

# EXHIBITION PROGRAMS

## Assyria to Iberia at the Dawn of the Classical Age

September 22, 2014–January 4, 2015



*Syrian-style openwork plaque with a striding sphinx*, ca. 9th–8th century B.C.  
Neo-Assyrian period. Mesopotamia, Nimrud (ancient Kalhu). Ivory.  
The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, Rogers Fund, 1964 (64.37.1)

At its height in the eighth to seventh century B.C., the Assyrian empire was the dominant power of the ancient Near East and the largest empire the world had yet seen, reaching from Assyria (present-day northern Iraq) to the Mediterranean. As Assyria expanded, the Phoenician city-states of the Levant—precariously located along the edge of Assyrian territory—were compelled to expand and strengthen their maritime trade networks to the west. The mercantile connections they established along the northern coast of Africa and the southern coast of Europe to the Strait of Gibraltar, and even beyond, to the Atlantic, became conduits for raw materials, luxury goods, images, and ideas between the Near East and the Mediterranean.

This landmark exhibition traces—through some 260 works of art on loan from major collections in Europe, the Caucasus, the Middle East, North Africa, and the United States—the deep roots of interaction between the ancient Near East and the lands along the shores of the Mediterranean, and its impact on the artistic traditions that developed in the region.

## SYMPOSIUM

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### **Assyria to Iberia at the Dawn of the Classical Age**

*Thursday, November 6, 10:30–4:30*

*Friday, November 7, 10:30–4:30*

*The Grace Rainey Rogers Auditorium*

International scholars explore themes relating to the exhibition during this two-day event. Free with Museum admission; reservations and tickets are not required. Seating is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Consult the online calendar at [www.metmuseum.org/events](http://www.metmuseum.org/events) for the complete schedule.

The symposium is made possible by  
The Charles K. Wilkinson Lecture Series fund.

## SUNDAY AT THE MET

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### **Navigating the Mediterranean**

*Sunday, October 5, 3:00–4:30*

*The Grace Rainey Rogers Auditorium*

Discover how Phoenician sailors built a trading network spanning the entire Mediterranean.

3:00

#### **Welcome and Introduction**

Joan Aruz, Curator in Charge, Department of Ancient Near Eastern Art, The Metropolitan Museum of Art

3:10

#### **Foreign Exchange: Phoenician Maritime Trade in the Western Mediterranean**

Mark Polzer, Research Associate, Institute of Nautical Archaeology, College Station, Texas

3:50

#### **Re-creating an Ancient Phoenician Voyage**

Philip Beale, Expedition Leader, The Phoenician Ship Expedition

## LECTURES

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### **The Age of Heroes: Greeks and Phoenicians on the Wine Dark Sea**

*Tuesday, September 16, 6:00*

*The Grace Rainey Rogers Auditorium*

Professor Sir John Boardman, Emeritus Lincoln Professor of Classical Art and Archaeology, Classical Art Research Centre and The Beazley Archive, University of Oxford

Free; please use ground-level entrance at Fifth Avenue and 83rd Street.

### **Friday Focus—From Nineveh to Babylon**

*Friday, October 10, 4:00*

*Bonnie J. Sacerdote Lecture Hall,*

*Ruth and Harold D. Uris Center for Education*

Michael Seymour, Research Associate, Department of Ancient Near Eastern Art, The Metropolitan Museum of Art

### **The “City of David” and Its Phoenician Connections**

*Tuesday, October 21, 6:00*

*The Grace Rainey Rogers Auditorium*

Ronny Reich, Professor, Department of Archaeology, Haifa University

Free; please use ground-level entrance at Fifth Avenue and 83rd Street.

### **Friday Focus—From Lake Van to the Guadalquivir: Monsters and Vision in the Preclassical Mediterranean**

*Friday, October 24, 4:00*

*Bonnie J. Sacerdote Lecture Hall,*

*Ruth and Harold D. Uris Center for Education*

Nassos Papalexandrou, Associate Professor, Department of Art and Art History, The University of Texas at Austin

(cont.)



Assistive listening devices are available from the ushers for all programs listed above.

## LECTURES (cont.)

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**Crossing Continents: Image and Exchange**  
The Charles K. Wilkinson Lecture Series  
Wednesday, November 5, 2:00–5:00  
*The Grace Rainey Rogers Auditorium*

Three lectures hosted by the Departments of Egyptian, Ancient Near Eastern, and Islamic Art. Consult the online calendar at [www.metmuseum.org/events](http://www.metmuseum.org/events) for the complete schedule.

