



AMERICAN
UNIVERSITY
OF BEIRUT



Archaeological Museum **NEWSLETTER**

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Introduction

by Maureen Ali

Welcome to our second Society of Friends of the AUB Archaeological Museum digital newsletter.

We are pleased to say that we have a lot of news to share.

With COVID-19 restrictions on campus greatly eased, we held our first two lectures in the autumn, both well attended by our members. All were delighted with the opportunity to participate in person and to enjoy renewing friendships, as well as their memberships!

On which subject, H            , our resolute membership officer, has done an outstanding job in pursuit of Friends – old and new, with the resounding success of 136 signed up members.

Emerging from the devastating loss of most of our precious glass collection in the August 4, 2020, Beirut explosion, the





museum hosted Through Shattered Glass, an international workshop attended by several foremost authorities in glass restoration.

Later, eight broken vessels were carefully packed and shipped to the British Museum in London for restoration. We include an update on their progress by the museum's Aimée Bou Rizk who spent three months at the BM assisting in the work.

In cooperation with other key AUB institutes, we marked the occasion of International Women's Day by presenting a short film on goddesses of fertility through the ages and Mother Earth, an exhibition featuring 10 sculptures by the artist Andrée Hochar Fattal.

We joyously celebrated the lives and careers of the two most outstanding personalities to dominate the museum's recent history, President Emeritus Samir Tabet and our legendary Former Director of 45 years, Leila Badre.






We also mourned the loss of two dear friends of the museum, the devoted supporter and generous donor, Prof. Emeritus Martha Sharp Joukowsky, and the distinguished Cypriot scholar, Prof. Emeritus Vassos Karageorghis.

Our Children's Program goes from strength to strength, becoming ever more creative under the auspices of our irrepressible children's officer, Amy Youssef.

We have reinstated our trips program. Our shop has reopened. Our visitor profile is growing in size and diversity. Our participation in digital platforms continues to expand.

Regular features, launched in our first newsletter, include Hidden Stories, Curator's Picks, and New Initiatives and Collaborations. We hope you enjoy reading them all.



Lectures

November 10, 2021

The archaeology of olive oil: British Museum excavations of a 4,500-year-old olive factory in Jordan by Curator James Fraser

The Society's first lecture at the museum after COVID-19 lockdown measures were reduced on campus was a fascinating account by Curator James Fraser of the British Museum about the discovery of a 4,500-year-old olive oil factory at Khirbet Um al-Ghozlan in the north of Jordan. Curator Fraser and the British Museum have generously authorized us to include Curator Fraser's blog account of his forensic quest to unearth the secrets of an intriguing site.

[click here](#)



James Fraser, Curator for the Ancient Levant and Anatolia at the British Museum

December 8, 2021

Our second lecture, Famous historical figures who set foot in Lebanon – from Ramses and Cleopatra to De Gaulle

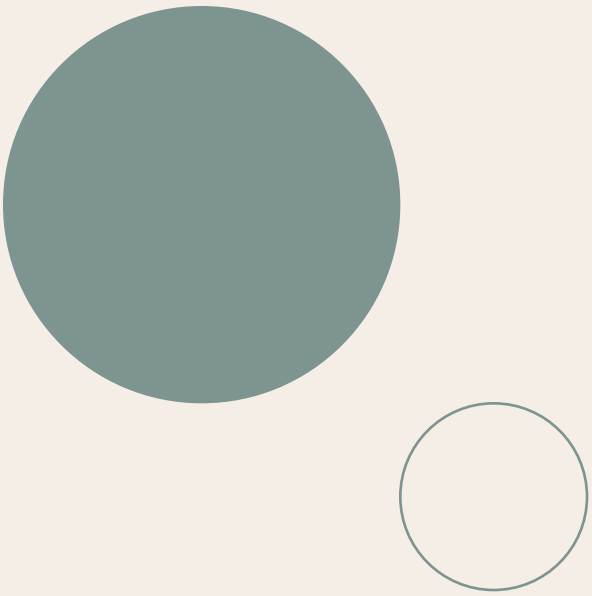
was given by the new president of Society of Friends of the Museum,
Nohad Schoucair

Schoucair has not only had a long and successful career in industry and commerce, but he also dedicated a significant portion of his time to public service during 20 years with the Lebanese Tennis Federation, the west Asian Olympic Committee, that of the Mediterranean Games, as well as various committees dedicated to the national economy.

We are delighted to welcome Schoucair as president and to profit from his passionate interest in history and the history of art. Over the years he has presented




Nohad Schoucair, new president of Society of Friends of the Museum



conference papers across a range of subjects from ancient Alexandria to Baroque palaces, from the Siege of Tyre to the Ottoman Empire. Schoucair is a committed book collector, most especially of ancient texts.

Schoucair's lecture briefly surveyed a long list of famous historical figures who visited Lebanon from the Pharaonic epoch to the recent past, a journey across 4,000 years of history. He took a sampling of celebrities whose passage was not always familiar to the average audience, peppering his texts with rare anecdotes about these historical figures. He apologized for excluding the great historical figure of Christ at the wedding feast of Cana-al Jalil (Galilee), due to the uncertainty that remains about the exact location of that village.

Taking a broad view of history, Schoucair illustrated how it repeats itself, as evidenced in the famous battle of Qadesh (1274 BC) near the strategic town of Qousseir where the mighty Egyptian and Hittite empires fought in antiquity. This was also the scene of a recent battle in the current Syrian war.



He examined Alexander the Great's three-month siege of the wealthy insular city of Tyre (332 BC) and the impact of his building a causeway transforming Tyre from an impregnable island into a peninsula. During this protracted siege, Alexander crossed South Lebanon and Mount Hermon, or Jabal el Sheikh, to worship an ancient divinity in Paneas, in the temple of a sacred water source feeding the Jordan river. As another example of historical continuity, Schoucair remarked ironically that it was the Sidon fleet that gave the Macedonian hero much needed help to defeat Tyre, proof that inhabitants of Lebanon have always been capable of sudden treachery and petty rivalry towards their neighbors.




The siege of the city of Tyre (332 BC)

The next story surprised the audience. It is a rarely told tale about the illustrious Egyptian queen Cleopatra (VII) hiding somewhere between Sidon and Tyre on her fleet loaded with supplies and gold, waiting to extend help to her lover and ally, the flamboyant Roman general, Mark Anthony, in retreat after his unsuccessful bid to defeat the Parthians in Mesopotamia. The exact location where the beautiful Cleopatra resided for months, wary of our treacherous coastal populations, is known only as “Leukon Kome” or “white milk village”, which some historians speculate as being next to Damour.




The Egyptian queen Cleopatra (VII)



Next came Plinus the Elder, the first author of a “universal encyclopedia”, and admiral of the imperial fleet who mapped all the Mediterranean and marveled at the three unique, majestic capes of the Lebanese coastline, namely Chekka, Nahr el Kalb, and Naqoura. Then, there was Alexander Severus, the only Roman Emperor born in Lebanon, in Arqa, which the Arabs deformed into Akkar.

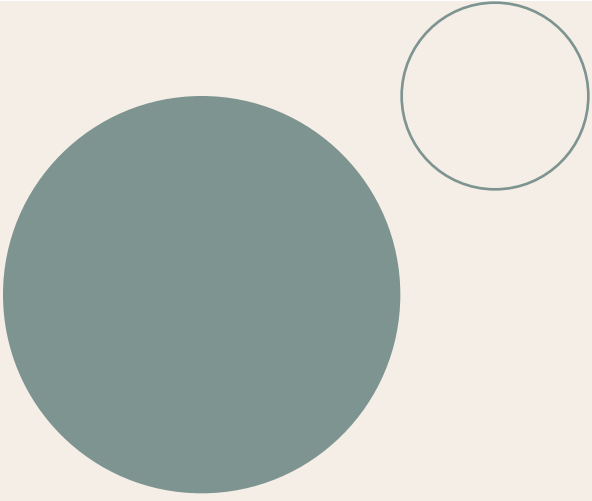
On to St. Paul, then the valiant Abou Ubaida ibn al Jarrah, companion of the prophet and audacious commander of the Muslim army in Syria who enjoyed his “sherbets” (fruit sorbets) in the summer resort of Anjar. The visiting Crusader Kings included Richard “Coeur de Lion” and St. Louis.



Part of Salaheddin al Ayyoubi's youth was spent in Baalbek where his family lived for over 12 years. An unusual visitor was the Turkish-Mongol Emir Timur Lenk (Tamerlain), who, despite having devastated so many cities, marked a pause to visit and admire Baalbek and its temples, which were left unharmed, along with the cedar forest on Mount Lebanon. He even attended a Christian Maronite mass in the northern valley of Qannubin, where a small community of monks and priests lived peacefully, protected by Druze leaders.




Saladin (Salaheddin al Ayyoubi)



Four centuries later, in 1799, Napoleon Bonaparte, still a republican French general, sent a cavalry squadron from Acre besieged by his troops, to liberate Tyre from the Turks. This was a short-lived long shot victory after which local Shiite families sold the city back to the Ottoman governor of Damascus as soon as the French had returned to Palestine. Though Bonaparte himself never made it to Lebanon, he must have certainly looked from Mount Thabor (scene of his ultimate victory in this military campaign) towards our mountains in the north. Other French characters include various authors of the “Romantic” era, including Alphonse de Lamartine.

The major role played in Lebanon by Ibrahim Pasha, son of the ruler of Egypt, Muhammad Ali, and that of the Ottoman “Red Sultan” Abdul Hamid II, in the revival and prosperity of Beirut in the 19th century were both considered. Finally, it is the German sovereign Kaiser Wilhelm II who is described as the last emperor to visit Beirut, on his way to the Holy Land in 1898. He described the city as “the Pearl”, the distinguished jewel in the Crown of the Padishah (the Ottoman Sultan).



