The Trojan War in Greek Art

Gillian Shepherd
“[Achilles and Ajax] had drawn up their shapely ships at the furthermost ends, trusting in their valour and the strength of their hands”

*Iliad XI.7-9*
Ajax and Achilles playing a board game
Chiusi Painter, late 6th cent. BC
Museo Claudio Faina
The Suicide of Ajax

Metope from the Sanctuary of Hera, Foce del Sele, Poseidonia
c. 560 BC


The discovery of the body of Ajax (Nestor, Phoinix, Agamemnon, Odysseus, Diomedes, Teukros, Ajax son of Oileus)
Corinthian black figure cup
Cavalcade Painter, c. 580 BC
Antikenmuseum, Basel

http://iris.haverford.edu/ilium/page/3/
The Suicide of Ajax
Athenian black figure amphora
Exekias, c. 540
Boulogne-sur-Mer

“[Hector] fetched a sword with a silver-nailed hilt and gave it to Ajax…”

*Iliad* VII. 303
The Trojan Horse
Clay relief amphora
c. 670 BC
Mykonos Museum

Image source: ArtStor
Athena making the Trojan Horse
Attic red figure cup, 5th cent. BC
Museo archeologico di Firenze

Image source: ArtStor
Pausanias on the Athenian Acropolis:

“A horse is set up there called “The Wooden”, but made of bronze. That the horse made by Epeios was a siege machine for breaching the walls [of Troy] is know to everyone who does not ascribe absolute simple-mindedness to the Phrygians [= the Trojans]. It is said, of course, of that horse that it held within it the best of the Greeks, and the design of this bronze one has been made to illustrate that story. Both Menestheus and Teukros are peeking out of it and so too are the children of Theseus”

Pausanias I.23.7-8
The Parthenon, Athens

Metopes depicting: the Centauromachy, the Gigantomachy, the Amazonomachy and the Trojan War
Neoptolemos sacrifices Polyxena at the tomb of Achilles.
Attic black figure amphora, Tyrrhenian Group, c. 570-60
London, British Museum

Neoptolemos batters Priam with Astyanax
Attic red figure krater, c. 465 BC
Altamura Painter
Boston, Museum of Fine Arts

http://www.flickr.com/photos/sebastiagiralt/3209566496/
Sack of Troy  
(Death of Priam)  
Attic red figure hydria  
Kleophrades Painter  
c. 490-80  
Museo Nazionale,  
Naples

http://www.beazley.ox.ac.uk/tools/pottery/painters/keypieces/redfigure/kleophrades.htm
Sack of Troy (Rape of Cassandra)
Attic red figure hydria
Kleophrades Painter c. 490-80
Museo Nazionale, Naples
“The Trojan women seem to be captives already and are mourning their fate. Andromache is depicted and her child stands by her clutching her breast…. Also depicted is Medesikaste… while Polyxena has her hair braided as is customary with virgins… Nestor is represented with a cap on his head and a spear in his hand… Up above this group of women there are these other captive women… Epeios is represented as a nude figure who razes the wall of Troy to the ground. Above the wall rises the head, which alone is visible, of the Wooden Horse…”

Pausanias 10.25-26
Menelaos drops his sword…
Attic red figure krater c. 440 BC
Toledo Museum of Art, Ohio

http://plicklider.com/pix_f03.htm