



# Week 6 – Spiritual Belief, Cycle of Life, & Love and Sex

ARTS 1301 Art Appreciation



# Art of Spiritual Belief

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# Connecting with Spirits and the Divine



*Portrait of a Maori*, Sydney Parkinson 1769 The head, particularly the face was tattooed by the Maori because it was considered the most sacred. This gave the tattooed person power. [Video](#)



Art in Inyanke cave, Matopos, Zimbabwe, Africa cir. 950 AD

[Video](#)



Hopi Kachina, Arizona, USA cir. 1880. The Pueblo people used Kachinas in their spiritual rituals.

[Video](#)



Christ from Deesis Mosaic, Hagia Sofia, Istanbul 13<sup>th</sup> century



Frontispiece diamond sutra from cave 17 Dunhuang,  
Tang Dynasty 868 AD

[Video](#)





Poseidon, bronze statue, Greece 460 BC found in a shipwreck. Depicts the perfect anatomy of ancient Greek gods as well as ancient Greek athletes.

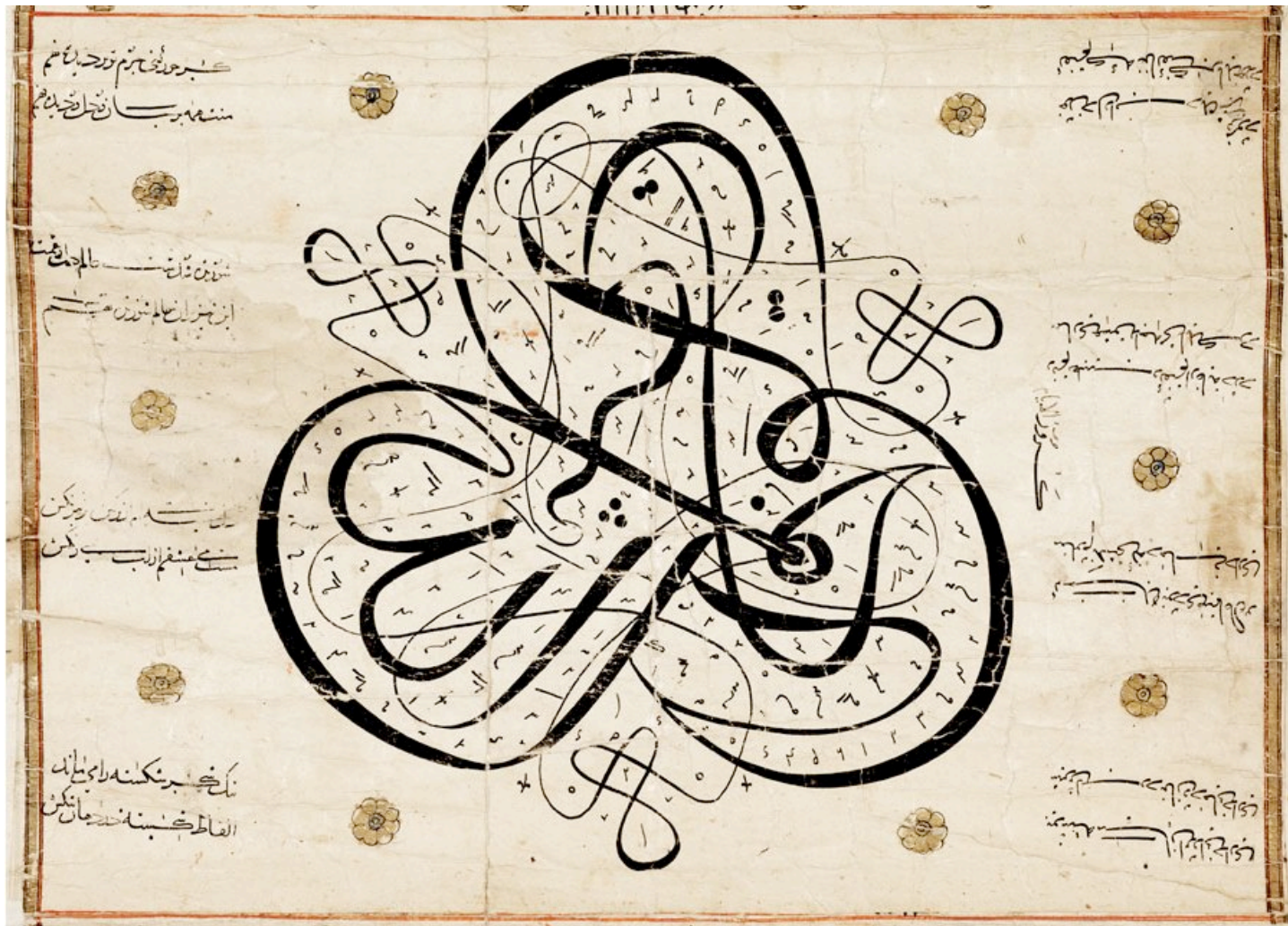


*The Alba Madonna*, Raphael, Italy 1510 AD. National Gallery in Washington DC. Depicts Mary, Jesus, and John the Baptist.

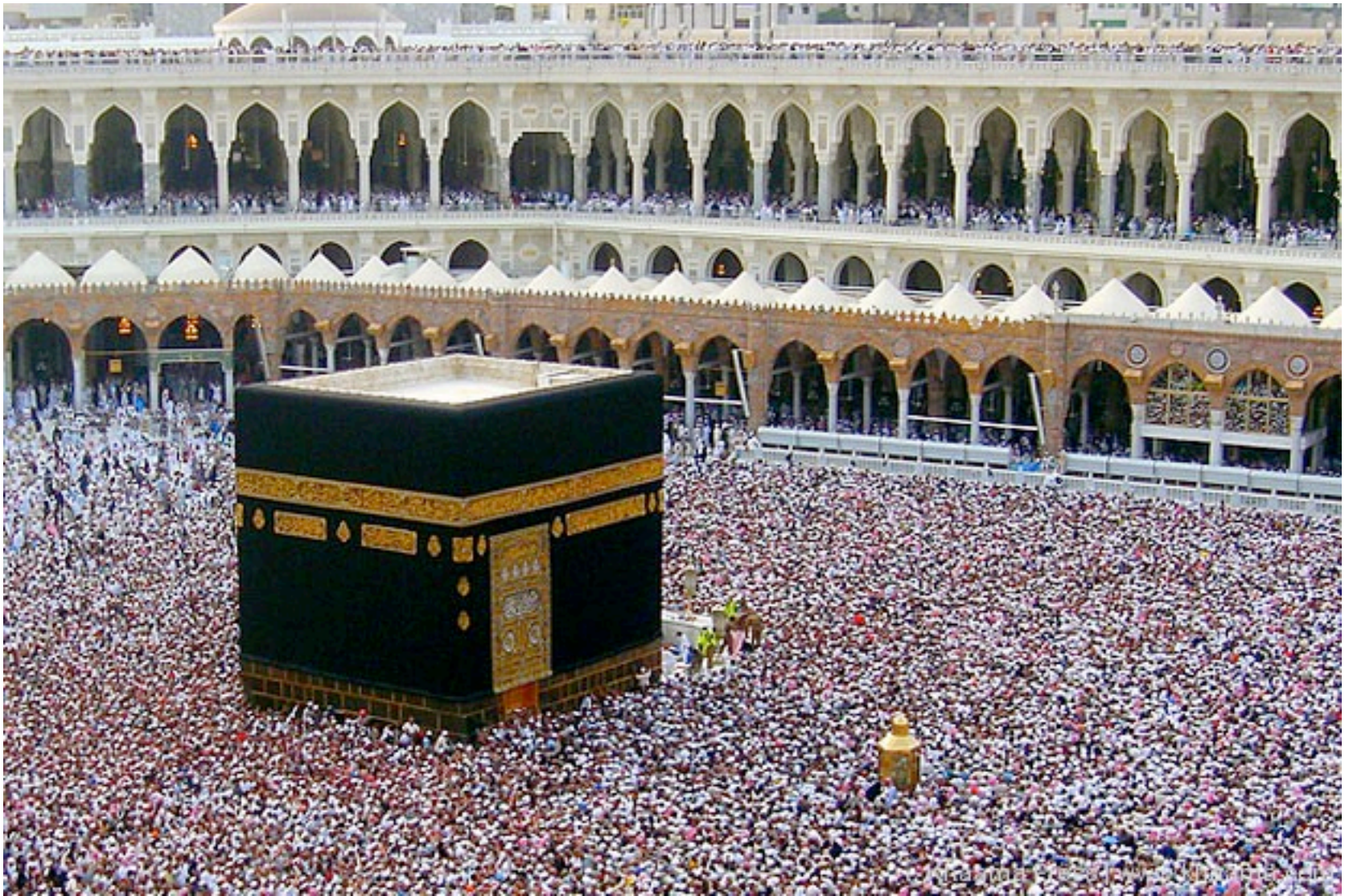
[Video](#)



