

ARCHETYPE PAINTING

An archetype is an original model of a person, object, or concept from which similar instances are derived, copied, patterned, or emulated. In psychology, an archetype is a model of a person, personality, or behavior. Archetypes are described in literature analysis and the study of the psyche.

In the analysis of personality, the term *archetype* is often broadly used to refer to:

a stereotype—personality type observed multiple times, especially an oversimplification of such a type; or

an epitome—personality type exemplified, especially the "greatest" such example.

a literary or artistic term - to express details or ideas in a metaphoric or symbolic manner.

Archetype refers to a generic version of a personality. In this sense "mother figure" may be considered an archetype and may be identified in various characters with otherwise distinct (non-generic) personalities.

Archetypes are likewise supposed to have been present in folklore and literature for thousands of years, including prehistoric artwork. The use of archetypes to analyze personality and literature was advanced by Carl Jung early in the 20th century, who suggested the existence of a kind of an inheritable memory comprised of collective human experiences reaching back into prehistory. Thus, in fictional narratives, it is assumed characters with strong archetypal features will automatically and unconsciously resonate with a large audience.

Archetypes are cited as important to both ancient mythology and modern narratives, as argued by Joseph Campbell in works such as *The Hero With a Thousand Faces*. A number of cinematic and dramatic formulae have been devised based on these notions, including books like Carol S. Pearson's *The Hero Within: Six Archetypes We Live By*. Such formulae typically describe fixed categories into which a work may fall, or narrative stages guided by archetypal figures.



