

IATL PEDAGOGIC INTERVENTION REPORT FOR PROJECT IL1210

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HANDLING GREEK VASES



Replicas of ancient Greek vases in the British Museum were made by Potted History (a company specializing in replicas of ancient works of art). The potters were particularly impressed by the difficulty of creating the larger krater vessel, which gave them renewed respect for the skill and expertise of the ancient potters.

The key aims in using these vases with 1st year Greek Culture and Society students (the whole 1st year) were three fold:

1. To encourage the students to engage with these vases in a symposium setting. As such we used the sofas in the Teaching Grid and small groups to create a symposium setting, encouraging students to recline on the couches as the ancients would have done.
2. To ask the students to think about how these vases would have been used in practice. To this end we ask students to – from their reclining positions – pick up and use the drinking cup (kylix) and drink (ribena) from it. This gave students an insight into the difficulty of drinking from these vessels and the degree to which participation in the symposium was a test of citizenship.
3. To allow the students to engage with the images on these vessels as they were being used. To this end, we not only encouraged students to discuss what they could see of the images as the kylix was being used, but also use IPAD video technology to relay the viewpoint of the drinker onto a screen so that everyone could see how images inside

the kylix would be revealed to drinkers as they drank. This was also particularly important with the 'wine-cooler' vessel, which was supposed to be suspended in water. This encouraged the vessel to spin and bob of its own accord, making the images become much more unstable and lively (which in turn reflected the lively subject choice of the images themselves). As such the students were able to understand how form, function and image worked together.

These vessels will become a permanent part of the teaching collection in the department, and have already been used for a variety of teaching options, including open days and departmental prospectus photos.