*Interior of the Choir of Saint Bavo's Church*, Pieter Saenredam, oil on panel, 1660 AD. The Protestant Reformation forbade the decoration found in Roman Catholic and Greek Orthodox churches.



Calligraphic scroll, Syria, cir. 15<sup>th</sup> century. Images representing God are forbidden in Islam.



The Kaaba, Haram Mosque, Mecca, Saudi Arabia



Muhammad placing the black stone of kaaba on his cloak  
Illuminated manuscript 1315 AD. Images of people are rare in  
Islamic art, and Images representing God are forbidden in Islam.

Kumano Mandala, showing three sacred shrines of the Kumano Kodo Pilgrimage Trail where the three shrines of Kumano are located south of Osaka, Japan Kamakuro period. ink with color on hanging silk scroll, Japan cir. 1300.

The pilgrimage is still taken today. The journey is in itself a form of spiritual sacrifice, satisfaction and meditation

[Video](#)





Kandariya Mahadeva temple at the sacred site of Khajuraho,  
Madhya Pradesh, India , cir. 1025





A reliquary is a container that holds the relics of a saint or holy person that includes bones, bits of clothing or other artifacts.

View of the nave, St. Serin Cathedral, Toulouse, France  
built 1080-1120 AD  
One of the points along  
the pilgrim's ways in  
France and Spain.  
Modern-day pilgrims still  
walk long distances over  
weeks or months to  
spiritual or religious shrines  
rather than taking modern  
transportation.  
The journey is in itself a  
form of spiritual  
sacrifice, satisfaction and  
meditation





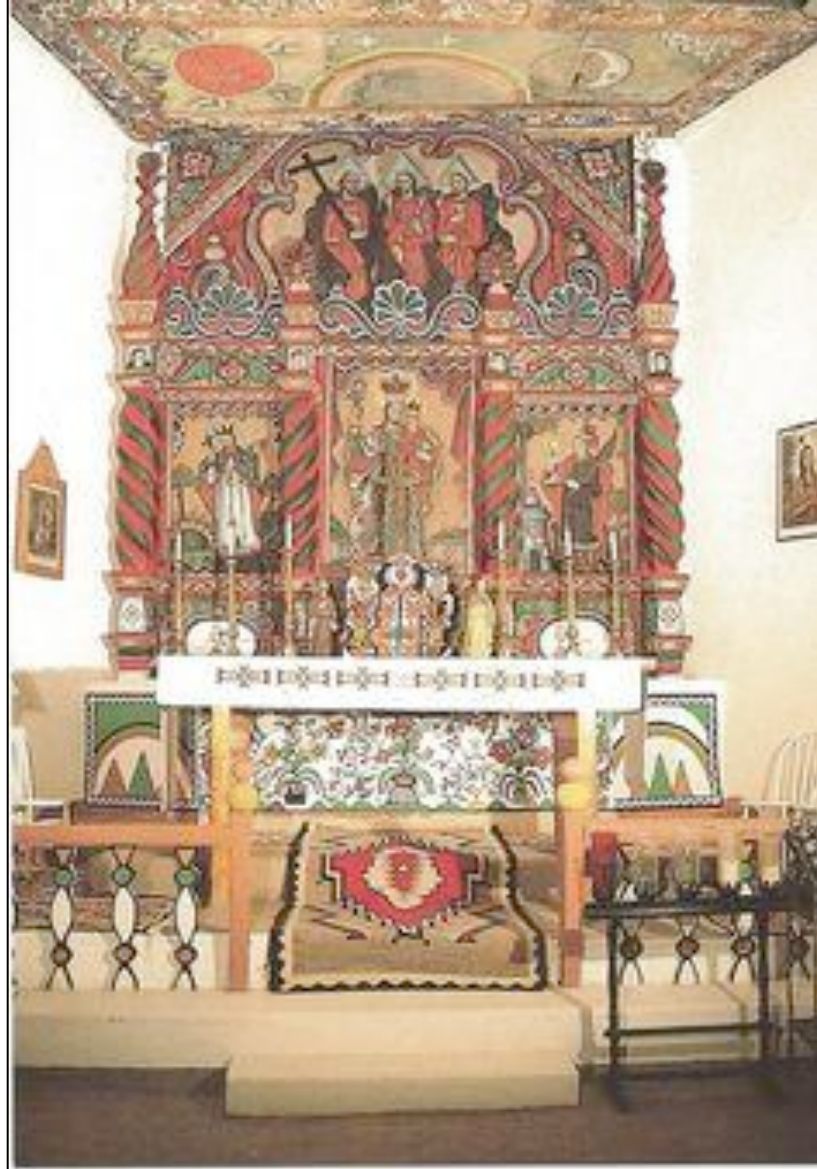
Pilgrimage map to Santiago de Compostela (relics of St. James)