Wilhelm II became the main initiator in the rehabilitation of the Baalbek archeological site where he and his impressive retinue camped for more than 24 hours, a splendid illustration of the fascination with “Orientalism” so fashionable in 19th century Europe.

Schoucair finished his “promenade” of characters throughout the centuries with the French generals, Gouraud, the High Commissioner who presided over the foundation of the “Grand Liban” in 1920 whilst living a monastic life here, de Gaulle, whose rank was only that of “Commandant” when he resided for two years in Mouseitbeh-Beirut in charge of a military Bureau, and Weygand, who, as a high commissioner to the Levant, radically transformed and modernized the nascent administration of Lebanon in less than 20 months. Concluding this journey, Schoucair noted that “our beloved country has always been at the crossroads of the world and at the heart of History with a capital H”.

[Click here](#)

December 8 was also the occasion of the reopening of the museum shop.

January 28, 2022

Curator Nadine Panayot participated in ICROM conference on Climate.Culture. Peace: Heritage, an Inherent Parameter to Sustainable Development and Economic Growth held on January 28, 2022 (Day 5-Transdisciplinary Action to Recognize Loss and Enhance Sustainability).

Please click here to watch it




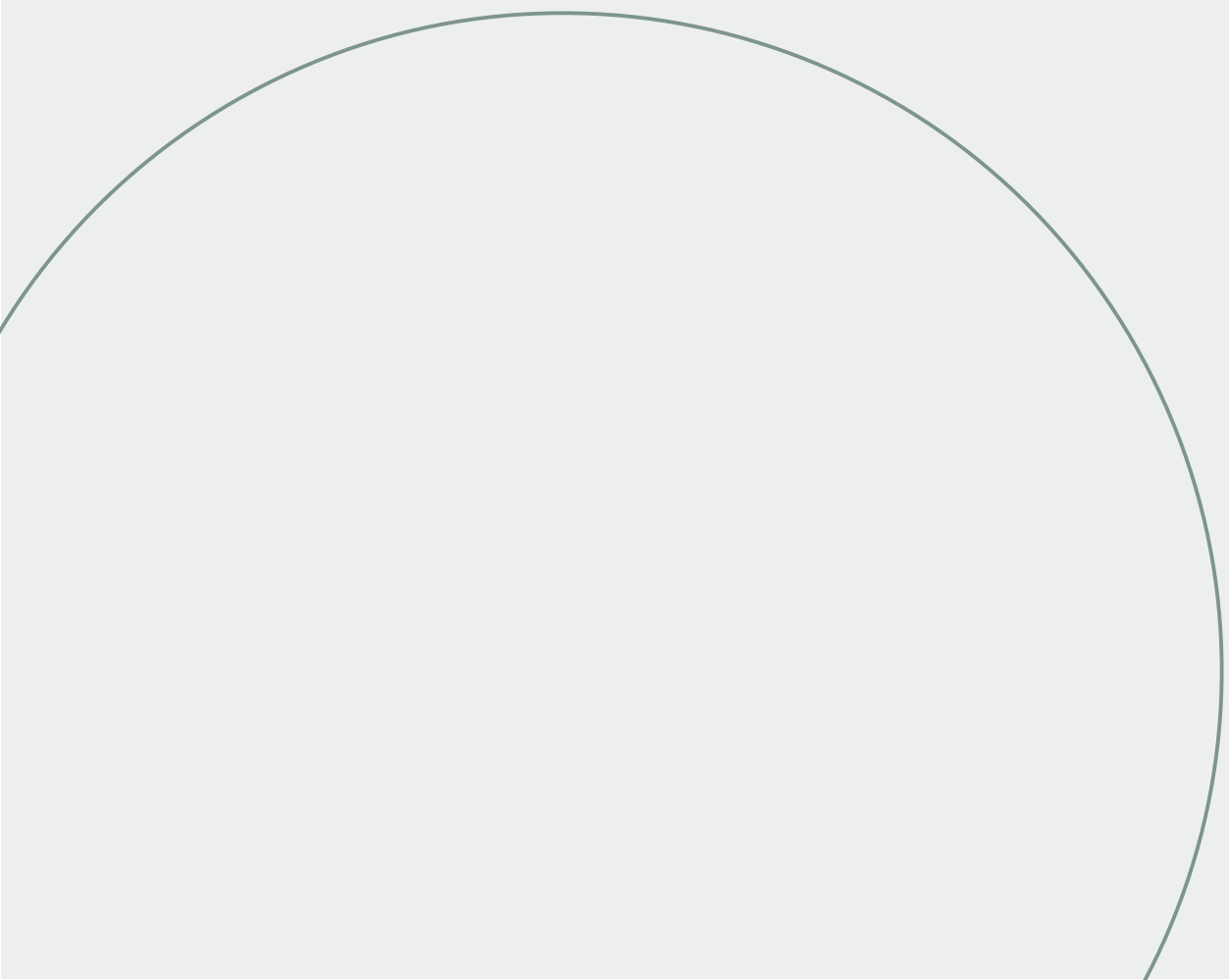


February 7, 2022

The Friends were invited to attend a lecture by leading Turkish scholar and archaeologist Prof. Gül Pulhan.

Safeguarding and Understanding Archaeological Heritage in Turkey and Lebanon by Prof. Gül Pulhan, honorary research fellow (British Institute at Ankara).

Prof. Gül Pulhan specialties are Anatolian and Mesopotamian archaeology, cultural heritage management, and museum studies. She excavated at many sites in Turkey and at Tell Leilan in northern Syria. As part of the Ilisu Dam Salvage projects, between 2009-19, she conducted salvage excavations on behalf of the Batman Museum at Gre Amer. She worked as a co-curator in the conceptualization of the Erimtan Archaeology and Art Museum in Ankara, between 2013-15.



Since 2016 she has been affiliated with the British Institute at Ankara in different capacities as a member of the Council of Management, coordinator of the SARAT and SARAA projects and as an honorary research fellow

[Click here](#)



Prof. Gül Pulhan, honorary research fellow
(British Institute at Ankara)

February 28, 2022

Curator Panayot participated in the seminar *Museums and Ancient Western Asia: Perspectives from the Middle East* organized by The Vorderasiatisches Museum SMB PK & London Centre for the Ancient Near East (LCANE).



The Vorderasiatisches Museum SMB PK
& London Centre for the Ancient Near East (LCANE)
are organizing a seminar
"Museums and Ancient Western Asia:
Perspectives from the Middle East"
today, Feb 28, 2022 at 08:00 PM Beirut Time.

Join us today to the lecture entitled
"The AUB Archaeological Museum, a Survival story"
by Dr Nadine Panayot,
curator of the American University of Beirut
Archaeological Museum.

Children's Program

Explore Castles with Digital Games (December 19, 2021) by Amelia Youssef.

This program was a one of a kind experience for the children of the AUB Archaeological Museum Children's Program. Assoc. Prof. Daniel Asmar and a team from the AUB engineering department set up a range of digital equipment programmed for the children to build games for various Lebanese archaeological sites such as Sidon and Mseyilha, designed for people to familiarize themselves with the sites before visiting.




Children enjoying the power point presentation on Castles.

The team was pleased to test run their concept—still at the pilot stage—and was pleasantly surprised by the children’s focus, interest, and feedback—all key attributes when creating digital games. One medium stood out—the virtual reality games (VR). The children had a blast with VR. Bottom line, three hours of fun and a great learning experience.



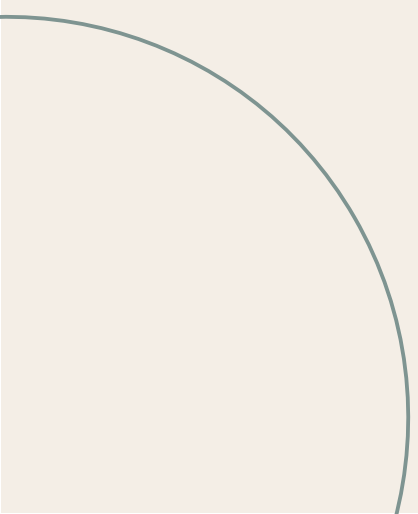

Children making new discoveries during their AUB Museum visit



Glass, Clay and Much More **(January 16, 2022), by Amelia Youssef**

Amelia Youssef describes the fun and enthusiasm shared by all participants in the Children's Program:

“While I was meeting with the children's activities team in the AUB museum offices, talking about the next children's event, I saw Conservator Claire Cuyaubère, the glass specialist from France visiting Lebanon for a two-week period to restore some of the glass items lost during the August 4 blast. As I watched her gracefully handle the objects as though stroking them with love while sticking the pieces together, a light bulb moment ignited in my brain. I dashed over to her to ask for help with the upcoming children's program. She readily agreed. We tailored the program according to her expertise and the children's program team announced the Glass through the Ages activity.



The children arrived on a windy January Sunday bubbling with excitement and anticipation. Their smiles and those of their parents warmed us all up. After registration, the children settled down for their lecture, and, to everybody's surprise, they could not stop asking questions. This was where Claire took over the presentation, even though she was only supposed to help with gluing the Plexiglas sherds during the activity. The questions kept coming: what is glass made of, how is it formed, how is it shaped, who makes it? Both Claire and the children never seemed to tire of this dialogue until it was time to move on to the next phase.



