



AP Art History 2000 Student Samples

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A

style/technique

- gold background
- frontal
- purple robe
- 12 attendants

AA

2. Identify the work. Discuss how the work's style and technique reflect its function and subject. (10 minutes)

The Emperor

The work is Justinian and his attendants and is located in S. Vitale in Ravenna, Italy. The mosaic was completed in 547 CE. The style^{technique} of the work reflect the work's function and subject. The Emperor Justinian commissioned to have this work completed for placement in the church. He chose to portray himself in a purple robe, symbolizing royalty and power. He also chose to be depicted with twelve of his attendants. These twelve attendants can be paralleled to Christ's twelve disciples. The frontality of the work and its gold background label it as a Byzantine artwork. The style and technique used in depicting "The Emperor Justinian and his attendants" says something about Justinian's character and hopes for his reign. He wanted his people to view him as god-like ~~by~~ ^{seen in how he} ~~by~~ ^{by} depicting himself in a purple robe and with his twelve disciples, in a... rather "attendants." What better way to show his egotistical viewpoint than by preserving his power in a mosaic in a well-known church?

A

2. Identify the work. Discuss how the work's style and technique reflect its function and subject. (10 minutes)

This mosaic is of Justinian and is of the Byzantine style. What marks this as Byzantine is the choice of mosaic as a medium; the lack of background ~~or~~ or landscape (gold was representative of heaven). Justinian is placed in the center; his halo and purple robes ~~and~~ distinguishes him as both noble and divine. The heads of all the attendants are relatively the same height, though the feet are not on ~~a~~ a flat plane, another Byzantine influence. In addition, the robes are flat and the drapery appears as striated lines rather than the flowing drapery of ~~classical~~ antiquity. The faces are flat and reveal no emotion, a style that pervaded Byzantine art throughout the years. This mosaic is found in a church and is meant to revere Justinian (as shown by his halo & purple robes).