[Video](#)



Pilgrim destination: Cathedral Santiago de Compostela, Spain

[Video](#)



Retablo and high altar, Church of San Jose, Laguna Pueblo, New Mexico 1780-1810

# Spirituality and Abstraction

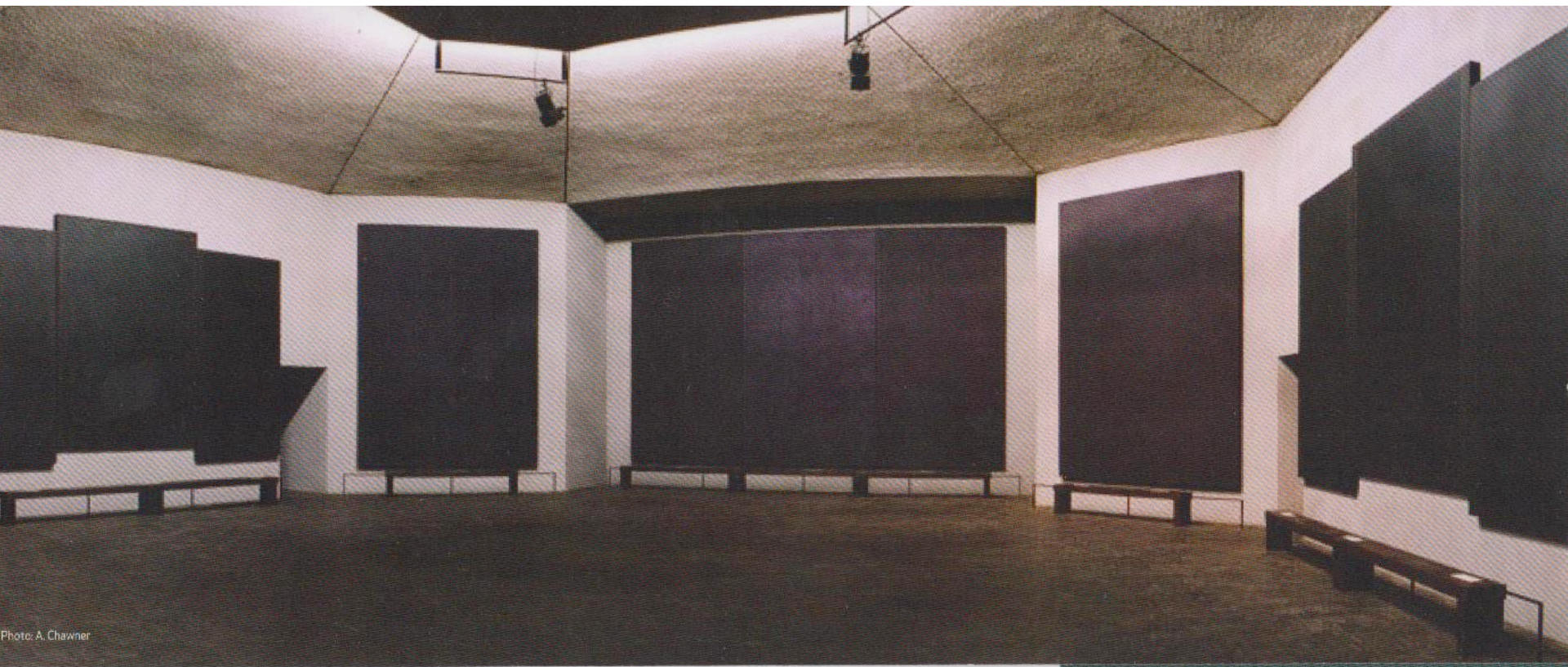


Photo: A. Chawner

Rothko Chapel, Mark Rothko, Houston, Texas 1971

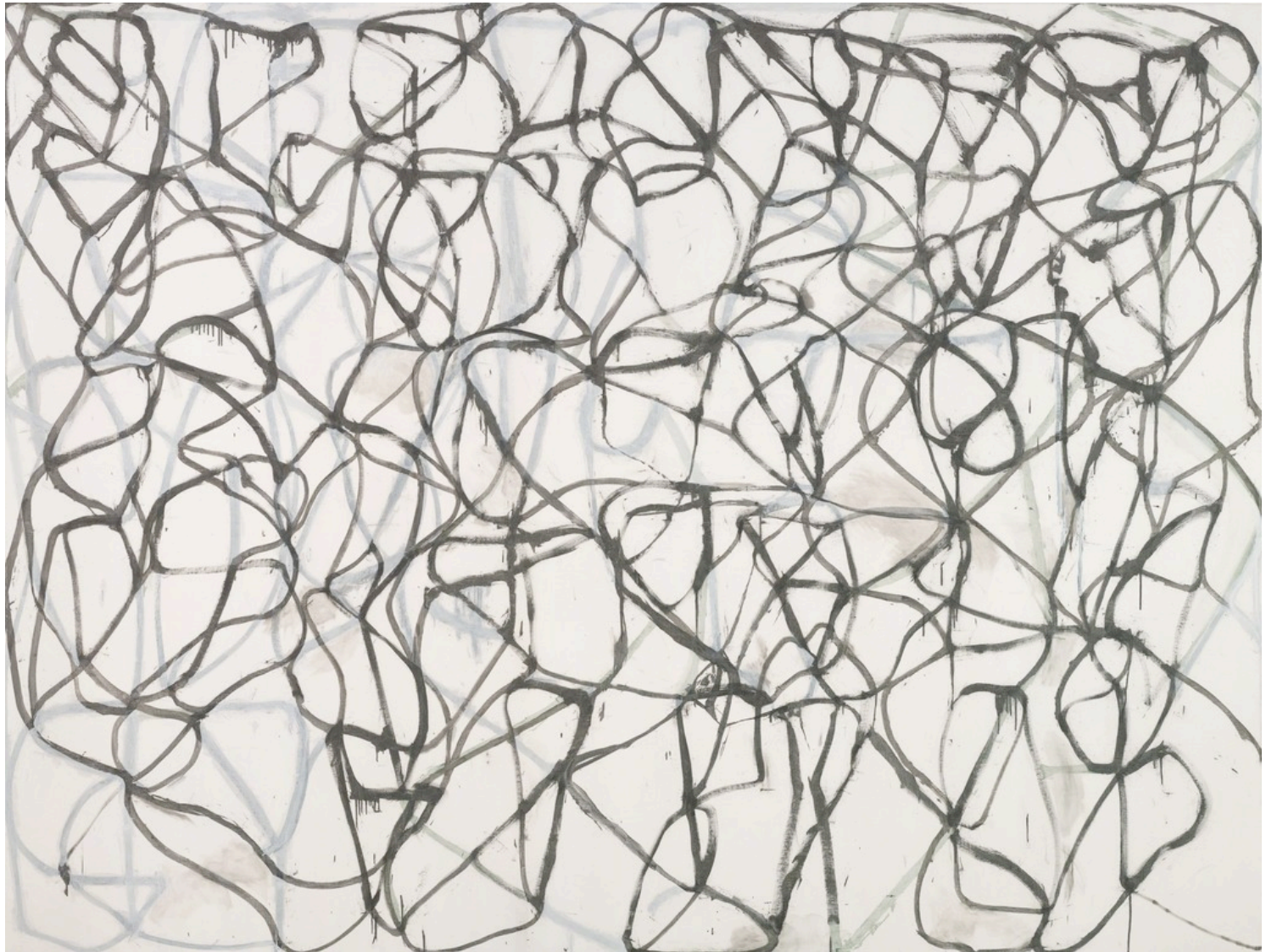
[Video](#)



