

**1. IDENTIFICATION:** (Artist, title, date, size, country of origin, period/style)

**051. SAN VITALE- mosaics**

Ravenna, Italy

c. 526-547 CE

Early Byzantine Europe

2 images: Justinian mosaic panel and Theodora mosaic panel

**2. FORM:** (use of design elements/ principles: color, shape, value, texture, line, space; balance, contrast, emphasis, movement, etc.)

Frontal view, figures appear to float, less naturalistic, the panels are similar to each other, figures fore-lengthened to account for perception from below

**3. MATERIALS AND TECHNIQUE:** (art making processes)

(glass) mosaic

**4. CONTENT:** (subject & genre: iconography, symbolism, the story)

Justinian: wearing purple (color of royalty), surrounded by his court, soldiers, and religious figures, holding Eucharist bowl & leading Procession  
Theodora: suggests she is Justinian's co-equal, haloes to show divinity and divine origin of power, holding Eucharist chalice, surrounded by the court, appears to be in a ceremony



**5. ORIGINAL CONTEXT/ SITE/ INTENDED FUNCTION OF THE WORK:** (Overlap to #6)

In San Vitale

Ravenna was originally controlled by Goths of a different, non-orthodox Christian belief

**6. INTENDED PURPOSE & MOTIVATION** (why was it made?); **PATRON/AUDIENCE** (who was it made for?); **ARTIST'S DECISION MAKING:**

Justinian & Theodora never came to Ravenna, so this confirmed their right to rule without their presence (after Goth control)

Shows the power of the Church and the power of the Government

**7. INNOVATION/ CHANGE(S):**

Depiction of royalty with religion, may show some tension of power as they are now more separated

**CONVENTION/ TRADITION(S):**

Classical tradition, drapery & vivid colors  
Use of Christian symbolism

**8. THEME(S):**

Right to rule/power, religious

**COMPARE TO ANOTHER WORK:**

Like the Egyptian sculpture King Menkaura and his Queen, this piece establishes the power of the ruler and his queen. This piece shows more separation between religion and the rulers, as pharaohs were considered gods themselves, while Bishops held considerable power in Christianity and they were all under one God.