Demonstration of the restoration of plexiglas shards by the Glass conservator Claire Cuyaubère

After watching a demonstration by Claire, the children started their own task to reconstruct a vessel from Plexiglas shards. They were keen to follow Claire's example and had many more questions to ask her: how do I make my cup exactly like yours, should I put it this way or that? Others would simply hold their cups proudly and say, "Look at how beautiful my cup is! Do you like it?"



Claire Cuyaubère helping the children to reconstruct their plexiglass vessels.

After they finished, the children were keen to know about the next activity. They would say, “Can you please give my mom your email, so she knows about the next one?” Or, “I want to participate in all the activities.” Others exclaimed, “Oh, only two more activities for this year! We want more!” They lingered in the museum hallways and then pranced outside Post Hall without a care in the world, happy with their day!



Children reconstructed vessels from Plexiglas shards. Cheers!!

Celebrating Women: Create Your Own Idol (March 27, 2022) by Amelia Youssef

Our next activity ***Celebrating Women: Create Your Own Idol*** was the penultimate one for this academic year. Before the session started, the premises were bustling with excited children inquiring about International Women's Day. Tying this in with her ***Mother Earth*** installation in the AUB Museum, the sculptor Andrée Hochar Fattal, joined the activity, along with Michel el Bacha, a clay sculptor with extensive experience with teaching children, and our own Gloria Zeidan, with all her flamboyance and creativity. They all worked together helping the children create their idols from clay.



Children deep in concentration creating their idols



Do you like my idol?

One particular child kept going back to the museum because she wanted to create an exact replica of one of the figurines. She would come up to me and ask for permission to go back in. After the third time, she would just look at me, and I would just say “yalla let’s go!” Another child sat for two solid hours decorating her idol until we were about to close our doors. Perseverance... All the children wanted to show us their work and check if we liked it. Of course, we did!

Stay tuned for our finale!

Heritage-Healing/Healing-Heritage (June 16, 2022) by Amelia Youssef

On June 16, for our finale this semester entitled **Heritage-Healing/Healing-Heritage**, the Children's Program teamed up with students from the International College (IC) and those students taking part at the Collège Elysée project **Talking Showcase**. Inspired by the Kintsugi art (the Japanese art of repair), the Elysée grade five students had engaged in a yearlong program concentrated on surmounting their academic, emotional, and personal problems. Each student was asked to develop a story on how they overcame their anxieties and fears and then translate it into a QR code.



IC and Elysée students in high spirits outside the AUB Archaeological Museum

The Children's Program invited the Elysée students to meet up with a group of IC peers at the AUB Archaeological Museum, which has suffered its own share of losses. There, they watched a mesmerizing video of the museum's shattered glass story, showing how the pieces were put together again, a metaphor perhaps for their own stories.

Once inside the museum, the Elysée students took up their places in front of the showcases ready to pose for the IC students, like ancient statues with a story to tell. The IC students, expertly wielding their phones in front of QR codes displayed on the Elysée 'statues', listened enthusiastically to their stories of healing.



IC students scan Elysée QR codes to hear their stories of healing

Having thoroughly overcome their initial shyness towards each other, all the students enjoyed visiting the rest of the museum as well as the AUB Campus.



Students from Elysée ready to share their stories with the IC students



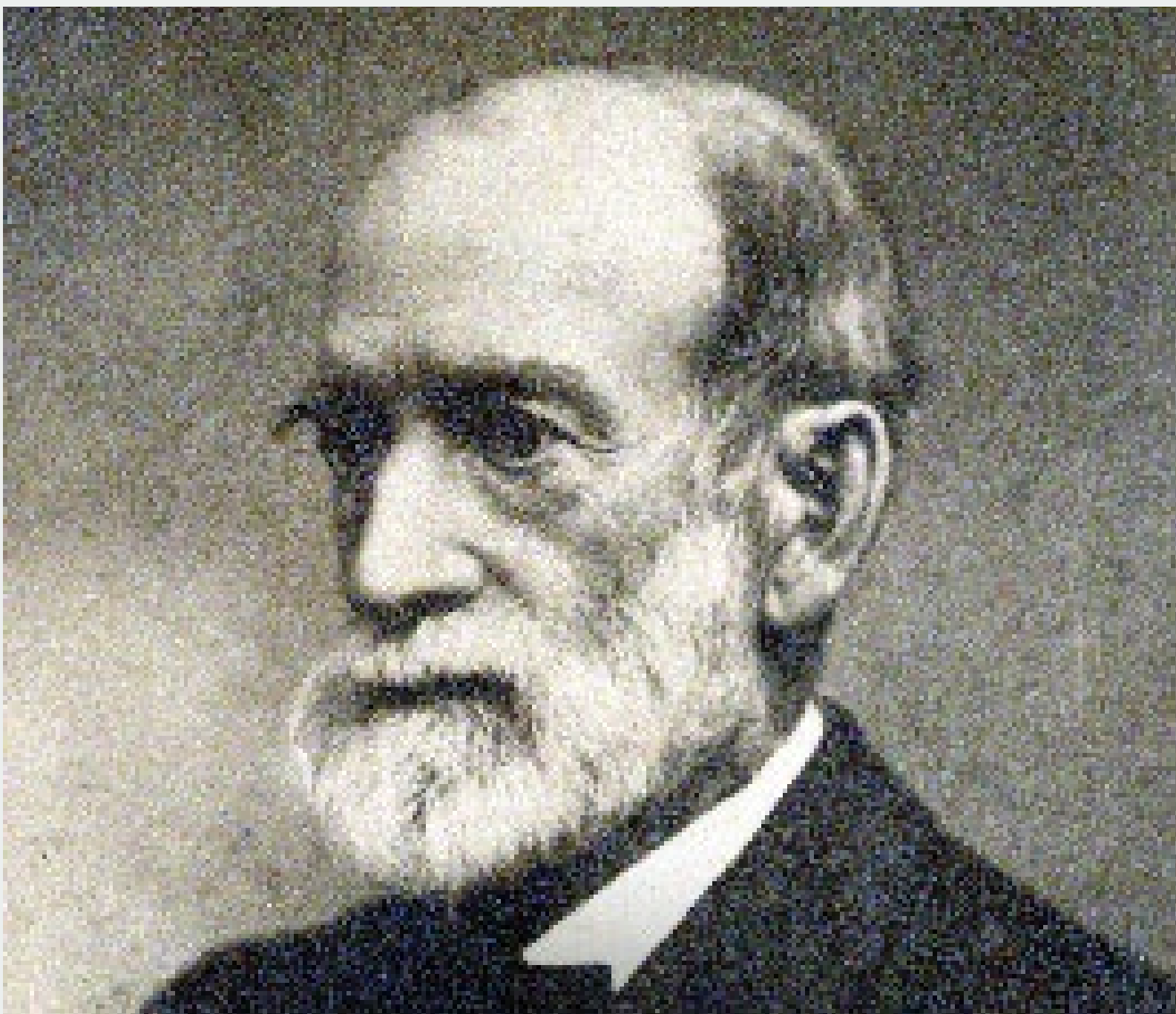
Exploring

The hidden stories

of the **ARCHAEOLOGICAL**

Museum

Reverend Georges E. Post by Nesrine Aad
[*Click here*](#)




Funerary portrait reliefs of Palmyra
by Reine Mady
[*Click here*](#)





Curator's Picks



The thematic evolution of museums globally is a contentious topic across a wide-ranging series of debates. Each month, Curator Nadine Panayot scrutinizes the media for interesting or provocative articles that stimulate ideas and initiate discussion on the controversial metamorphosis of the museum in the 21st c.



Through **the Curator's Pick's** series (over 30 handpicked articles shared between August 2, 2021 and April 4, 2022), and beyond archaeological new findings and global museums news, beyond adaptation to new technologies at the service of heritage and continuous collections' digitization, Curator Panayot has attempted to demonstrate how and why, for the rest of the 21st century, museums worldwide will be challenged to act responsibly by decolonizing their institutions, shifting their narratives, undertaking repatriation processes when deemed necessary and vital, while embracing sustainability and inclusivity, and offering once again a tempering and healing role.



Themes and articles selected for this newsletter's edition:

Inclusivity (the role of women since prehistoric times)

August 2, 2021

Here are six major archaeological discoveries that suggest Ancient Women Were Waaay More Powerful Than You May Believe

[Click here](#)



A reconstruction of a Wilamaya Patjxa vicuña hunt by artist Matthew Verdolivo, UC Davis IET Academic Technology Services. Courtesy Randall Haas.

Repatriation

October 25, 2021

La “tablette de Gilgamesh”, vieille de 3 500 ans et l’une des plus anciennes œuvres littéraires, va être rendue à l’Irak

[Click here](#)



La ‘tablette de Gilgamesh’ US Department of Homeland Security

February 21, 2022

British Museum should review its position on the Parthenon Marbles, Unesco body says

[Click here](#)



Parthenon sculptures in the British Museum
© Marie-Lan Nguyen

Technologies at the service of Heritage

January 3, 2022

Lasers reveal construction inspired by ancient Mexican pyramids in Maya ruins

[Click here](#)



The Temple of the Feathered Serpent (shown) is the smallest of the three giant pyramids at the ancient Mexican city of Teotihuacan.

© DIEGOGRANDI/ISTOCK/GETTY IMAGES PLUS

January 31, 2022

Radiometric dating puts pieces of the past in context. Here's how

[Click here](#)



The famous skeleton Lucy is too old for radiocarbon dating. But using argon-argon dating on tiny crystals in layers of volcanic ash sandwiching the sediments where Lucy was found, researchers have put the fossils at 3.18 million years old.

