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MFA **H** *The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston*
Hirsch Library Research Guide



Grave Stele

Unknown Greek

Greek, Classical, 400-350 BC

Marble, sculpture: 43 x 22 1/2 x 6 1/2 in. (109.2 x 57.2 x 16.5 cm)

Museum purchase funded by the Alice Pratt Brown Museum Fund

Grave markers showed respect and affection for the deceased as well as family status and wealth. This stele fragment depicts a standing Greek youth and seated female, possibly his mother, grasping hands in the traditional gesture of farewell, dexiosis. The carving is exceptionally fine, the figures ideal with classical proportions. In death, the young man stands dignified and solemn.

Online Resources:

[Hirsch Library Online Catalog](#)

[The Metropolitan Museum of Art Heilbrunn Timeline of Art History](#)

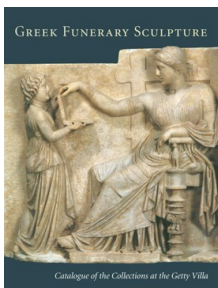
Articles: (full-text access available on-site; off-site access available through your school library or Houston Public Library)

[Leader, Ruth E. "In Death Not Divided: Gender, Family, and State on Classical Athenian Grave Stelae." *American Journal of Archaeology* 101, no. 4 \(1997\): 683-699.](#)

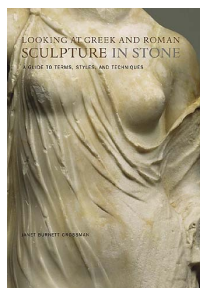
[Norton, Richard. "Greek Grave-Reliefs." *Harvard Studies in Classical Philology* 8 \(1897\): 41-102.](#)

[Davies, Glenys. "The Significance of the Handshake Motif in Classical Funerary Art." *American Journal of Archaeology* 89, no. 4 \(1985\): 627-640.](#)

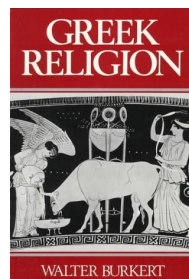
Print Resources:



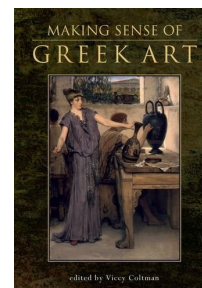
[Greek Funerary Sculpture](#)



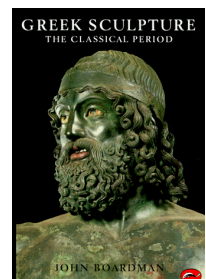
[Looking at Greek and Roman Sculpture in Stone](#)



[Greek Religion](#)



[Making Sense of Greek Art](#)



[Greek Sculpture: The Classical Period](#)

Bibliography

General Surveys of Greek Art

[Gardner, Helen, Fred Kleiner, and Christin J. Mamiya. *Gardner's Art Through the Ages*. 12th ed. Belmont, CA: Thomson/Wadsworth, 2005. N 5300 .G25 2005 Ref.](#)

[Janson, H. W., and Penelope J. E. Davies. *Janson's History of Art: The Western Tradition*. 7th ed. Upper Saddle River: Pearson Prentice Hall, 2007. N 5300 .J3 2007 Ref.](#)

[Stokstad, Marilyn, and David A. Brinkley. *Art History*. 3rd ed. Upper Saddle River: Pearson Prentice Hall, 2008. N 5300 .S923 2008 Ref.](#)

Greek Art, History, and Culture

[Beard, Mary, and John Henderson. *Classical Art: From Greece to Rome*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2001. N 5610 .B295 2001 Ref.](#)

[Boardman, John. *Greek Art*. Rev ed. New York: Praeger, 1973. N 5630 .B58 1973](#)

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[Kurtz, Donna C., and Brian A. Sparkes. *The Eye of Greece: Studies in the Art of Athens*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1982. N 5650 .E9 1982](#)

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[Richter, Gisela Marie Augusta. *A Handbook of Greek Art*. 9th ed. Oxford: Phaidon, 1987. N 5630 .R49 1987 Ref.](#)

Greek Sculpture

[Bluemel, Carl. *Greek Sculptors at Work*. 2nd ed. London: Phaidon, 1969. NB 90 .B552 1969](#)

[Buitron-Oliver, Diana, and Nicholas Gage. *The Greek Miracle: Classical Sculpture from the Dawn of Democracy: The Fifth Century B.C.* Washington: National Gallery of Art, 1992. NB 90 .B83 1992](#)

[Carpenter, Rhys. *Greek Sculpture: A Critical Review*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1960. NB 90 .C26](#)

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[Richter, Gisela Marie Augusta. *The Sculpture and Sculptors of the Greeks*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1929. NB 90 .R54](#)

[Spivey, Nigel Jonathan. *Understanding Greek Sculpture: Ancient Meanings, Modern Readings*. New York: Thames and Hudson, 1996. NB 90 .S66 1996 Reserve](#)

[Stewart, Andrew F. *Greek Sculpture: An Exploration*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1990. NB 90 .S74 1990 Ref.](#)

Ancient Mythology

[Aghion, Irène, Claire Barbillon, and F. Lissarrague. *Gods and Heroes of Classical Antiquity*. Paris: Flammarion, 1996. N 7760 .A3413 1996 Ref.](#)

[Albersmeier, Sabine, and Michael J. Anderson. *Heroes: Mortals and Myths in Ancient Greece*. Baltimore: Walters Art Museum, 2009. BL 795 .H46 H46 2009](#)

[Bullfinch, Thomas, and Bryan Holme. *Bullfinch's Mythology: The Greek and Roman Fables Illustrated*. New York: Viking Press, 1979. BL 721 .B84 1979](#)

This reference guide is just the tip of the iceberg on helpful resources in the library's holdings. Many of the suggested resources above have their own bibliographies. Each of these may lead you to another resource that would also be helpful in your research here in the museum or in another library. To find additional resources, use keywords such as "grave stele" and "stone relief" in the online catalog and in periodical indexes. Once you find a few relevant titles, pay attention to the subject headings to identify similar materials. Examples of useful subject headings are:

Sculpture, Greek
Sculptors--Greece
Sculpture, Greek--Exhibitions

For guidelines about writing it may be helpful to look at Sylvan Barnet's *A Short Guide to Writing about Art*, which includes tips for looking, reading, and writing about art. Ask for it at the reference desk. At every stage of your work, please allow the library staff to help you. Contact us at 713-639-7325 or hirsch@mfa.org