*Composition VII*, Wassily Kandinsky, oil on canvas 1913

[Video](#)





*Cold Mountain and Bridge*, Bryce Marden, oil on linen 1989-1991

[Video](#)

## REVIEW

The Pueblo people of the American Southwest use Kachina statues in their spiritual rituals.

The head, particularly the face was tattooed by the Maori people of New Zealand because it was considered the most sacred part of the body.

Images representing God are prohibited in all Islamic art.

# REVIEW

The ancient Greek gods had perfect physical bodies in common with the ancient Greek Olympic athletes.

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# The Cycle of Life

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*Thangka Depicting the Wheel of Life, Bhutan 15<sup>th</sup> century*

[Video](#)

Birth



*Vessel with Birth Scene, Moche culture, Peru 700 AD.*

Produced clay objects in molds. The figures often were sexual in nature referring fertility.

*Embryo in the Womb*,  
Leonardo da Vinci, pen  
and brown ink on paper,  
Italy 1513 AD. Not only  
was Leonardo an artist,  
but also he was one of the  
first to study the internal  
anatomy of a deceased  
human (finding an unborn  
infant embryo),  
contributing to an  
emerging science, even  
when the powerful church  
forbade dissections.





*Pregnant Eve*, panel from the Ghent Altarpiece, Jan Van Eyck, oil on panel 1432. New research does not believe that the image shows her pregnant after all, but depicts her painted by , Jan Van Eyck, with enough fat to be the preferred female fertile image type.



Adam and Eve, etching,  
Albrecht Dürer, 1504



# Youth and Aging



*The Daughters of Edward Darley Boil*, John Singer Sargent,  
oil on canvas 1882



*The Brown Sisters*, Nicholas Nixon, photo 1976. Aging over time was achieved in Nicholas Nixon's photos in *The Brown Sisters* series?

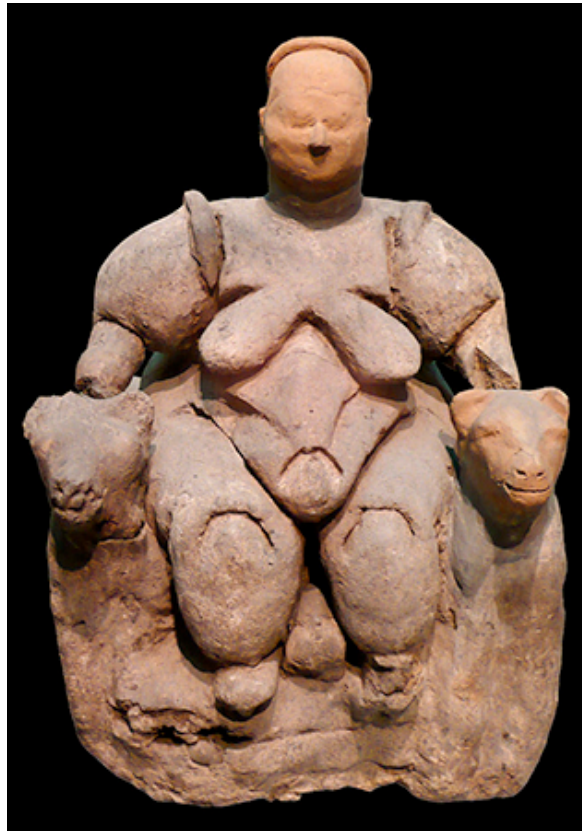
[Video](#)



*Whisper the Waves the Wind, Suzanne Lacy, photo 1985.* Aging issues are commonly addressed in Suzanne Lacy's performances. Lacy worked with a group of Southern California women over the age of 65 to produce a series of policy and media actions that culminated in an oceanfront performance for an audience of 1000.