© JOHN KAPPELMAN/UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN (CC BY)



Shattered and Restored

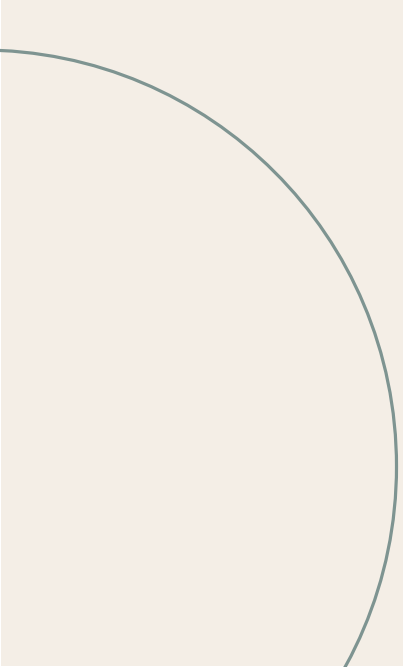
*Through
Shattered Glass;*
an interdisciplinary
workshop focused
on ancient glass
fragments,
their analysis,
reconstruction and
conservation,
January 17–18, 2022.

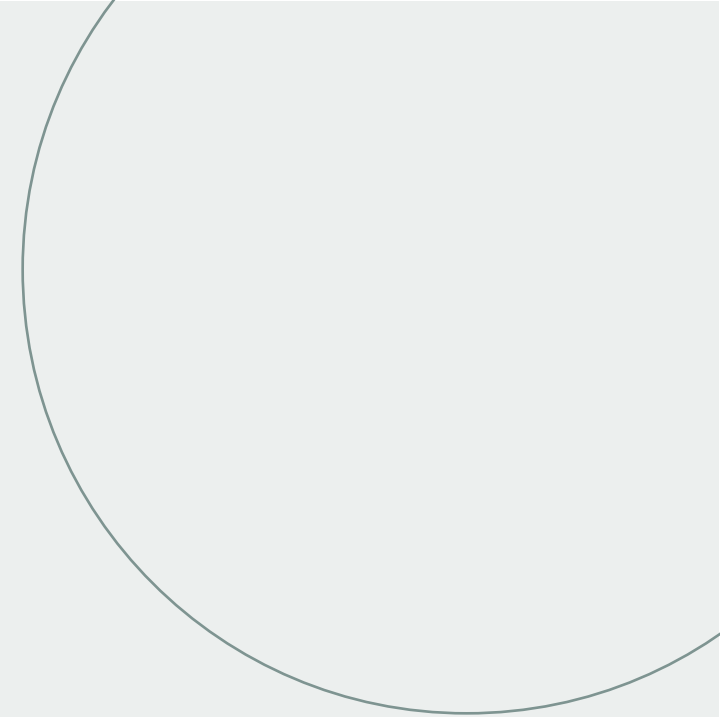


Background

The AUB Archaeological Museum suffered significant damage in the August 4, 2020, explosion. Most devastatingly, the blast toppled a critical showcase containing 74 well-preserved archaeological glass vessels from the Early Roman, Byzantine, and Islamic periods. All but two of these priceless, irreplaceable artifacts were shattered. When we lifted the showcase from the floor a month later, underneath we found pure chaos. Thousands of glass shards from the precious vessels were mixed up with the glass from the showcase panels and shelves, and from surrounding broken glass windows. We were literally swimming in a sea of glass!

In modern physics, “chaos” is potential order where an outcome is bound up within a set of initial conditions; this is not the same as “disorder”. The popular concept of “disorder” is the lack of relationship between pieces, a jumble of elements, or the absence of pattern.

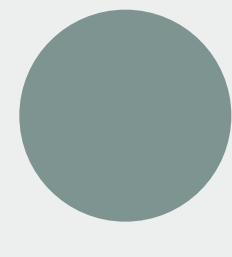



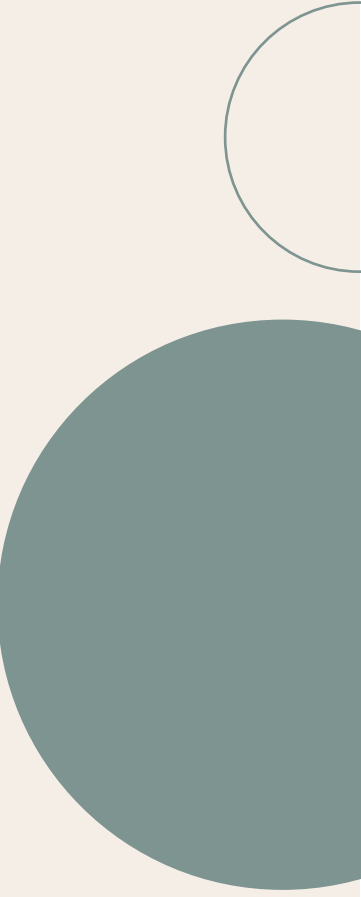


What we saw went beyond disorder; it felt more like entropy or the gradual decline into disorder crystallizing somehow the dismemberment of Lebanon. So, which was it—chaos, disorder, or entropy?

Another popular concept wrongfully attributes the saying: Order from Chaos to Nietzsche, who celebrated the bit of chaos that goes beyond our tidy and too facile picture of the world. He argued that anything that does not grow or reinvent itself is lifeless and at a dead end.

Out of these thousands of minute shards, thanks to interdisciplinarity and outstanding teamwork, came repair and restitution drawn from the knowledge that arises across the academic disciplines, through examining the common ground or tensions between them, and resolving the area of concern across these disciplines.





Hence, this unprecedented workshop, entitled Through Shattered Glass, was made possible thanks to multiple collaborations that have taken place to help our museum recover from the painful blow, and builds on these collaborations with sessions on the archaeology and typology of ancient glass in our region, the cutting-edge restoration techniques that have been used, and how this disaster can actually lead us to better understand ancient glass-working procedures.

Thanks and gratefulness are due to all our partners in this innovative approach:



- **The first collaboration with the French Institut National du Patrimoine,**

funded by ALIPH, in September 2020, oversaw the painstaking sifting through thousands of glass fragments from the mixed debris, which included glass from the showcase and its shelves, the surrounding windows, and the archaeological artifacts themselves, which were collected, identified, and packed with proper material flown to Lebanon by the mission. That first phase of the project was a learning case study, approached forensically by picking up the fragments as if they were on a field archaeological excavation, using horizontal stratigraphical layers. This strategy facilitated the identification of the fragments with their original inventory number. Most glass vessels were catalogued as shattered beyond repair, with only 18 items being salvageable.



Glass conservator Claire Cuyaubère sorts through shards to recover ancient broken glass vessels



- **The second mission**

was organized in June-July 2021 and saw hundreds of the glass fragments pieced back together and 10 glass vessels restored by the INP experts again funded by ALIPH and the AUB Museum team with the support of archaeology students. This led to the design of a new field course in partnership with the Department of History and Archaeology at the AUB Faculty of Arts and Sciences (FAS).



Glass vessels restored by INP experts Claire Cuyaubère and Cécile Rodier after the August 4, 2020 Beirut blast

- **The third mission**

in partnership with the Digital Cultural Heritage (DITCH) center at AUB's Maroun Semaan Faculty of Engineering and Architecture (MSFEA), is focused on overseeing student projects to develop virtual 3D reconstructions of selected broken glass vessels.



Glass bottle
(Inventory# 4303)



Glass flask
(Inventory# 4150)

First attempts of 3D reconstructions of the broken glass vessels by AUB students Alaa Abboud and Amin Berjaoui from the Department of Mechanical Engineering (work in progress).

- **The fourth mission**

in partnership with the AUB Department of Physics at FAS and the Science and Technology in Archaeology and Culture Research Center (STARC) at the Cyprus Institute, will be to conduct an analysis of the chemical composition of the fragments and shards originating from the shattered glass objects. Emphasis will be put on non-invasive analysis, with invasive sampling restricted to those fragments that cannot be restored.



AUB physics research assistant Sahag Bozoian and Levon Kalaydjian conducting analysis using XRF machine

- **The fifth mission**

saw the British Museum, funded by The European Fine Art Fair (TEFAF) stepping in to restore eight vessels, those suitable for shipment to London for restoration by the conservation laboratories of the British Museum. Once the glass vessels are fully restored, they will go on temporary display at the British Museum “ROOM 3” before traveling back to Beirut. The British Museum is also graciously offering to train AUB Museum assistant Aimée Bou Rizk.

[Click here](#)



Broken fragments packed by the French team, ready to be shipped to the British Museum

The exhibition at the British Museum is currently being cocurated by Curator Nadine Panayot, James Fraser, curator for the Ancient Levant and Anatolia, and Zeina Klink-Hope, Phyllis Bishop curator for the Modern Middle East, to tell the story of the AUB glass recovery to a global audience.

TEFAF ONLINE 2021

THANK YOU FOR MAKING TEFAF VIRTUAL PROGRAMMING SUCH A SUCCESS

3.048

total programming registrants

1.726

total programming attendees

411.177

total page views

"Many thanks for allowing us to get a virtual taste of the fair this year whilst we are unable to visit Maastricht."

— Anonymous programming attendee (survey 2021)

TEFAF TALKS BY FINANCIAL TIMES

TEFAF ONLINE 2021

TEFAF TALKS

PUBLIC SPIRITEDNESS VS. PRIVATE PASSIONS: THE GREAT DEBATE

Wednesday 8th of September

7 - 8pm CET / 1 - 2pm EST

PRESENTED BY

FT

TEFAF ONLINE 2021

TEFAF TALKS

THE FUTURE OF ART FAIRS

Thursday 9th of September

7 - 8pm CET / 1 - 2pm EST

PRESENTED BY

FT

TEFAF ONLINE 2021

TEFAF TALKS

RESTORING PUBLIC MASTERPIECES FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

Friday 10th of September

7 - 8pm CET / 1 - 2pm EST

PRESENTED BY

FT

1.795

registrants

"I thoroughly enjoyed the online programming. Meet the Experts and the other talks. What a treat to listen to the conversations from home. Thank you!"

