

1. IDENTIFICATION: (Artist, title, date, size, country of origin, period/style)

048. CATACOMB OF PRISCILLA
Late Antique Europe, Rome, Italy
c. 200-400 CE

2. FORM: (use of design elements/ principles: color, shape, value, texture, line, space; balance, contrast, emphasis, movement, etc.)

Comprised of cubicula and galleries, loculi for the dead
Greek Chapel: square, arched chamber with biblical scenes

3. MATERIALS AND TECHNIQUE: (art making processes)

excavated tufa (volcanic rock) and fresco

4. CONTENT: (subject & genre: iconography, symbolism, the story)

Christianity was legalized by Constantine, persecution was slowly waning
Strong biblical symbolism in fresco scenes throughout



5. ORIGINAL CONTEXT/ SITE/ INTENDED FUNCTION OF THE WORK: (Overlap to #6)

Christian families created confraternities to help with the construction of catacombs
Many popes and martyrs were buried here
A wealthy woman named Priscilla donated the area, her family would be buried first then others would follow

6. INTENDED PURPOSE & MOTIVATION (why was it made?); **PATRON/AUDIENCE** (who was it made for?); **ARTIST'S DECISION MAKING:**

Priscilla - donated land
Lots of Biblical references as it was a Christian tomb and would house bodies of martyrs and popes, constructed underground in easy to carve limestone

7. INNOVATION/ CHANGE(S):

Christianity was first becoming accepted and prevalent, new burial technique

CONVENTION/ TRADITION(S):

Similar to Etruscan tombs (necropolises)

8. THEME(S):

Burial, religious

COMPARE TO ANOTHER WORK:

Like the Great Pyramids, this catacomb was a tomb and had many paintings/artworks. However, all Christian families buried their relatives in one, so there was more of a community aspect. Also, these were underground.