[Video](#)

# Contemplating Mortality



*Woman Seated Between Two Felines*, Turkey cir. 6850 BC. The **Seated Woman of Çatalhöyük** (also **Çatal Höyük**) is a baked-clay, nude female form, seated between feline-headed arm-rests.. The statuette, one of several [iconographically](#) similar ones found at the site, is associated to other corpulent prehistoric goddess figures, of which the most famous is the [Venus of Willendorf](#).





## The impermanence of the physical body



*Body of a Courtesan in Nine Stages of Decomposition, Japan 1870*



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# Burial and the Afterlife



*Great Pyramids of Giza, Egypt 2530 BC. They were built like a religious machine to ensure the king's passage to the afterlife.*



*King Tutankhamen tomb, Valley of the Kings, Egypt 2530 BC*



*Egyptian Book of the Dead: Last Judgement of Hunefer by Osiris,*  
Egypt 1285 BC. instructions for successfully passing the obstacles  
of the afterlife

[Video](#)



Sarcophagus cover, Temple of Inscriptions, Palenque,  
Mexico 683 AD



An Ofrenda for Dolores del Rio, Amalia Mesa-Bains, 1984

[Video](#)

## REVIEW

The Moche culture in Peru produced clay objects in molds. The figures often were sexual in nature referring fertility.

New research about the *Pregnant Eve*, a panel from the Ghent Alterpiece, painted by Jan Van Eyck does not believe that the image shows her pregnant, but instead depicts her with enough fat to be the preferred female fertile image type.

## REVIEW

*The Wheel of Life*, Buddhism, Bhutan 15<sup>th</sup> century, represents that we must transform ourselves if we are to achieve enlightenment, the highest state of existence.

The ancient Great Pyramids of Egypt were made to ensure the king's passage to the afterlife.



## REVIEW

Women and aging issues are commonly addressed in Suzanne Lacy's performances.

Aging over time was achieved in Nicholas Nixon's photos in *The Brown Sisters* series.

the impermanence of the physical body is the similar theme found in both *The Brown Sisters*, *Truro, Massachusetts*, and *Body of a Courtesan in Nine Stages of Decomposition*.

## REVIEW

The purpose of the *The Last Judgement of Hunefer by Osiris...* from a papyrus book cir. 1285 BC were instructions for successfully passing the obstacles of the afterlife.



# Love and Sex

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## Love and Sex

Almost all cultures have struggled to resolve the tension between mere physical desire and the higher orders of feeling associated with more spiritual ideas of love. In his *Republic*, for instance, the Greek philosopher Plato argued that sex should be permitted only for purposes of procreation. Anything that encouraged emotional and sensory feelings over and against the exercise of reason and the pursuit of ideal beauty, he believed, was potentially a danger to the well-being of the state. Various forms of this attitude have survived in Western culture to the present day. But in other cultures sex and physical passion are something to be celebrated.

# Love and Sex in the Hindu World





Shiva, Lord of the Dance, bronze, India 1279. One of the most important figures in the Hindu pantheon of gods is Shiva, the destroyer. He embodies the world's cyclical rhythms—hence his role as Lord of the Dance—and since the cyclical destruction of the world is followed by its new creation, he is a positive force, possessing the reproductive powers that led him to be represented as a *lingam* (phallus), often carved in stone on temple grounds or at shrines.



*Shiva Seated with Uma*, Kathmandu, Copper alloy, 11.5 " tall,  
Nepal 11<sup>th</sup> Century



One of the most popular representations of Shiva among Nepalese Hindus shows him seated with his wife, Uma (Fig. Uma tenderly places her hand on the inside of his thigh as he draws her to him with his left hand. In her left hand, Uma holds a lotus, symbol of divine purity, but a parrot, symbol of physical passion, is pecking at it. Thus, physical and spiritual love are conjoined, just as the joyful harmony between male and female, Shiva and Uma, represents the ultimate oneness and harmony of the universe.