— Anonymous programming attendee (survey 2021)

1.023

attendees

PLEASE CLICK ON THE IMAGE BELOW TO WATCH THE RECORDING

63 registrants / 51 attendees

290 registrants / 160 attendees

141 registrants / 74 attendees

The recordings are for internal use only and are not allowed to be shared without permission of TEFAF

8

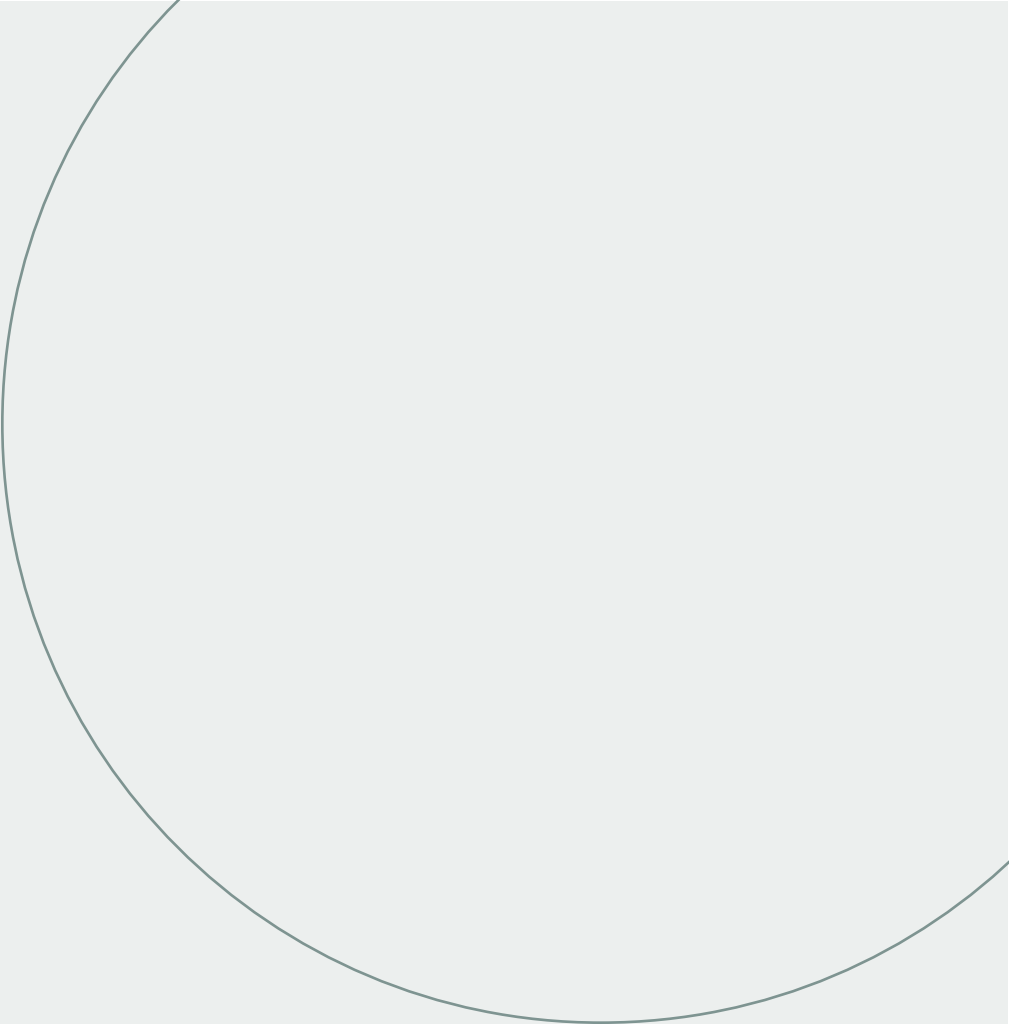
Announcement of TEFAF’s Talks with the Financial Times.

- **The sixth mission**

an experiential one, welcomed renowned scholar Stephen Koob, recently retired as chief conservator from the Corning Museum of Glass in New York, and Conservator Claire Cuyaubère from the INP graciously volunteering their time and expertise for a period of two weeks and restoring six broken glass artifacts, taught an intensive hands-on course on glass restoration to specialist and non-specialists, and participated in person at the international workshop.



Stephen Koob and Claire Cuyaubère taught a course on glass restoration to specialist and non-specialist participants.



*“If time is part
of healing,
sorting through
matter is part
of mourning.”*

New York Magazine



Experimental Significance

The various initiatives described above stem from the catastrophic August 4, 2020, event and its dire consequences on tangible and movable heritage, developing organically around the shattered glass collection at the AUB Archaeological Museum. They are building blocks for a long-term strategy to reconstruct the past by connecting it to the present. The documentation of the destruction of this material culture, and its restoration and new valorization through different scientific approaches, grants archaeological materials a healing mission beyond their scientific and academic values.

[Click here](#)

Description of the workshop

The American University of Beirut (AUB) **Archaeological Museum** aims at collaborating with multiple working groups across AUB and beyond, offering material culture for assessment, analysis, and publication with the clear objective of preserving, conserving, restoring, and disseminating the value and relevance of cultural heritage.

Therefore, the **AUB Archaeological Museum** in collaboration with the Science and Technology in Archaeology and Culture Research Center (STARC) of the Cyprus Institute, the Institute of Archaeology at the University of Trier, The Institut Français du Proche-Orient, the Center For Advanced Mathematical Sciences (CAMS), the DIgiTal Cultural Heritage (DITCH) center at the Maroun Semaan Faculty of Engineering and Architecture (MSFEA),

the Department of Physics, and the Department of History and Archeology at the Faculty of Arts and Sciences (FAS) at AUB, has organized an international and multidisciplinary workshop inviting specialists to guide and support the field of experiential and multilayered glass study.

This workshop is a first step of a series of future initiatives to implement interdisciplinary investigations across faculties.

Four axes were explored over two days

- **Archaeology/typology of glass**
- **Glass restoration**
- **Material science and glass**
- **Computer vision and glass reconstruction**

Watch the videos of the workshop:

Day 1, [Click here](#)

Day 2, [Click here](#)

Restoration of the broken glass vessels with Chief Conservator Stephen Koob and Conservator Claire Cuyaubère

January 4, 2022

Video by U.S. Embassy Beirut on Stephen Koob and his help in restoring broken glass vessels

[Click here](#)





Beirut Glass Project at the British Museum

March 28, 2022–April 19, 2022

An update from AUB Museum's Aimée Bou Rizk who joined the conservation team working in London.

The eight objects arrived safely to the British Museum from Beirut on December 16, 2021.

Glass Restoration Expert Claire Cuyaubère arrived in London on Sunday March 27, 2022. We received a warm welcome from everybody at the British Museum (BM) where Duygu Camurcuoglu and Loretta Hogan, conservators at the BM, helped us with everything we needed to get started. Work on the glass began on April 1, 2022.



The Beirut Glass Project has its own room in the BM conservation studio floor. It is a spacious room with large tables and flat surfaces on which to spread out the glass, along with all the conservation materials and devices needed. The six boxes containing the eight glass objects were on the tables waiting for us to begin unpacking. We arranged the conservation studio with Claire, organizing foam on the tables, preparing the trays, and setting up the photography corner.



Small cup inv. #5964

The first two objects we removed from the boxes were the small cup inv. #5964 and the blue ripped bowl inv. #3925. All their fragments were carefully arranged on trays with no loses to report. The third was the big plate inv. #3653. We took out the fragments according to the puzzle work that had been done before the packing in Beirut, placing the fragments directly on the photography corner to take a photo of the object before treatment.



Blue ripped bowl inv. #3925



Big plate inv. #3653

This object was a little bit tricky with lots of fragments, so the puzzle work was extremely tedious. After completing an approximated puzzle work, we took a photo of the object before treatment, and Claire did more puzzle work on the plate the following days.

The next three objects removed from the boxes were the yellow beaker inv. #4218, the Islamic bottle inv. #4536, and the long flask inv. #4150. We worked on their respective puzzles arranging the fragments on the trays according to their correct placement.



