In the past much of Classical Art History has been top-down: defined by a focus on centrally created elite art, the influence of which was believed to have disseminated down to local cultures and lower classes of society. In recent years, however, there has been a new focus on regional cultures and their artistic influence. It is no longer accepted that artistic influence went one way, and the Mediterranean is now understood as a far more fluid pool of cultural interchange. This week I would like for us to think more about regional art in the ancient world and about the stylistic and cultural influences these reflect. I provide a general bibliography. Once you have read a few things of this I would like for you to focus on one or two regional contexts (I suggest a couple below), however, you are free to make your own selection.

Questions to think about:
What do we mean by ‘regional’ identity?
What is the most useful term: ‘regional’, ‘local’, ‘provincial’?
How helpful are the dichotomies Roman/native; urban/rural; cosmopolitan/parochial?
How much regional variation do we find in funerary monuments in the ancient world?
How useful are the terms ‘Romanisation’/’Hellenisation’?

General bibliography
Horden, P. & Purcell, N. (2000) The Corrupting sea: a study of Mediterranean history (dip in and out of, don’t try to read it all!)

Isola Sacra, Ostia

Funerary monuments for children
Mander, J. Portraits of Children on Roman Funerary Monuments, 2012 (some very useful regional examples).

Palmyra
Heyn, M. ‘Gesture and Identity in the funerary Art of Palmyra.’ In American Journal of Archaeology, vol. 114, no. 4 631-661 (Jstor)
A couple of links for images. The Glyptotek in Copenhagen has one of the best collections for Palmyran funerary relief busts so is a good place to start.
Perhaps also of use and connected to this is the Palmyran Portrait Project at Aarhus University. They are yet to publish much but mb worth perusing their website.
http://projects.au.dk/palmyraportrait/

Cyrenaica

Greek East

Egypt, ‘Mummy’ portraits
Mummy Portraits in the J. Paul Getty Museum (e-book)
Also look online lots of stuff on BM, Met and Getty websites.