

ALBANY INSTITUTE OF HISTORY & ART

Albany Institute of History & Art

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NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ALBANY INSTITUTE TO HOST EGYPTOLOGIST SALIMA IKRAM FOR LECTURE ON MUMMIFYING ANIMALS IN ANCIENT EGYPT

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

ALBANY, NY – On Friday, April 11, 2014, Salima Ikram, Egyptology Unit Head and Professor of Egyptology at the American University Cairo, will present a lecture in conjunction with the GE Presents: The Mystery of the Albany Mummies exhibition. Ikram will present the different types of animal mummies (food, pets, votive offerings, sacred creatures) and explain how they were made, the reasons for making them, as well as the theological and aesthetic decisions that went into their “packaging.” She will also discuss how animal mummies reflect the ways in which the ancient Egyptians interacted with the animal world, and how they influence our views of the ancient Egyptians. This lecture will take place at the Albany Institute at 6PM and is free with museum admission. The museum galleries will be open from 10AM-6PM on Friday, April 11 to accommodate lecture attendees. Space is limited and guests are asked to arrive early and secure their seat by getting a ticket at the front desk.

Salima Ikram is one of the world’s leading experts on animal mummies. She is the founder and co-director of the Animal Mummy project at the Egyptian Museum in Cairo. She has written several books, including *Divine Creatures* which is available for sale in the Albany Institute’s Museum Shop. She has also been featured in television programs focused on ancient Egypt, including *Da Vinci Code: Decoded* (Channel 4 UK) and *Tomb Raiders: Robbing the Dead* (History Channel). She has served as a visiting scholar at The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City and as a consultant Egyptologist at Giza, Abu Sir, Valley of the Kings, and other sites.

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 last speaker of the series will be Violaine Chauvet, a lecturer in Egyptology at the University of Liverpool on Sunday,

April 13, 2014 at 2PM. The lecture will take place at the Albany Institute of History & Art and her topic is "Tanis and Karnak: Temples in the 21st Dynasty." It is free with museum admission.

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 through June 8, 2014.

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The Albany Institute of History & Art is located at 125 Washington Avenue, near the New York State Capitol. 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 free on Thursday nights (5PM-8PM). For more information, visit www.albanyinstitute.org or call (518) 463-4478.

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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