



AP Art History 2000 Student Samples

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3. Identify the period in which this work was made. Discuss ways in which it departs from the more typical artistic concerns of its period. (5 minutes)

This statue is Mary Magdalene by Donatello. It was made during the Early Renaissance. Most of the artistic concerns during this period were Classical proportions of simple depictions, and calm. This statue, on the other hand, depicts a lot of emotion. Mary's body has been withered, and she is clothed only in her long hair. The statue is meant to raise pity for her, but also to show that she has survived. Unlike more typical Renaissance sculptures, she does not idealize the human form into one of beauty. Instead, the statue distorts the figure into a form that some consider ugly. However, the artist's vision is meant to portray this idea not a beautiful, idealized form.

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3. Identify the period in which this work was made. Discuss ways in which it departs from the more typical artistic concerns of its period. (5 minutes)

In the Renaissance, sculpture generally portrayed beautiful, powerful bodies. Here, we see the meek Mary Magdalen, humble to Jesus for rescuing her. She is dirty and ugly, and dressed in rags, which is in no way characteristic of the newfound classicism of the Renaissance.