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Head of Wesirwer, Priest of Montu

Richard Fazzini: This wonderful green stone head is of a priest named Wesirwer. You see a certain kind of realism and expression in his face, which you won't see on a great many Egyptian statues. It may very well be a portrait.

If you look to the right and just beyond Wesirwer, there's a vitrine with several statues in it, and the largest one of which is a striding man. It's a statue of a priest of Amun and it's very different from Wesirwer. This is the other side of the coin. This is the smiling, idealizing, "facing-eternity-without-a-care-in-the-world" facial expression. And that's long been a part of ancient Egyptian art.

And so you have right here, same date, Dynasty 30, probably reign of Nectanebo I, two major aspects of ancient Egyptian art: the idealizing and the realistic.

