

ALBANY INSTITUTE OF HISTORY & ART

Albany Institute of History & Art

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NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ANCIENT EGYPT AND ITS INFLUENCE LECTURE WITH ANNA TOBIN D'AMBROSIO

Sunday, November 17, 2013 at 2PM

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

ALBANY, NY- On Sunday, November 17, 2013, Ms. Anna Tobin D'Ambrosio, the Director of the Munson-Williams-Proctor Arts Institute Museum of Art in Utica, New York will present a lecture in conjunction with the GE Presents: The Mystery of the Albany Mummies exhibition. With the promise to serve the dead in their eternal life, ancient Egyptian artworks have mystified Western artists for centuries. Major historic events mark Westerner's affair with Egyptian culture- Napoleon's campaigns from 1798-1801, the opening of the Suez Canal in 1869, and the relocation of the Egyptian obelisks, such as "Cleopatra's Needles" in London in 1878 and New York City's Central Park obelisk in 1881. When King Tut's tomb was opened in 1922, the obsession with all-things-Egyptian exploded. Anna Tobin D'Ambrosio will track these events and illuminate their continued influence on Western culture. This lecture will take place at the Albany Institute and is free with museum admission.

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. Upcoming speakers are listed below. More speakers are scheduled for Winter/Spring 2014.

- ❖ Joyce Haynes, Consultant Egyptologist
Reading Ancient Lives: Translating Hieroglyphs
Sunday, December 8 at 2PM

- ❖ Bob Brier, Senior Research Fellow at Long Island University, C.W. Post Campus
Ankhefenmut: From Temple to Museum
Sunday, January 12, 2014 at 2PM

- ❖ Lanny Bell, Associate Professor Emeritus of Egyptology, University of Chicago and
Visiting Researcher in Egyptology, Brown University
Pyramids, Mummies, and Magic
Sunday, January 26, 2014 at 2PM
Sponsored by the Archaeological Institute of America

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.

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 21st 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. For more information, visit 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.

For more information, please visit www.albanyinstitute.org and be sure to follow us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/albanyinstitute) and Twitter (www.twitter.com/albanyinstitute).

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