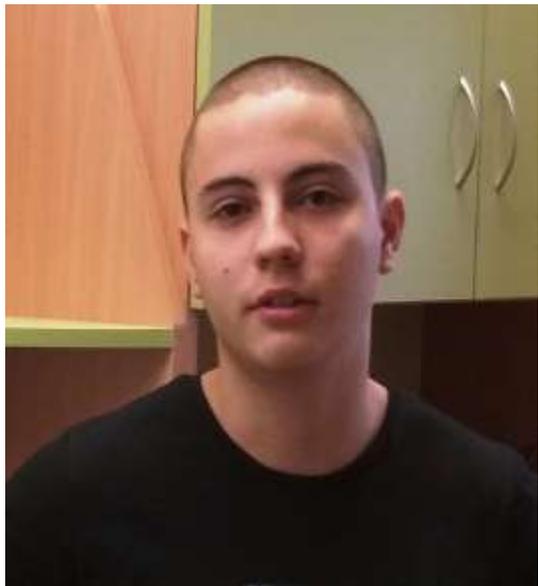


EUROPEAN CULTURE



***SIMEON IGNATOV - 9-TH GRADE
FOREIGN LANGUAGE SCHOOL
PLEVEN, BULGARIA***

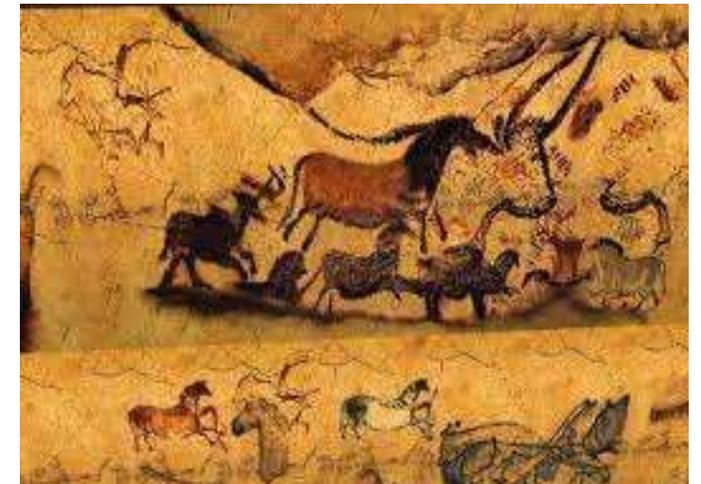
DEFINITION

- The culture of Europe is rooted in the art, architecture, film, different types of music, economic, literature, and philosophy that originated from the continent of Europe. European culture is largely rooted in what is often referred to as its "common cultural heritage".
- Because of the great number of perspectives which can be taken on the subject, it is impossible to form a single, all-embracing conception of European culture. Nonetheless, there are core elements which are generally agreed upon as forming the cultural foundation of modern Europe. One list of these elements given by K. Bochmann includes:¹



PREHISTORIC ART

- Surviving European prehistoric art mainly comprises sculpture and rock art. It includes the oldest known representation of the human body, the Venus of Hohle Fel, dating from 40,000-35,000 BC, found in Schelklingen, Germany and the Löwenmensch figurine, from about 30,000 BC, the oldest undisputed piece of figurative art. The Swimming Reindeer of about 11,000 BCE is among the finest Magdalenian carvings in bone or antler of animals in the art of the Upper Paleolithic. At the beginning of the Mesolithic in Europe figurative sculpture greatly reduced, and remained a less common element in art than relief decoration of practical objects until the Roman period, despite some works such as the Gundestrup cauldron from the European Iron Age and the Bronze Age Trundholm sun chariot.



MEDIEVAL ART

- Medieval art can be broadly categorised into the Byzantine art of the Eastern Roman Empire, and the Gothic art that emerged in Western Europe over the same period. **Byzantine art** was strongly influenced by its classical heritage, but distinguished itself by the development of a new, abstract, aesthetic, marked by anti-naturalism and a favour for symbolism. The subject matter of monumental Byzantine art was primarily religious and imperial: the two themes are often combined, as in the portraits of later Byzantine emperors that decorated the interior of the sixth-century church of **Hagia Sophia** in Constantinople. However, the Byzantines inherited the **Early Christian** distrust of **monumental sculpture** in religious art, and produced only **reliefs**, of which very few survivals are anything like life-size, in sharp contrast to the medieval art of the West, where monumental sculpture revived from **Carolingian art** onwards.



CLASSICAL ART

- **Ancient Greek art** stands out among that of other ancient cultures for its development of naturalistic but idealised depictions of the human body, in which largely nude male figures were generally the focus of innovation. The rate of stylistic development between about 750 and 300 BC was remarkable by ancient standards, and in surviving works is best seen in **Ancient Greek sculpture**. There were important innovations in painting, which have to be essentially reconstructed due to the lack of original survivals of quality, other than the distinct field of painted pottery. **Black-figure pottery** and the subsequent **red-figure pottery** are famous and influential examples of the Ancient Greek decorative arts.





**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
ATTENTION !**