**A New Millennium—A New Order: Philistines, Phoenicians, Aramaeans, and the Kingdom of Israel**  
The Armand Brunswick Distinguished Lectures in Archaeology of the Raymond and Beverly Sackler Foundation  
Thursday, November 6, 6:00  
*The Grace Rainey Rogers Auditorium*  
Jonathan N. Tubb, Keeper, Department of the Middle East, The British Museum

Free; please use ground-level entrance at Fifth Avenue and 83rd Street.

**The Making of the Middle Sea: Perspectives on the Creation of the Iron Age Mediterranean**  
Tuesday, December 9, 4:00  
Bonnie J. Sacerdote Lecture Hall,  
Ruth and Harold D. Uris Center for Education  
Cyprian Broodbank, Professor, Institute of Archaeology, University College London

## GALLERY PROGRAMS

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### Exhibition Tours

*All tours have limited space; first come, first served. Tickets are distributed 15 minutes prior at the exhibition entrance, Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Exhibition Hall, Gallery 999.*

Saturday, October 11, 10:30  
Monday, December 15, 10:30  
Michael Seymour, Research Associate,  
Department of Ancient Near Eastern Art,  
The Metropolitan Museum of Art

Monday, October 27, 10:30  
Saturday, December 6, 10:30  
Monday, December 29, 10:30  
Sarah Graff, Assistant Curator, Department of Ancient Near Eastern Art, The Metropolitan Museum of Art

Friday, November 14, 10:30–11:30  
Monday, November 24, 10:30–11:30  
Yelena Rakic, Associate Curator, Department of Ancient Near Eastern Art, The Metropolitan Museum of Art

### Interdisciplinary Gallery Conversations

#### Demon-Haunted Worlds

Thursday, October 23, 11:00  
Sarah Graff and Sean Murray, video game concept artist and illustrator, New York City  
Explore the parallels between the demonology of Mesopotamia and present-day fantastical worlds during this conversation with a Museum curator and an artist.

*This talk meets at Vélez Blanco Patio, Gallery 534, and takes place in the permanent collection galleries.*

#### Assyria, Babylon, and the Bible

Thursday, December 4, 11:00  
Michael Seymour and Rabbi Jeremy Rosen, Rabbi of the Persian Jewish Community of Manhattan  
Explore the world of the Assyrian and Babylonian empires through biblical and ancient Mesopotamian texts and works of art.

*This talk meets at the exhibition entrance, Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Exhibition Hall, Gallery 999. Advance tickets required; limited free tickets available only at [www.metmuseum.org/events/programs/talks/gallery-talks](http://www.metmuseum.org/events/programs/talks/gallery-talks).*



Assistive listening devices are available for all gallery programs.

## STUDIO PROGRAMS

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### **Drop-in Drawing—Textures: Ancient Near East (for all ages)**

*Friday, October 17, 6:30–8:30  
Gallery 403*

Draw inspiration from original works of art. Join talented art instructors in the galleries for informal sketching fun. Instruction provided every thirty minutes. Materials are provided, but you may bring your own sketchbook; pencils only.

### **Sunday Studio (for all ages) Text and Tablets: Assyrian Art**

*Sunday, November 2, 1:00–4:00  
Sunday, November 16, 1:00–4:00  
Gallery 400*

Try your hand at creating works of art in the galleries. Focus on a different art form each session with family-friendly activities led by an artist. Drop in; art supplies provided.

Start or continue your art-making experience with a family tour in nearby galleries. Tours leave at 2:00 from the Sunday Studio welcome cart. Space is limited; first come, first served.

*These programs take place in the permanent collection galleries.*

## FAMILY PROGRAM

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### **How Did They Do That? (for all ages) Assyrian Relief Sculpture**

*Saturday, November 8, 1:00–4:00  
Sunday, November 9, 1:00–4:00  
Galleries 400–406*

Peek at technique and learn—through handling tools and materials—how works of art were created.

*This program takes place in the permanent collection galleries.*

## FESTIVAL FOR ALL AGES

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### **A Journey Through Land and Sea**

*Sunday, November 9, 1:00–5:00  
Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Exhibition Hall,  
Gallery 999 and Galleries 400–406*

Bring your traveling companions to celebrate the exhibition. Navigate through art and the Museum with activities that bring to life the stories and cultures of this vast ancient world.

## K–12 EDUCATOR PROGRAM

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### **Cultural Exchange at the Dawn of the Classical Age**

*Saturday, November 22, 10:00–4:00: \$45  
Ruth and Harold D. Uris Center for Education*

Investigate exchange between the Near East and communities along the shores of the Mediterranean during the early first millennium B.C. through a close look at works in the exhibition and the permanent collection, a curatorial talk, and art making.