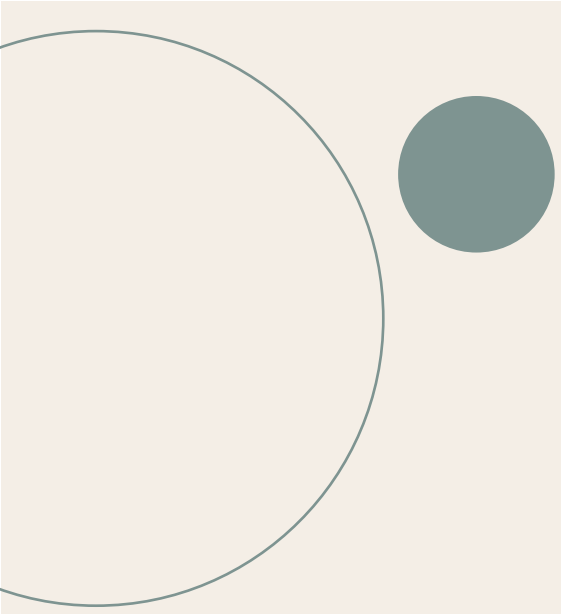
Yellow beaker
inv. #4218



Islamic bottle
inv. #4536



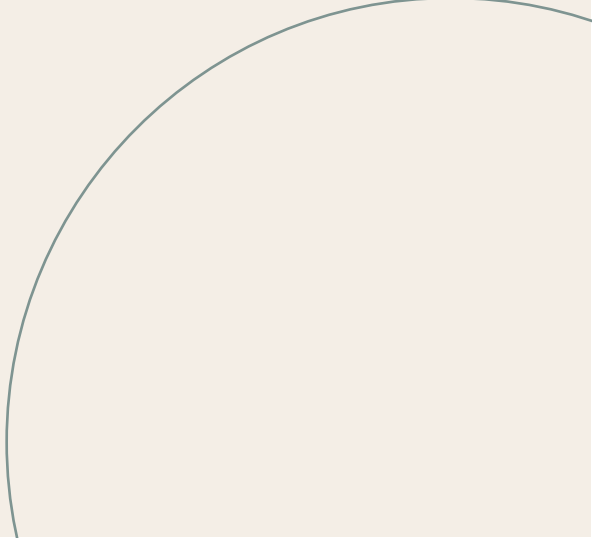
Long flask
inv. #4150



After some surface cleaning, the first object Claire put back together was the blue ripped bowl inv. #3925 followed by the small cup inv. #5964.

As scientific analysis is being carried out in parallel with the restoration work, we took samples of soil from the jug inv. #4143 and samples of soil and exterior deposits from the bottle inv. #4536 for the science department. There, Reflectance Transformation Imaging (RTI) was performed on one fragment from the blue ripped bowl inv. #3925 and two from the yellow beaker inv. #4218.

So, until now, two objects have been restored, six are out of their boxes, and scientific analysis is in process.

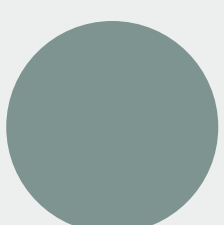




Event: celebrating the International Woman's Day



**Women's Voices and
Achievements: Past,
Present and Future**

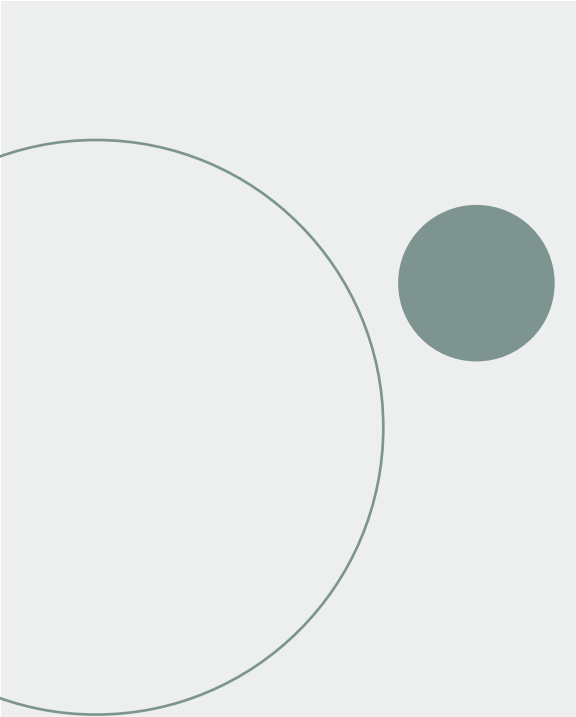


A Collaborative Celebration of March 8, 2022, by Lina Abou Habib: International Women's Rights Day

(IWD) on March 8th is the culmination of decades of struggle by women and girls for recognition, equality, visibility, and voice. This global day celebrates the historical, cultural, and political achievements of women. The IWD is also a milestone to celebrate the diversity of women and girls, their collective activism, and the continuous journey towards gender equality and freedom from violence.

This year, March 8th coincided with AUB's Co-Ed Centennial, a landmark in the history of AUB!





AUB Libraries, the Asfari Institute for Civil Society and Citizenship, the AUB Archeological Museum, the Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Relations, the Office of Communications, and the AUB MEPI program co-organized a series of activities on March 8, 2022.

The event was launched in the AUB Libraries' lobby, featuring a special collection of publications about women in the media in the MENA region. This was followed by an AUB intergenerational all-women, interactive moderated panel.

The next event took place at the AUB Archeological Museum with the opening of Mother Earth, an exhibition and animated short film on goddesses of fertility through the ages. The exhibition featured 10 sculptures by the artist Andrée Hochar Fattal.

The day ended with the screening, in cooperation with the Beirut Art Film Festival, of Sheherazade's Diary directed by Zeina Daccache. This was followed by a discussion on the movie and critical gender issues confronting women in Lebanon.

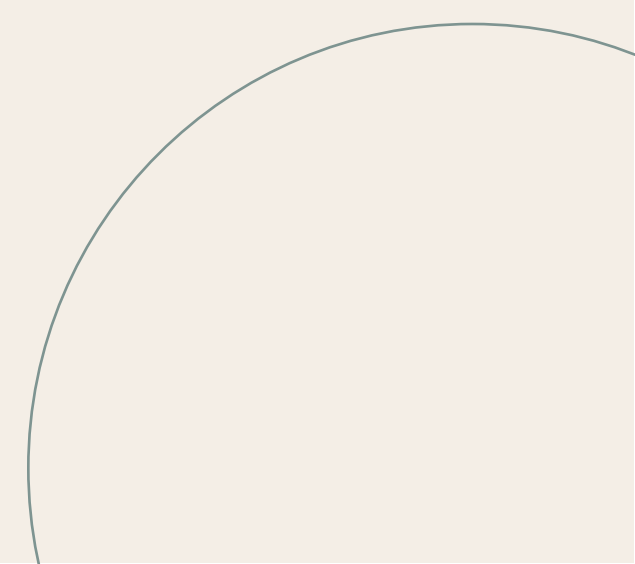


Celebrating International Women's Day at the AUB Archaeological Museum

By Nadine Panayot

Mother Earth is an installation of sculptures by Andrée Hochar Fattal, resonating with the AUB Archaeological Museum's Goddesses of Fertility, a daring face to face cultural dialogue that verbalizes the unspoken and reveals the oneness of women through the ages.

In an attempt to reconstruct the past by connecting it to the present, some 10 selected pieces, Tourbillon, Méditerranée, Déesse, Thalassa, Osmose, Ma Pomme, Fruit Défendu, Etoile du jour, Elle, and Fécondité were handpicked by virtue of the innate emotional ties and meanings that they represent in our collection.





Archaeological
Museum

MOTHER EARTH

AUB Archaeological Museum. Till April 30, 2022

An
installation
of
**Andrée
Hochar
Fattal's**
sculptures,
resonating
with the
Museum's
Goddesses
of fertility



Andrée Hochar Fattal
(©May Geha Badawi)

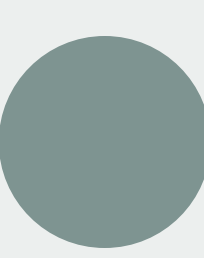



Andrée Hochar Fattal studied art in Lebanon and France and has participated widely in group and solo exhibitions internationally since the 1990s.

She recently returned to her shattered fold, Lebanon, after years of absence, to confront her loss and pain in the form of lovingly crafted women's bodies molded and shaped with clay. These sensuous, voluptuous figures celebrate the beauty of womanhood, motherhood (she has three daughters), and fertility.

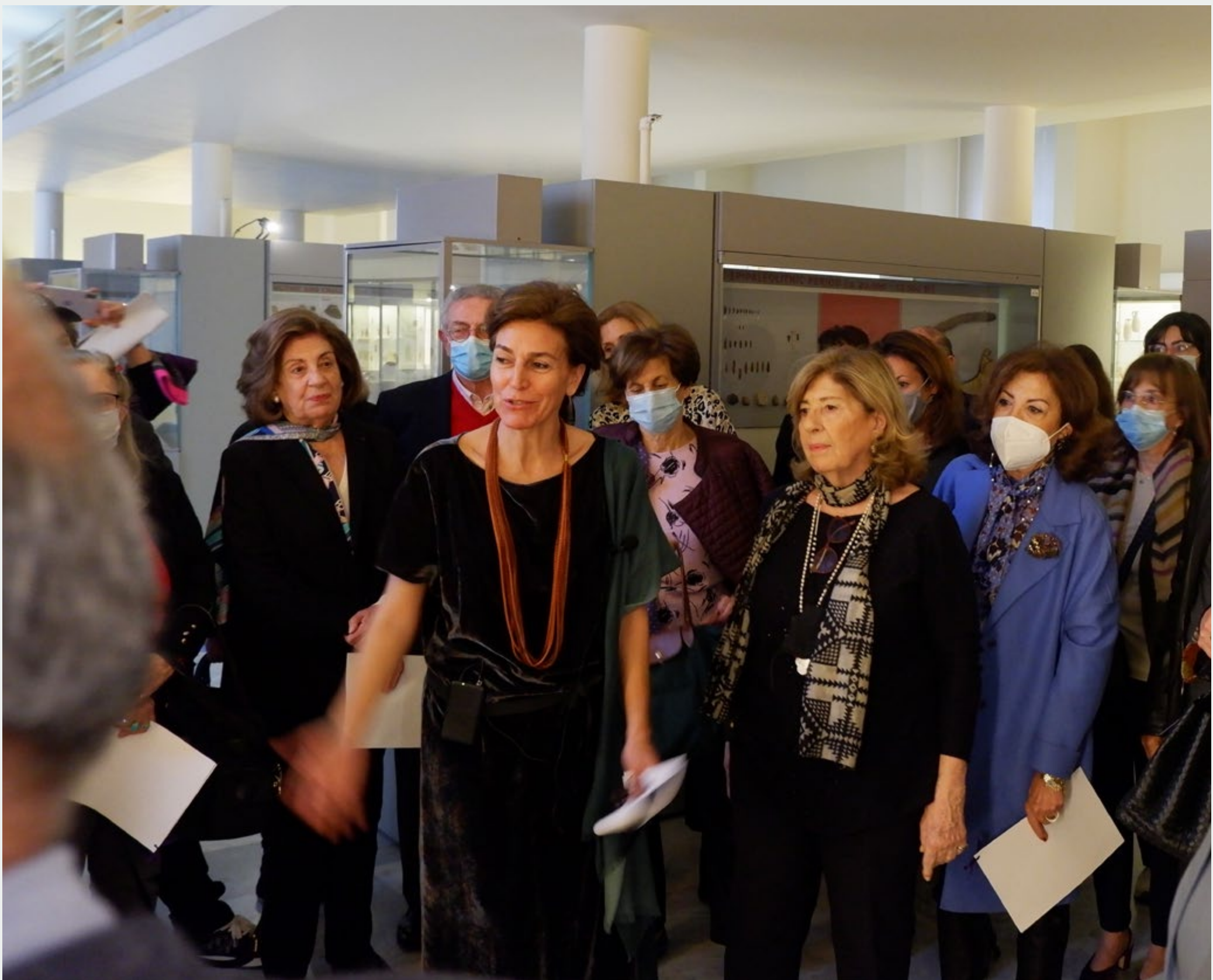
Rising above her loss and pain, she strives to rehabilitate and restore the woman's self-respect and esteem in celebration of "Her", inviting us all to reach out, touch the forbidden fruit, and regain the place we, women, once occupied millennia ago.

