

Volute Kraters in Apulian Funerary Contexts
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The volute *krater* is a mixing bowl with an ovoid body, an offset neck, a heavy stand, and two handles in the form of spirals that rise from loops on the shoulders to above the rim. This shape was introduced in Athens by the sixth century, and it was later exported to South Italy, where it became an integral part of Apulian pottery production and the ultimate luxury piece in aristocratic tombs.

While Attic volute *kraters* have been studied extensively, the Apulian ones have received far less attention from scholars; moreover, even in more recent scholarship, each vase is discussed either on its own, or as a part of a painter's corpus, with little interest in its context or the other vases that were part of the same assemblage.

However, a more careful, context- based, analysis demonstrates that Apulian volute *kraters* tend to be associated with a specific type of tomb, and are usually accompanied by similar assemblages of grave goods. By examining the assemblages from two tombs in Canosa, the Monterisi-Rossignoli hypogeum and the Tomb of the Darius Vase, it is possible to see several links between the scenes represented on the volute *kraters* and those on the other main vases, a *file rouge* that ties together the different stories on visual, narrative, and allegorical levels.

Depiction of stories on the different parts of the vases that seemed extraneous at first glance can be considered instead as pieces of the same discourse, an illustrated funerary speech where the myths are used as paradigms to express, exalt, and alleviate the grief of a community struck by the sudden loss of one of its members.