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)

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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)

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


Greek Art, History, and Culture


Greek Sculpture


Ancient Mythology


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 713-639-7225 or hirsch@mfah.org