In the wake of the August 4, 2020, explosion, Fattal has worked tirelessly, like Sisyphus, in an attempt to heal. Mother Earth is dedicated in loving memory of her sister, Marion Hochar Ibrahimchah, brutally killed on August 4.



Perhaps, there are no better words than those of the inspiring Hanna Segal (1918–2011) who, in 1946, became the youngest analyst of the British Psychoanalytical Society, and author of *A Psychoanalytic Approach to Aesthetics*:

“... It is when the world within us is destroyed, when it is dead and loveless, when our loved ones are in fragments, and we ourselves in helpless despair - it is then that we must re-create our world anew, reassemble the pieces, infuse life into dead fragments, re-create life” (1952).



Nadine Panayot and Andrée Fattal guiding the audience at the “Mother Earth” exhibition

“Tourbillon” at the center of the Cedar from Lebanon

Tourbillon is a section of a Cedrus Libani log, originally 9.5 m long, original provenance unknown. It was found in Beirut near St. Georges Hotel and donated to AUB in 1982. Carbon 14 dating identified this largest known single piece of prehistoric Cedrus Libani to a tree that died around 7760 years ago. The count of its tree rings indicates that the tree actually lived for about 300 years.



“Méditerranée” *in conversation with the earliest female figurines*

In a time before written records, society was centered around women.

For over five thousand years, the gynocratic age flowered in peace and productivity. Women were worshipped as incarnations and priestesses of the Great Goddess, revered for their mysterious life-giving powers. They raised their children to carry on their line, developed art and technology, and made crucial community decisions.





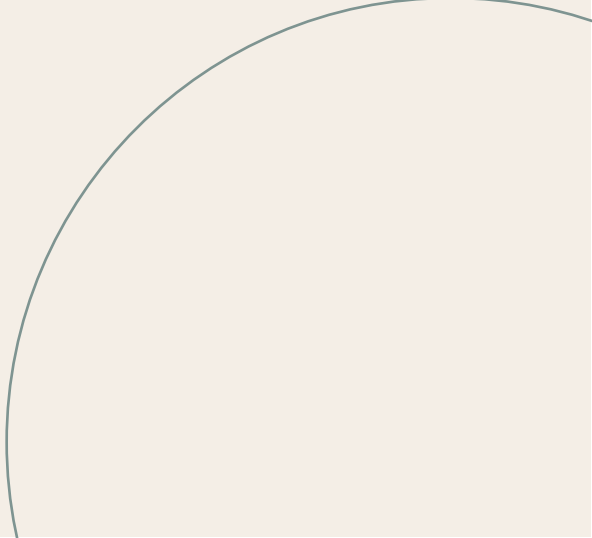
Then, there were the first civilizations.
Later, came the patriarchal societies.

The fashioning of clay figures is traced back to the creation of the world. In Sumerian cosmogonic mythology, Enki asks his mother the Goddess Nammu, to form a creature out of clay.

In the Biblical account of man's creation, the Creator also molds Adam out of clay.

Andrée Fattal kneads, molds, forges, forms and polishes her clay creations before they are cast in bronze, giving them life.

She gives birth to Eve in all her splendor and restores her rightful place in society. Her five sculptures in the Mother Earth exhibition capture the essence of iconic goddesses in antiquity.



“Déesse” *in conversation with* The earliest female fertility figurines

The artist’s brain acts like a palimpsest, absorbing and impregnating the images, feelings, and experiences of what she has seen or intuited for millennia, before translating them into art.

Subconsciously, almost casually, Andrée molds her fertility “Goddess” with a bird-like face using the same free hand modeling technique that has been applied since the early Bronze Age:

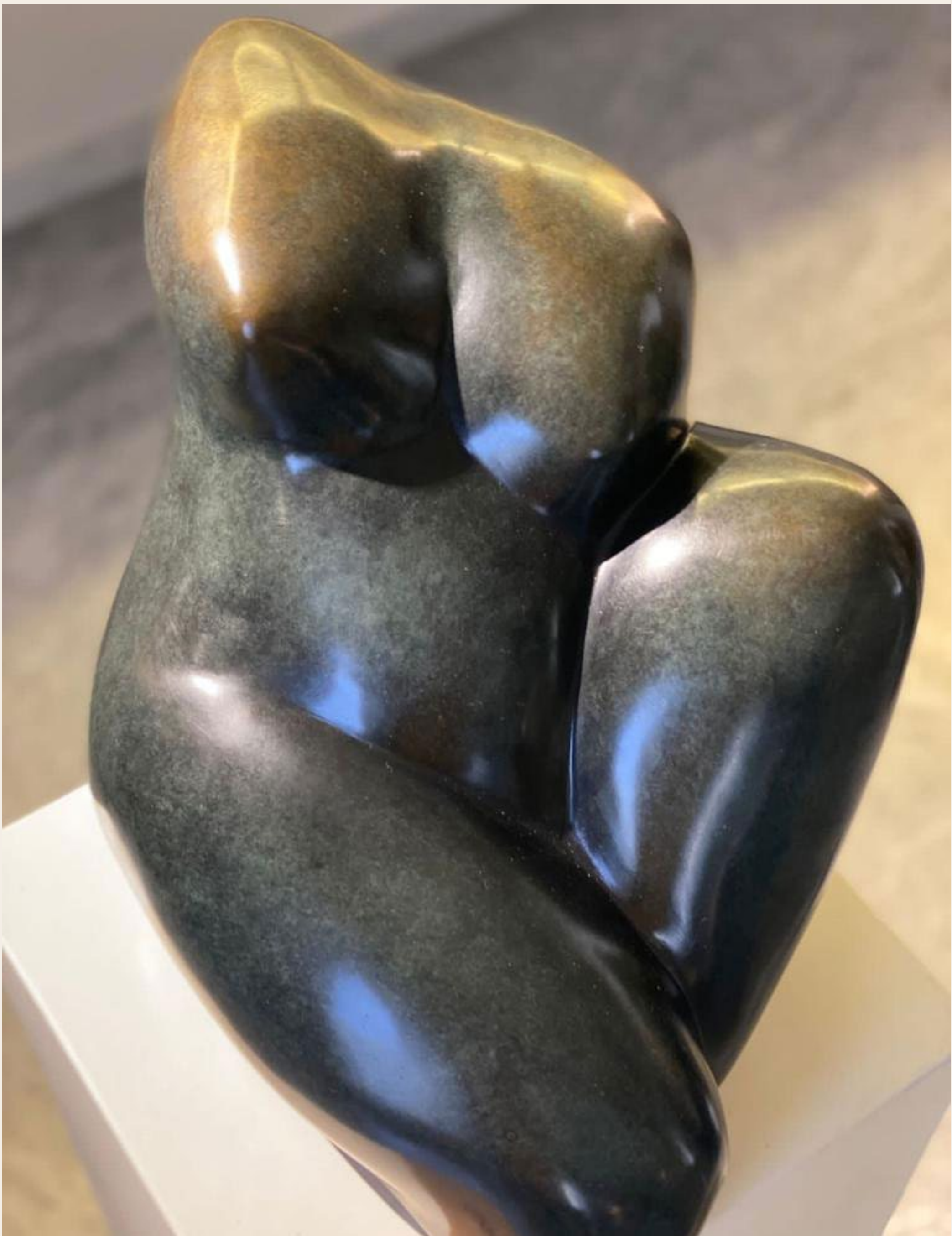
The Snow(o)man Technique (8th mill BC) in which the main features are pinched from a clay lump, is the most primitive one with a column-like body and flat torso.

The Figurines have flat backs and bird-like faces. The majority is female with fertility symbols emphasized; breasts, navel and pubic triangle. These are typical of the Orontes Valley and the Euphrates Valley and date to the Bronze Age.



