

Doryphorus (Spear-bearer). Polykleitos.

Original 450 – 440 B.C.E. Roman copy (marble) of Greek original (bronze)

Source: <https://www.khanacademy.org>

Function: Evidence
to a book
Polykleitos had
written entitled
“Canon”.

Context: This piece
demonstrated -
action vs. inaction,
tension vs. relaxation,
youth vs. maturity.

Form: Contrapposto
(All the weight of the
figure appears to put all
its weight onto one leg.

Context: Precise, mathematical
measurements and proportions
can be used in creating the most
realistic depiction of human
body.

Context: The Original
Greek Copy was made out
of bronze in about 440
BCE, and is now lost.

Content: The left hand
originally held a long spear;
the left shoulder is depicted
as tensed and therefore
slightly raised, with the left
arm bent and tensed to
maintain the spear's position.

Content: The body would
be that of a young athlete
that included chiseled
muscles and a naturalistic
pose. The face is generic,
displaying no emotion.



Content: A Roman copy
of a lost Greek original
that was found in the
provincial Roman city of
Pompeii

Content: The sculpture
stands at approximately
6.6 feet tall. The ratio
head to body size is one
to seven.

Content: This posture
reflects only the slightest
incipient movement, and yet
the limbs and torso are
shown as fully responsive.