!

COLOURFUL COMMUNICATION

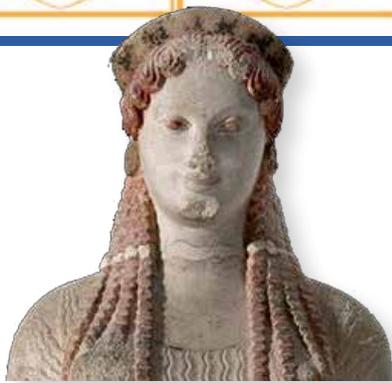
► Dinosaur Gallery, Level 2

Behind *T. rex*'s tail is a display about an exciting discovery—many meat-eating dinosaurs had feathers! In fact, today's birds are dinosaurs. Some feathered dinosaurs may have used colours and patterns to communicate.

Use the feathered fossils in the Bird Gallery as inspiration to design your own dinosaur. How does your dinosaur communicate with colour?



Cast of Archaeopteryx, a fossil bird from the Late Jurassic period.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

As you explored ROM with this Discovery Book, what have you learned? Learning new information may make us re-think things that we thought we knew. Our ideas and **preconceptions** about things may change. And **stereotypes** may turn out to be wrong.

What objects, galleries, or discoveries changed your mind the most today?

Preconceptions: ideas or opinions formed before we learn more about something

Stereotypes: ideas about something or someone that are oversimplified and often false, but is believed by many people

TRY THIS

Facts and misconceptions are often spread by stories on TV, movies, computer games, and books.

Share something you discovered today with a story of your own! Your story can be a poem, short story, comic, game, video... any way you want to tell it.



READ MORE

- *Ish*, by Peter H. Reynolds
- *Maybe Something Beautiful: How Art Transformed a Neighbourhood*, by F. Isabel Campoy, Theresa Howell, Rafael Lopez
- *I Have the Right to Culture*, by Alain Serres, Aurelia Fronty, Shelley Tanaka
- *Selfie: The Changing Face of Self Portraits* by Susie Brooks

ROM

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