

# ALBANY INSTITUTE OF HISTORY & ART

## Albany Institute of History & Art

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## NEWS

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 31, 2014

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## DRAW LIKE AN EGYPTIAN: ARTISTIC CONVENTIONS IN ANCIENT EGYPT

*Sunday, February 9, 2014 at 2PM*

**Part of the GE Presents: The Mystery of the Albany Mummies Lecture Series**

ALBANY, NY— On Sunday, January 26, 2014, Miranda Hartwig, Associate Professor of Ancient Egyptian Art and Archeology at the School of Art and Design at Georgia State University will present a lecture in association with the GE Presents: The Mystery of the Albany Mummies exhibition. Hartwig will explore how ancient Egyptian artistic conventions reflected their world view. She will examine the way Egyptians constructed the human form, and address their practical solution to the complex problem: how do you draw a figure that conveys both power and meaning? Hartwig will share her insight into ancient Egyptian life, art, and funerary practices, as well as Egyptomania and recent scientific revelations about the Albany Mummies. This lecture will take place at the Albany Institute at 2PM and is free with museum admission.

Melinda Hartwig is a specialist in ancient Egyptian and ancient Mediterranean basin art and architecture. She earned her Ph. D in Egyptian and Near Eastern Art and Archeology at the Institute of Fine Arts at New York University. When she isn't teaching courses at Georgia State University, she presents lectures all around the world. Hartwig has curated several national exhibitions on ancient Egypt such as: *The Gods of Ancient Memphis* for the University of Memphis and *Glories of Ancient Egypt* for the High Museum of Art in Atlanta. She has several publications completed including her book *Tomb Painting and Identity in Ancient Thebes, 1419-1372 BCE*. Some of her recent work includes being the head of a three-year project in the well-known tomb of Menna, located in Luxor, Egypt. At the moment Hartwig is working on multiple publications including: *The Tomb of Menna* and a textbook

titled: *A Companion to Ancient Egyptian Art*. She is constantly on-air as a professional consultant for the National Geographic Channel, The Discovery Channel, The History Channel, and the BBC.

*GE Presents: The Mystery of the Albany Mummies Lecture Series* features archaeologists, curators, and scholars from around the world who will share their insights into ancient Egyptian life, art, and funerary practices, as well as recent scientific revelations about the Albany Mummies. This new information includes CT scans and X-rays done by Albany Medical Center in 2012. Some upcoming speakers for 2014 are listed below:

- ❖ John Taylor, Assistant Keeper, Department of Ancient Egypt and Sudan, The British Museum  
**Decoding the Boxes: Ancient Egyptian Coffins as Text**  
Sunday, March 2, 2014  
Sponsored by The International Center
  
- ❖ Kara Cooney, Associate Professor, Cotsen Institute of Archaeology, UCLA  
**Musical Coffins: Reuse in the 21<sup>st</sup> Dynasty**  
Sunday, March 23, 2014
  
- ❖ Salima Ikram, Egyptology Unit Head, Professor of Egyptology, American University Cairo  
**Why an Ibis? Mummifying Animals in Ancient Egypt**  
Friday, April 11, 2014

*GE Presents: The Mystery of the Albany Mummies* lecture series will be held at the Albany Institute of History & Art, located at 125 Washington Avenue in Albany, New York. *GE Presents: The Mystery of the Albany Mummies* exhibition runs from September 21, 2013 through June 8, 2014.

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*GE Presents: The Mystery of the Albany Mummies* is the largest exhibition on Ancient Egypt ever presented in New York's Capital Region. Art and artifacts from around the world, combined with advanced medical technologies help unravel the mystery of the Albany Mummies. Acquired directly from the Cairo Museum in 1909, the Albany Institute's mummies have kept secrets that only recently have been revealed. Visit the exhibition to discover how new research, new technologies, and a team of experts have helped uncover their hidden stories. Learn about their lives and the ancient practice of mummification, all at the Albany Institute of History & Art.

- **From Cairo to Albany** highlights the 1909 acquisition of the two mummies and their coffins from the Cairo Museum.
- **Preparing for the Afterlife** examines the science of mummification through interactive stations and shows the results of new CT scans and x-rays taken at Albany Medical Center.
- **Ankhefenmut and His World** explores the daily life and culture of ancient Egypt during the 21<sup>st</sup> Dynasty.
- **Egyptomania** will showcase our ongoing fascination with ancient Egypt.

**Interactive stations** include: How to Make a Mummy, Pharaoh for a Day, Learn Hieroglyphs, and more!

**Family Festivals, Art for All** activities, and an **International Lecture Series** will be offered.

A special **Museum Shop** will offer Egyptian-themed items.

The museum is open Wednesday-Saturday 10AM-5PM, Thursdays until 8PM\* and Sunday Noon-5PM. On Tuesdays, the museum is open to registered groups only. The museum is closed on Mondays and major holidays. Admission is FREE for Albany Institute members; \$10/adults; \$8/seniors and students with ID; \$6/children 6-12; FREE/children under 6. \*Starting

# ALBANY INSTITUTE OF HISTORY & ART

in 2014, admission is FREE on Thursday nights (from 5PM-8PM). For more information, visit [www.albanyinstitute.org](http://www.albanyinstitute.org) or call (518) 463-4478.

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The Albany Institute's distinguished collections and acclaimed exhibitions comprise the definitive expression of the cultural, historical, and artistic heritage of Albany and the upper Hudson Valley. From its world-renowned Hudson River School collection, to the famous Albany Mummies, to the wide range of lectures, outstanding educational and family programming, and special events, this distinctive and engaging institution provides visitors of all ages and interests with a splendid museum experience. One of America's oldest museums, the Albany Institute of History & Art was founded in 1791, during the presidency of George Washington, making it older than the Louvre, the Smithsonian, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

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