

Medieval Nubia in a Transcultural Horizon

Art
Architecture
Epigraphy



13 October 2022

Florence & Online
Kunsthistorisches Institut in
Florenz – Max-Planck-Institut

PROGRAM

10.30

Welcome - Gerhard Wolf (*Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florenz - Max-Planck-Institut*)

Opening Remarks - Ravinder Binning (*Ohio State University*)

INTRODUCTION

10.45–11.30 Dobrochna Zielińska (*Faculty of Archaeology, University of Warsaw*)

“Introduction to Late Antique and Medieval Nubian Art”

SESSION I: POWER AND KINGSHIP

Chair: Sinem Casale

11.30–12.15 Karel C. Innemée (*Department of Archaeology, University of Warsaw*)

“The Visual Manifestation of Power and Authority in Christian Nubia”

12.15–13.00 Magdalena Łaptaś (*History of Art Institute, Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University*)

“Apostles, Kings, and Archangels. Building a Royal Tradition through Painted Images in Medieval Nubia”

13.00–14.00 LUNCH FOR WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS

SESSION II: TRANSCULTURAL CONNECTIONS

Chair: Vera-Simone Schulz

14.00-14.45 Andrea M. Achi (*Assistant Curator, Department of Medieval Art and The Cloisters, The Metropolitan Museum of Art*)

“Wood and Ivory Boxes in Late Antique Nubia”

14.45-15.30 Gertrud J.M. van Loon (*Faculty of Archaeology, University of Warsaw*)

“Inspiration and Influences: Nubian Church Decoration and Its Relationship with Egypt”

15.30-15.45 COFFEE BREAK

SESSION III: ARCHAEOLOGY AND EPIGRAPHY

Chair: Ravinder Binning

15.45-16.30 Jacques van der Vliet (*Universiteit Leiden / Radboud Universiteit Nijmegen / NINO Leiden*)

“Text, Image and Performance in Medieval Nubia”

16.30-17.15 Adam Łajtar (*Faculty of Archaeology, University of Warsaw*)

“The Literacy of Christian Nubia”

17.15-18.00 CLOSING REMARKS AND DISCUSSION

Kingdoms of medieval Nubia were erased from memory until the discovery of the Faras Cathedral in the 1960s by a team of Polish archaeologists. Spanning the sixth through the thirteenth centuries, the remains of these Christian kingdoms in lower Egypt and Sudan demonstrate sophisticated artistic, political and religious structures and practices. Excavations in Nubia since then have revealed a lost tradition of Greek epigraphy, wall painting, and monumental architecture that feature traces of liturgical poetry, royal portraiture, and a wide array of sacred figures. Despite this rich history and its broad transcultural horizon, Nubia's astonishing artistic, epigraphic and archaeological traditions remain largely unknown to scholars outside of Nubiology.

In this interdisciplinary workshop, experts on medieval Nubian culture will present recent research to a community of scholars working broadly on premodern art history. Topics will range from issues of display and the historiography of Nubian art to costume and depictions of sacred authority. The workshop will also focus on how novel methodological approaches will better position Nubia within histories of medieval art in the global past and present.

Concept and organization

Ravinder Binning (*Ohio State University*)

Registration

For online attendance via Zoom
<https://zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tjEoceyqp-zotH9A0WpUIMyi5GdLcIS5KAqmD>

Granite Capital, Church of the Granite Column; 7th–8th century CE; Old Dongola, Sudan (Photo: Dobrochna Zielińska)

Venue

Palazzo Grifoni Budini Gattai
Via dei Servi 51
50122 Firenze
Italia

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**Kunsthistorisches
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