



Unknown (Egyptian)
Horus
ca. 1100-660 BCE
1 7/16 x 3/8 x 7/16 in. (3.7 x 0.9 x 1.2 cm)
Gift of Mr. Horace Mayer
62.32.16.A

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Horus
ca. 1100–660 BCE

Horus, son of Osiris and Isis, was a popular god in Egypt and was worshipped as the god of the sky and a god of the sun. Amulets of Horus as either a falcon or falcon-headed man were common, as the pharaoh of Egypt was thought to be an incarnation of Horus. This figure holds a pose commonly seen in ancient Egyptian statuary: the figure faces forward, arms at his sides, with one leg forward in mid-stride. As is typical of men in this position, Horus' hands are clenched. This is one of the oldest Egyptian statuary poses.

This amulet is made of faience, a sandy mixture of crushed quartz, natron, and pigment that was heated to fuse it together.

RELATED IMAGES



Sacred eye amulet
date unknown
faience; 9/16 x 11/16 in., 1/8 in. (1.5 x 1.8 cm, 0.3 cm). Gift of Horace Mayer (60.39.2.E)



Amulet
date unknown
faience; 1 3/8 x 1/4 in. (3.5 x 0.6 cm). Gift of Horace Mayer (61.19.1.G)

Sources

"Striking Poses." Ancient Egyptian Art at the Brooklyn Museum of Art.
http://www.brooklynmuseum.org/exhibitions/egypt_reborn/ancient-egypt/k3/html_k03_big.php

Wilkinson, Richard H. *The Complete Gods and Goddesses of Ancient Egypt*.
Thames & Hudson, 2003.



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DISCUSS

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In this amulet, Horus is shown standing in a pose common in ancient Egyptian artwork.

- How would you describe this pose?
- What do you think this pose communicates about Horus?

How does Horus's pose compare with poses seen in the media today? Try taking a look at a variety of pictures of people in the 21st century. Look at newspapers, magazines, and photos of your friends and family.

- How would you describe the poses you see?
- What does each pose say about the person posing?
- What kinds of poses seem most common?
- Do the poses vary depending on the context (the situation in which the photo was taken)?



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CREATE

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Strike a pose and make a life-size drawing of yourself, Egyptian style!

Drawings of figures in ancient Egypt followed a formula that allowed the artist to show each part of the body from a particular angle, an angle that would give the most information about that part of the body.

Try this pose!

1. Cut a piece of paper large enough for a drawing of your entire body.
2. Place the paper on the floor and lay on it. Ask a partner to trace around your body to create a silhouette, starting with your head. Turn your head to the side, so that your partner can capture your profile. Position your shoulders and hips facing front, arms to your side. To trace your legs, turn onto your side, so that the tracing shows your legs and feet in profile, with one leg out in front of the other (as if you are walking).
3. Have fun adding details to your drawing. You can add clothing, sandals, jewelry, a pharaoh's beard, a headdress, and other items.