

UNDER CONSTRUCTION

LECTURE SERIES FB07

15.01.

Bianca Kress
(Classical Archaeology)

The Polychromy of the Archaic Korai

The Acropolis Korai of Athens are known since the discovery of the first representatives of this group towards the end of the 19th century. This group consists of about 90 statues of various sizes, which show young women in elaborately draped robes. In the archaic period, opaque pigments of mineral and organic origin were used to paint the garments, hair and skin of the statues. In addition, some of the Korai were decorated with ornaments made of precious metal.

The practice of painting antique sculpture had not even been considered until the mid-18th century when the discovery of statues and architecture with numerous color remains contributed to the development of a new branch of research in archeology.

In detail, however, the painting of the antique Korai was discussed intensively which has so far led to various proposals how the color coating of the statues could have looked. In this day and age with the help of modern research methods, the painting of some of these Korai is analyzed and reconstructed on the basis of copies but, until now, there has been no broad investigation of all the statues.

For this reason, in the course of my dissertation, I will examine the surfaces of the Acropolis Korai with non-invasive methods in order to complement the previous state of research with quantitative analyses.