

PAINTED STATUES

Lost Worlds of Colour

From the monumental Colossus of Rhodes to the mini figurines of heroes, ancient statues have had a varied and surprisingly colourful history! Greek statues were actually painted with bright colours, bedazzled with jewels and sometimes covered with gold and ivory!

Most Greek sculptures were painted in strong and bright colours; this is called "polychromy". The paint was frequently limited to parts depicting clothing, hair, and so on, with the skin left in the natural colour of the stone or bronze, but it could also cover sculptures in their totality; female skin in marble tended to be uncoloured, while male skin might be a light brown.

Colours commonly used on sculptures of the Archaic period included red in various shades, dark blue or light blue, black, yellow and green. The robes of kore sculptures are believed to represent actual clothing decorated with patterns, familiar to us from the painted decoration of vases. Various head ornaments and jewellery – earrings, necklaces, bracelets and pins, buttons and belts completed the kores' ornamentation.



PAINTED STATUES

Paint Your Own!

What you will need:

- Plain white or primed statuette (or white paper if you don't have a statue to paint)
- Paints
- Paint Brush
- Sparkly jewels, fake pearls, gold paint

Paint and decorate your statue however you like. Don't forget to create interesting patterns on the clothes. If you don't have a statue you can draw one and colour it in!

Color symbolism in ancient Greece

- Red: A transitional colour, indicating a change in life status. Boys on the threshold of becoming men wore red cloaks. Brides wore red veils. Death shrouds were red.
- Black: Worn for mourning, but also to draw attention to the mourner's social status. True blacks were hard to achieve and required more pigment or more layers of colour.
- Purple: Indicated royalty or high rank, due to the rarity of purple dye. Alexander the Great was fond of wearing purple from head to toe.
- White: As much a state of being as a color; the ancients used the word to designate youthful or feminine, pale skin.

If you'd like to buy already-made paint your own statue kit complete with 3D printed Athena owl - just head to our online shop!

