Komast Dancers In Archaic Greek Art

Tyler Jo Smith

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A specialist in Greek vase-painting, iconography, and performance, she has edited (with M. Henig) Collectanea Antiqua: Essays in Memory of Sonia Chadwick Hawkes (2007) and is the author of Komast Dancers in Archaic Greek Art (2010). Her current research focuses on early Greek drama and the visual and material manifestations of Greek religion. Komasts, male dancing figures that are sometimes erroneously called "padded dancers," decorate many an archaic black-figure vase and have long drawn the attention of scholars. Smith's monograph, an update of Griefenhagen's Eine attische schwarzfigurige...Â In Attic art, the dancers first appear during the first quarter of the sixth century on black-figure vases by the Komast Group and continued to be used in succeeding generations by a host of other vase painters. Although derived from Corinthian models, the Attic artists did not dryly copy them; the vase painters quickly developed their own view of the dancers. The Boeotian artists are the first to place the dancers in association with athletics and are interested in merriment, as well as lined routines that may be choral in nature.