Erotic couples on wall of Kandariya Mahadeva Temple, Khajuraho,  
India 1000 CE



*The Seduction of Yusuf, Persia 1488*



Medieval Casket with scenes of courtly love from Limoges,  
[Video](#) France 1180



*An Allegory with Venus and Cupid*, by Bronzino 1542

[Video](#)



*Odalisque* by Eugene Delacroix 1850



*Demoiselles d'Avignon*, Pablo Picasso, Spain 1907

[Video](#)



[Video](#)

*Demoiselles d'Avignon 1907*



*The Kiss*, Gustav Klimt, Vienna, Austria

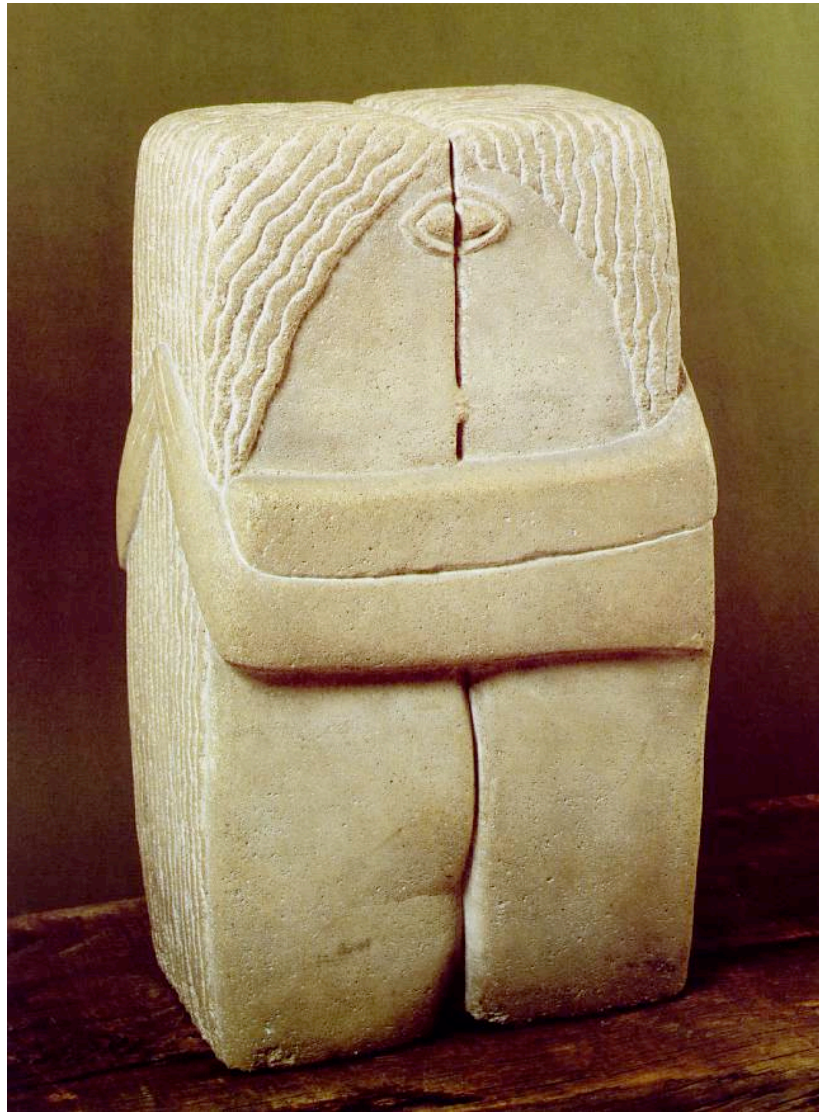
[Video](#)





*The Kiss*, Auguste Rodin, 1889, Marble 5' 11.5" Paris, France. As Auguste Rodin's *The Kiss* demonstrates (see Fig. 23-1), the evocation of touch is one of the most powerful ways to image desire, and, as the sculpture also demonstrates, the kiss is one of the most powerfully suggestive of all types of touch.

[Video](#)



*The Kiss*, Constantin Brancusi 1916, Limestone  
[Video](#)

## REVIEW

In Rodin's sculpture, the kiss is one of the most powerfully suggestive of all types of touch.

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