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## Transitions in Female Portraiture: From the Domus to the Public Sphere

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Oral Presentation O4.1

**TRANSITIONS IN FEMALE PORTRAITURE: FROM THE DOMUS TO  
THE PUBLIC SPHERE**

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Throughout history in the Roman Empire, Roman art, especially sculpture and coinage, was used to convey messages and symbolically represent ideals within the Empire. The artwork of each time period reflects the values of society at that specific point in time, including the socially acceptable role and place of women, particularly noble women. While some noble women were quite influential in the political arena, the portraiture that appears places them in the role that was acceptable during their lifetimes. By looking specifically at the portraiture of the empresses Livia, Agrippina the Younger, and Domitia, the observer can recognize the changing role of women, especially women in power, in society. This evolution of a woman's place takes the acceptable role of women from the domus, or household, into the public sphere.