

ALBANY INSTITUTE OF HISTORY & ART

Albany Institute of History & Art

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NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MUSICAL COFFINS: REUSE IN THE 21ST DYNASTY LECTURE WITH EGYPTOLOGIST KARA COONEY

Sunday, March 23, 2014 at 2PM

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

ALBANY, NY— On Sunday, March 23, Kara Cooney, Associate Professor at the Cotsen Institute of Archaeology at UCLA, will present a lecture in conjunction with the GE Presents: The Mystery of the Albany Mummies exhibition. Cooney will describe how elite men and women of Egypt's 21st Dynasty, wishing to be buried in style, often usurped the coffins of people buried in earlier dynasties, turned out their former inhabitants, and altered, repainted, and re-styled the coffin. She has found a 21st Dynasty re-use rate as high as 70%, with some coffins seeming to have multiple owners. Cooney will address the question of community coffins and describe how ancient Egyptian craftsmen began specializing in renovating and re-modifying this essential possession for a happy after life. This lecture will take place at the Albany Institute at 2PM and is free with museum admission.

Dr. Cooney is a well-known Egyptologist and the Assistant Professor of Egyptian Art and Architecture at UCLA. She received her PhD for Near Eastern Studies in 2002 from Johns Hopkins University. Some of her excavation experience includes projects in Deir el Medina in Egypt, Dahshur, and several tombs at Thebes. In 2005, she was a curator for *Tutankhamun and the Golden Age of the Pharaohs* at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. Cooney has also been on Discovery Channel documentaries including: *Out of Egypt* and *Egypt's Lost Queen*.

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. The final speakers for 2014 are listed below:

- ❖ Salima Ikram, Egyptology Unit Head, Professor of Egyptology, American University Cairo
Why an Ibis? Mummifying Animals in Ancient Egypt
Friday, April 11, 2014

- ❖ Violaine Chauvet, Lecturer in Egyptology, University of Liverpool
Tanis and Karnak: Temples in the 21st Dynasty
Sunday, April 13, 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.

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.

*Admission is now FREE on Thursday nights (from 5PM-8PM). 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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