**Egyptian Art Context**

1. **Geographic isolation**- easily defendable due to the desert and Mediterranean Sea, predictable flooding of the Nile, homogeneous population and culture, led to unchanging, continuous traditions for 3000 years.

2. **Economic security**- agricultural base due to annual inundation of the Nile, prosperity because of grain, ample food, and goods for trading with other countries led to the ability to create colossal buildings.

3. **Deeply held religious traditions**- Egyptians famous for strongly held belief that Pharaohs were the sons of god and became gods after death, stable society and homogeneity led to the aversion to change and to create new innovations.

4. **Hierarchical society**- Pharaoh was the supreme leader as the son of god who ruled collectively, (for the collective good of society, not individual)

5. **Geological substructure**- plethora of stone, (no trees), idea of permanence central to art, society, and culture, led to megalithic architecture.

6. **Belief in the afterlife**- *ka* (soul) reunited with the body after death, elaborate funereal tradition, objects, tomb architecture.

**Devices used to declare sacred space:**

1. **Concept of exclusivity**-How was a building or part of a building exclusive for the each dynasty?

2. **Material wealth/decoration**-What is the role of ornament and/or “luxury” in Egyptian dynasties.

3. **Ritual and ceremony**- (liturgy-form or arrangement of public worship) How does the building’s design reflect religious events and liturgy of the Egyptian religion?

4. **History/iconographic symbolism**- How is the design of the building determined by historic and religious symbolism?

**Narrative devices used in Ancient Art Composition:**

1. Registers

2. Hierarchical organization

3. Sequential ordering of a story

4. Iconography