

# Amazing Aztec Art

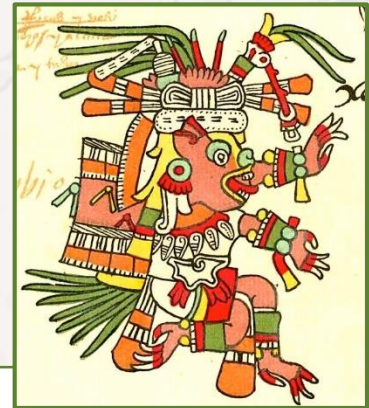


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# Religious Art



**Xochipilli** was the Aztec god of happiness, flowers, pleasure and creativity, sometimes referred to as the Flower Prince.



**Quetzalcóatl** was the god of death and the underworld, identified with the planet Venus.



**Tonatiuh** was the god of sun and sacrifice; his face was at the centre of the Aztec sunstone.

The Aztecs made art mostly because they thought that it would please the gods and bring good fortune.



**Xiuhtecuhtli** was the god of origin, time and fire. His special animal was a serpent and his special number was three.

# Nature in Aztec Art

**Flowers** represented the beauty of life.



A **hummingbird** represented the Aztec sun god, Huitzilopochtli.

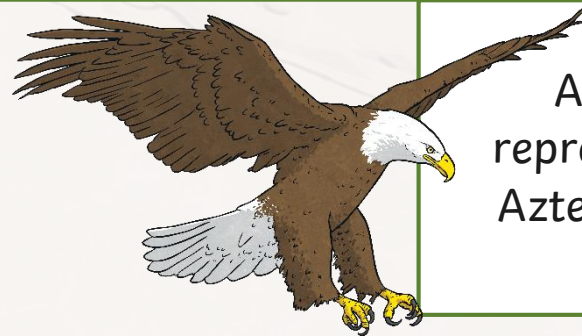


Aztec art used metaphors.  
*Metaphor: a figure of speech where a word or phrase is applied to an object or action.*

**Snakes** were believed to have supernatural powers.



An **eagle** represented an Aztec warrior.



# Feathers in Aztec Art

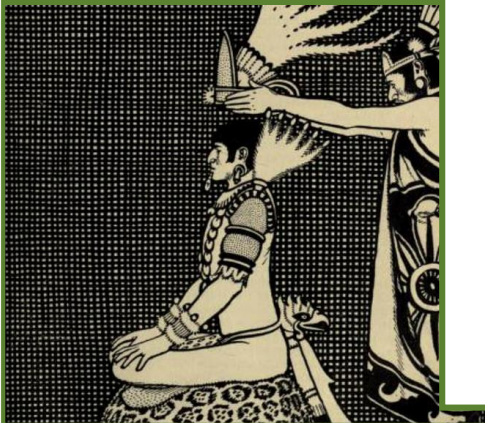
Feather cloak



Feathered headdress



Aztec King



Inspired by birds such as macaws and quetzal, craftsmen used feathers to make headdresses, pictures and decorated shields. Skilled workers wove brightly coloured feathers together to create beautiful cloaks and headdresses. Only the king and the nobles could wear them.

Decorated shields

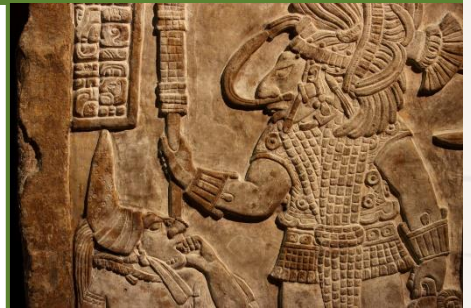


# Stone Carvings



This is a carving of a female figure.

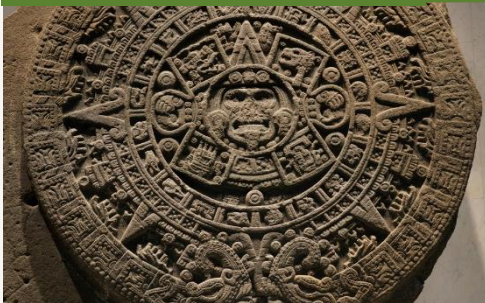
This is a detail from an Aztec carving.



Stone carvings decorated the walls of the temples. The Aztecs carved small details and patterns as well as huge statues of the gods. Female statues were shown kneeling with their hands on knees. Male statues were sat cross-legged.

The sunstone was used as a calendar by the Aztecs.

This is a stone carving of the god, Quetzalcóatl.



# Aztec Pottery

The Aztecs took great pride in their ability to create beautiful pottery. Other nations were keen to trade for Aztec pots. The finest pottery was kept for ritual use and belonged to the wealthy. Geometric patterns were a feature on bowls.



# Jewellery

Aztec jewellery was crafted from gold, silver, jade, obsidian, copper and opal was generally reserved for the higher classes.

A double headed serpent sculpture, covered in turquoise mosaic



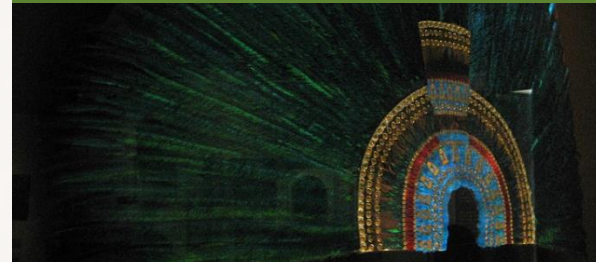
Aztec gold



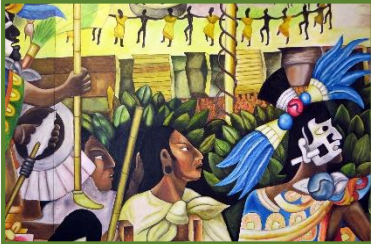
A mask, covered in turquoise mosaic



Feathered headdress with gold discs



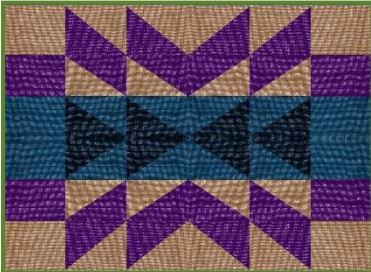
# Amazing Aztec Art



Poetry was highly valued as an art form by the Aztecs.



Every fifty-two years, pottery and household items were destroyed in a religious ceremony.



Women were responsible for weaving cloth and blankets. They used detailed artistic design.



Craftspeople who worked with feathers were known as **amanteca** and were among the most respected craftspeople in the empire.



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