#### **Common Core State Standards**

Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse media and formats, including visually and quantitatively, as well as in words.  
(CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.7)

#### **National Learning Standards**

Understanding the Visual Arts in Relation to History and Cultures (NA-VA.9-12.4)  
Era 3: Classical Traditions, Major Religions, and Giant Empires 1000 BCE–300 CE  
(NSS-WH.5-12.3)

Register at [www.metmuseum.org/educatorprograms](http://www.metmuseum.org/educatorprograms).

## PROGRAM AND SERVICES FOR VISITORS WITH DISABILITIES

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### **Picture This! Workshop—*Assyria to Iberia at the Dawn of the Classical Age***

Thursday, October 16, 2:00–3:30  
Ruth and Harold D. Uris Center  
for Education

Awaken the senses in a workshop for adults who are blind or partially sighted that makes works of art accessible through detailed descriptions, touch, and other activities.

The Access program above is free, but registration is required. Please call (212) 650-2010 or email [access@metmuseum.org](mailto:access@metmuseum.org).



### **Large Print Labels**

Large-print label booklets are available at the entrance to the exhibition.



### **Audio Guide**

The Audio Guide is free for visitors who are hard of hearing, Deaf, blind, or partially sighted. Audio Guide players have volume controls and headsets. Neck loops for hearing aids with T-switches are available upon request. Regular and large-print Audio Guide scripts are also available upon request.

### **Other Services**

The Museum is committed to serving all audiences. Please call (212) 650-2010 or email [access@metmuseum.org](mailto:access@metmuseum.org) about programs and services, including Sign Language–interpreted programs, Verbal Imaging Tours, the Touch Collection, and other programs.

Key to symbols in this publication:



Assistive listening devices available



For visitors who are blind or partially sighted



Large-print label booklets available

## AUDIO GUIDE

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Explore the rich intercultural exchanges that characterized the ancient Near East and the Mediterranean during the Bronze and Iron Ages. Curators Joan Aruz, Sarah Graff, and Michael Seymour and conservator Jean-François de Lapérouse discuss highlights of the exhibition.

The Audio Guide is available for daily rental at the Museum: \$7.00 for the general public; \$6.00 for Museum Members; \$6.00 for groups of 14 or fewer; \$5.00 for children under 12; \$4.00 for groups of 15 or more. Sales tax included.

Supported by Bloomberg Philanthropies.

## PUBLICATION

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### *Assyria to Iberia at the Dawn of the Classical Age*

Edited by Joan Aruz, Sarah B. Graff, and Yelena Rakic

This fascinating book explores the epoch-making artistic and cultural exchanges that took place across the Near East and Mediterranean in the early first millennium B.C. Its introduction and seven comprehensive chapters provide a compelling picture of an era that is essential to understanding the origins of Western culture and art.

448 pages, 450 color illustrations.

Hardcover: (80024653) \$65.00. Learn more about the publication at [www.metmuseum.org/research/metpublications](http://www.metmuseum.org/research/metpublications). Available from The Metropolitan Museum of Art Store and online at [store.metmuseum.org](http://store.metmuseum.org).



**NOLEN LIBRARY IN  
THE RUTH AND HAROLD D. URIS  
CENTER FOR EDUCATION**

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Nolen Library has information about the Museum's collection and special exhibitions, and a Teacher Resource Center with a circulating collection for educators. The Children's Reading Room in the library is designed for families and young readers. For hours and further information please call (212) 570-3788 or visit [www.metmuseum.org/nolen](http://www.metmuseum.org/nolen).

**WEBSITE**

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For further information about our programs, visit the Museum's website at [www.metmuseum.org/events](http://www.metmuseum.org/events).



*Assyria to Iberia at the Dawn of the Classical Age* is on view at The Metropolitan Museum of Art in the Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Exhibition Hall, Gallery 999, from September 22, 2014 through January 4, 2015.

Major support is provided by The Hagop Kevorkian Fund, the Stavros Niarchos Foundation, and Dorothy and Lewis B. Cullman.

Additional support is provided by an Anonymous Foundation and the Friends of Inanna.

The exhibition is supported by an indemnity from the Federal Council on the Arts and the Humanities.

The catalogue is made possible by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, The Hagop Kevorkian Fund, and the A. G. Leventis Foundation.

**We are grateful to the following for their support of educational programs:**

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Access programs at the Museum are made possible by MetLife Foundation. Generous support also provided by the Filomen M. D'Agostino Foundation. Also made possible by Estate of Doris Alperdt, Renate, Hans & Maria Hofmann Trust, Charles Bloom Foundation, Allene Reuss Memorial Trust, The Ceil & Michael E. Pulitzer Foundation, Jane B. Wachsler, The J.M. Foundation, The Gordon and Llura Gund Foundation, The Merrill G. and Erita E. Hastings Foundation, The Murray G. and Beatrice H. Sherman Charitable Trust, and gifts in memory of Jay Budin.