

### Ancient Greek Pottery at the Ashmolean

- These objects are on display in Gallery 16: The Greek World.
- Objects on display represent a wide range of pottery designs, styles and techniques used for different functions. There are example of white-ground and black and red-figure ware.
- The Ashmolean Museum's collections are especially rich in painted Athenian pottery showing scenes of daily life, women, slaves, craftspeople, military life, sports, gods and goddesses.
- The Museum houses the Beazley Archive and many pots are attributed to different Painters identified by John Beazley through his extensive categorisation system.

### Other galleries containing Greek objects

Gallery 20: Aegean World

Gallery 3-4: Conservation

Gallery 6: Reading and Writing

Gallery 21: Greek and Roman Sculpture

Gallery 14: Cast Gallery

Gallery 7: Money



Athenian red-figure pottery pelike (jug) attributed to the Pan Painter 500-450BC. A youth, probably a slave, carries a couch and table for a symposium. AN1980.29

### 1. Aryballos (oil jar)

Athenian red-figure pottery aryballos attributed to Makron, 500-450BC

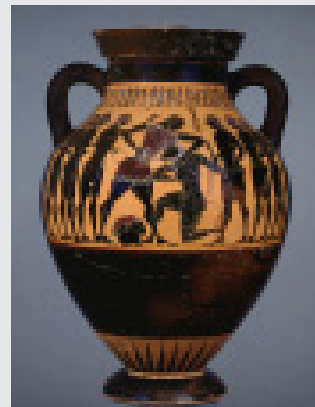


The illustration on this small pot shows boys playing with toy chariots. The writing on the mouth of the pot reads HIPPODAMAS KALOS 'Hippodamas is beautiful!'

AN1929.175

### 2. Amphora (storage jar)

Athenian black-figure amphora attributed to the Painter of Berlin 1686, 550-501BC



An illustration from the Cretan myth of Theseus and the Minotaur. Surrounded by onlookers, Theseus prepares to cut off the Minotaur's head.

AN1918.64

### 3. Kylix (drinking cup)

Athenian black-figure pottery kylix, 550-501BC



The scene shows men at a Greek symposium, a drinking party held by elite Greek men. The men shown here recline outdoors under hanging vines. The gorgon's head in the bowl was a visual trick to surprise the drinker as they emptied the cup.

AN1974.344

### 4. Pelike (jar)

Athenian black-figure pottery pelike attributed to the Eucharides Painter. Found in Rhodes, 550-500BC



A shoemaker cuts out a leather sole around the foot of a customer. Underneath the table is a bowl of water, used to soften the leather before cutting. A shelf above displays cobbler's knives.

AN1896-1908 G.247

### 5. Stamnos (storage jar)

Athenian black-figure pottery stamnos attributed to the Michigan Painter, 550-500BC



Competing in athletic games was a great honour for a youth. The Greeks believed that sporting excellence, physical beauty and good character converged in the ideal male. Here, bearded, older boxers wearing loincloths compete under the watchful gaze of a judge with a long-forked stick.

AN1965.97

### 6. Lekythos (oil jar)

Athenian red-figure pottery lekythos attributed to the Pan Painter. Found at Gela, 500-450BC



Nike, goddess of victory, plucking a lyre. Lekythoi played an important role in Athenian funerary rites, serving as offerings for the dead. Placed in tombs or on the steps of grave stelae, they were used to anoint funerary monuments, especially by female mourners.

AN 1888.1401

### 7. Amphoriskos (oil jar)

Athenian red-figure pottery amphoriskos 500-401BC



A seated woman holding a mirror. Athenian pottery shows many scenes of women taking part in different activities and offers an insight into a range of women's roles in Greek society.

AN1896-1908 G.303

### 8. Pyxis (storage box)

Athenian red-figure pottery pyxis 475-425BC



Seated women chatting and working and juggling. Women in Athens were primarily occupied with life in the home. They had few rights or public roles.

AN1965.130

### 9. Skyphos (deep drinking cup)

Athenian red-figure pottery skyphos attributed to Epiktetos, 525-475BC



Boys fill cups from a large bowl of diluted wine to serve drinkers, maybe at a symposium. Drinking from a cup like this while reclining on a couch was a challenging skill.

AN 1896-1908 G.276

### 10. Krater (mixing bowl)

Athenian red-figure pottery krater attributed to the Komaris painter, 475-425BC



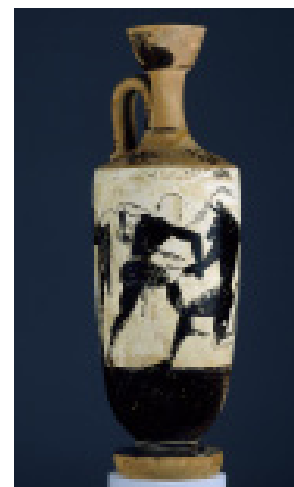
A potter's workshop with craftsmen and slaves painting and carrying vessels. A rare glimpse into the everyday life of craftspeople in ancient Greece. AN 1896-1908 G.287

## Lines of enquiry: Classics

- Explore Athenian vase painting in its social, artistic, religious and cultural context
- Discover the work of different vase Painters
- Learn about stylistic features and the development of different vase shapes
- Find examples of black-figure, red-figure and white-ground techniques
- Explore the relationship between painting, shape and use of vases
- See themes depicted on vases: everyday life, women, children, men, slaves, sports, gods and goddesses.
- What do the images show about life and values in ancient Greece?
- What do vases reveal about the role of women in Greek society?
- Explore pottery given as prizes for sports competitions and find out about the Olympics and Panathenaic Games.

## Working with objects: key questions

- Who made it?
- Where and when was it made?
- What materials is it made from?
- How was it made?
- What was it used for? How was it used?
- Who used / owned it?
- How might it be interpreted by different people and at different times?



Athenian white-ground lekythos, 475-425 BC

## Lines of enquiry: Art & Design

- Make a study of key design aspects of Greek pots including the key and egg and dart patterns. Find other examples and use these as inspiration to create your own repeat pattern.
- Compare and contrast Greek vases with the materials, shapes and design of pottery today. What are the similarities and differences?
- Design your own Greek pot, using inspiration from the designs you have researched.

## Cross curricular links

- History: the rise and expansion of the Greek empire and its legacy today
- English: explore the work of Greek writers, poets and philosophers
- Citizenship: discover the beginnings of democracy in ancient Greece.

## Further resources

The Beazley Archive:

<http://www.beazley.ox.ac.uk/tools/default.htm>

Cast Gallery

<http://www.ashmolean.org/departments/castgallery/research/>

## Education Department

Ashmolean Museum

Beaumont Street

Oxford OX1 2PH

T. 01865 278015

E. [education.service@ashmus.ox.ac.uk](mailto:education.service@ashmus.ox.ac.uk)

[www.ashmolean.org/learn](http://www.ashmolean.org/learn)