

GETTY VILLA FIELD TRIP

ESSAY

As an observer of ancient art, you have learned over these past few months, that figurative sculpture has evolved through the centuries based on factors like its location and function, the era in which it was created and the material used.

As you are wandering around the Getty Villa, look for sculptures that you recognize or that you might be able to guess as to its period or era. Take notes of these sculptures, their subject, style and function.

Now look closely at the sculpture below. It is a sculpture from the Romanesque period. What is the subject, style and function of this work? Compare this to one of the figure sculptures you have observed at the Getty. You will write a 2-3 page paper which is due on Friday, February 13. You may do research for this paper at <http://www.getty.edu/art/gettyguide/>



King David

statue in a niche on the west
façade of Fidenza Cathedral
Fidenza, Italy
Benedetto Antelami
ca. 1180 - 1190 CE
marble
approx. life-size

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HINTS FOR OBSERVATION:

1. Write out the credit line including the date. Do we know the name of artist who created it?
2. What might the function have been of the work?
3. Describe the details of the work. Is it static, active, a portrait, a mythological figure?
4. In what location and context might this work have been placed? A temple? A villa?
5. Does the Getty Villa consider itself a museum, a recreation of sculpture-filled house, an archaeological excavation? How might that influence your observation of the work?
6. Sketch the work, its details and distinguishing characteristics.