“Thalassa” *in conversation with* 3000 years of evolving figurines

Thalassa was the primordial goddess (protogenos) of the sea. Mingled with Pontos (Pontus), her male counterpart, she produced the fish and other sea creatures. Thalassa was the literal body of the sea and in the fables of Aesop, manifests as a woman formed of seawater rising from her native element.



“Osmose” *in conversation with* Eros And Psyche

Terracotta figurine II-IV c. AD

Happily Ever After in Greek Mythology

Psyche is so lovely that Aphrodite, enraged, sends her son Eros (Cupid) to strike her, causing her to fall in love with the most unhappy and repulsive beast known to man. However, Eros falls in love with Psyche and only visits her at night, forbidding her from seeing him during the day.

Her sisters, on the other hand, beg her to gaze at Eros, which she does, breaking his trust. As Eros prepares to fly, Psyche catches up with him and apologizes for her mistrust, but he rejects her.



For her betrayal, Eros vows that she will never see him again. Psyche tries to drown herself but Pan tells her to win back Eros's love.

Aphrodite sets Psyche a series of increasingly difficult tasks.

Although Psyche fails the final task, the Gods make her immortal and she is reunited with Eros in eternal “Osmosis”.

“Ma pomme” in conversation with Aphrodite with the apple

The story begins with a banquet celebrating the wedding of the sea nymph Thetis with King Peleus.

Hurt at not being invited, Eris, the Goddess of Strife interrupted the festivities by throwing a golden apple onto the table, inscribed with one word “kallistēi,” meaning “to the fairest.” This simple deed wreaked havoc among the Goddesses.

In the end, Athena, Hera, and Aphrodite were selected for this mythical Miss World pageant. Wise as he is, Zeus did not choose, entrusting Paris instead, who ultimately chose Aphrodite, who had swayed him by promising the hand of the world's most beautiful woman, Helen of Sparta. Helen had a little flaw, being married to Sparta's king, Menelaus. With the help of Aphrodite, Paris vanished with Helen to Troy inciting the Greek's wrath and sparking the 10-year Trojan War.



تمثال الخصوبة (عشروت ؟) في جدل مع
“Fruit défendu et “Etoile du jour”
مصدر: لبنان، فزار، العصر الحديدي

... امر محتم، يفرض نفسه واقعا بديهيا: أن نلتقط
أنفسنا، أن نللمم أشلاءنا وحطام روحنا، وفتات ذاكرتنا
التي انتهكت ومزقت ونهبت ألف مرة ومرة. إنها ضرورة
النهوض والبحث عن لبنان جديد، ترميمه وإعادة نسجه
وبناؤه، واجب صنعه من جديد...

أيجب أن نرى، في كل ما جرى، نهاية أم بداية؟

هي نهاية لبنان بصيغته المجهضة القائمة على
اللائين، وبداية لبنان يولد من إرادة موحدة وتأسيسية،
علمانية حكماً.

و تصرخ بيروت:

لن أسامحكم يوما!

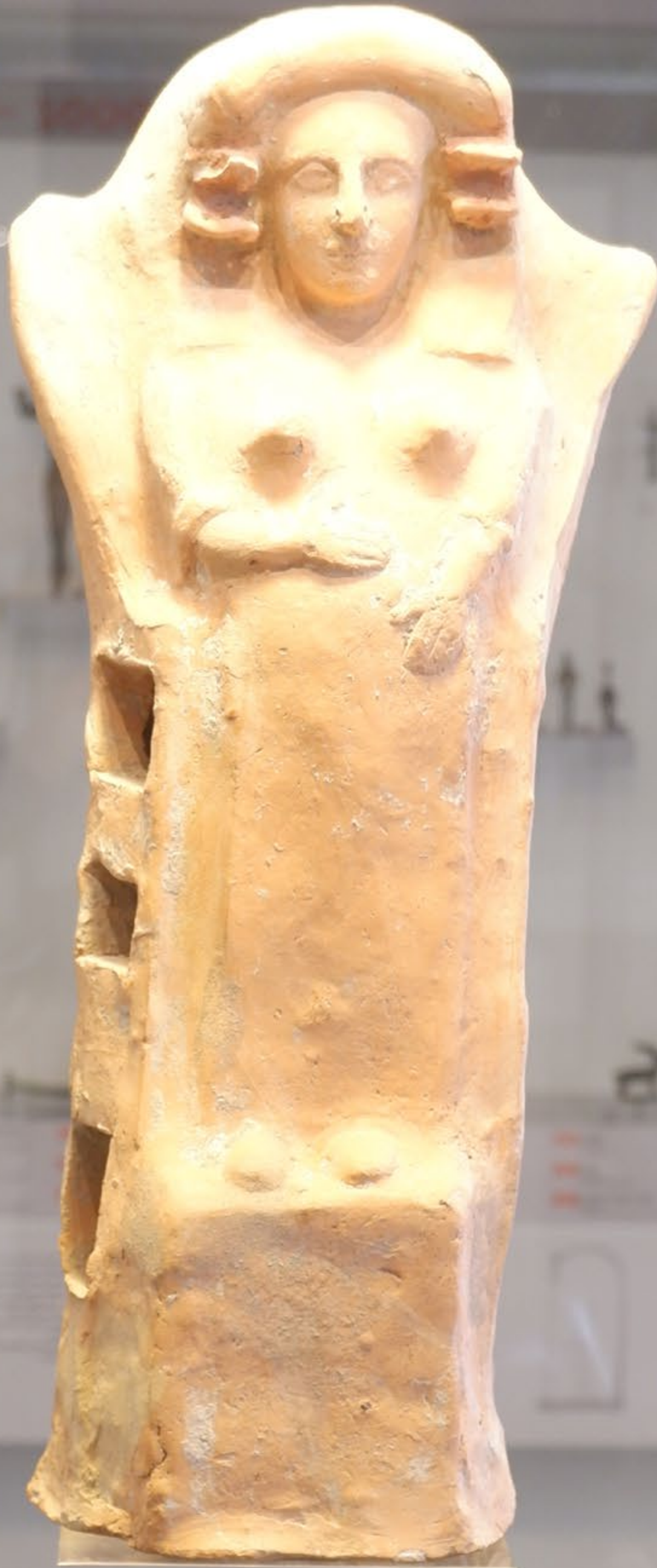
قتلتوني ألف مرة... مزقتهم أحشائي ألف مرة... أجريتم
حفريات أثرية في أمعائي ألف مرة... ومرة،

دون أن أستعيد روحي أو هويتي يوما !!!

تدعون أنني مت ألف مرة، وأعيد إحيائي ألف مرة؟

“Beyrouth mille fois morte, mille fois revécue”

مهما انحنيتم عند قدمي لن أسامحكم يوما!!!



"Fruit défendu"

في جدل مع

تمثال الخصوبة (عشروت ؟)

مسرحيات، المسرح المنوي

... واقعاً بديهياً: أن نلتقط أنفسنا، أن نللم أشلاءنا وحطام روحنا، وفئات ذاكرتنا التي انتهكت ومزقت ونُهبت ألف مرة ومرة. ضرورة النهوض والبحث عن لبنان جديد، ترميمه وإعادة نسجه وبناءه...
أجب أن نرى، في كل ما جرى، نهاية أم بداية؟

“Fécondité” et “Elle” conversant avec Woman breastfeeding

Une agora des agoras, Beyrouth 2019

...« Ils sont soutenus » disent certains, par des ambassades. Ils sont soutenus en effet, par leur soif d’avenir et par leurs MÈRES en dépit des dangers, et des accidents sciemment provoqués, et de leurs conséquences douloureuses.

D’autres femmes, ces belles et magnifiques amazones, accourent à leur tour ! Qu’apprennent-elles dans ses agoras, elles qui étaient bannies des agoras grecques ?

Réunies une nuit de novembre sous un ciel étoilé, une bougie à la main pour toute arme, elles ont compris même si elles le savaient depuis des millénaires, qu’elles étaient libres, seules maîtresses de leur corps et de leurs tripes !



Que concevoir un enfant était un choix et non un devoir, un projet pensé, réfléchi, désiré et conçu, à deux... Ou pas, et non un projet de chair à canon, financé ... Ou pas.

Qu'elles pouvaient disposer de leurs entrailles et refuser qu'elles soient des incubateurs de haine et de violence.

Elles ont compris qu'elles étaient désormais unies dans la lutte pour la garde de leurs enfants, unies contre les mariages forcés, unies pour transmettre la nationalité à leurs enfants. Qu'il était désormais non seulement leur droit, mais leur devoir de n'être assujetti à aucune forme de servitude.

Cette nuit-là, quand elles sont appelées à la prière pour le Liban, une seule voix, un seul cri rauque sorti de leurs entrailles scandait : Thawra !

Un miracle venait de se produire : ces magnifiques femmes libanaises s'étaient réappropriées leur statut plusieurs fois millénaire que les sociétés patriarcales leur avaient extirpé, de divinités éternelles.

Curator Nadine Panayot (Extrait d'un article de paru dans l'Orient-le Jour, le 25 novembre 2019).

Tributes

Singing in Praise

by Nadine Panayot.

On April 27, as the late evening sunshine streamed through the window of the AUB Archaeological Museum, a remarkable nonagenarian took his seat among friends, and relatives gathered in his honor.

They were there to celebrate the life of Prof. Samir Tabet, AUB vice president emeritus and longstanding president emeritus of The Society of the Friends of the AUB Museum.



Prof. Samir Tabet surrounded by his family

The event, organized by the Society of Friends of the AUB Museum, included a captivating operatic concert as homage to the man who had given so much to AUB. In the presence of President Khuri and Provost Dawy, Nadine Panayot, Curator of the AUB Museum, delivered a speech tracing Prof. Tabet's inspiring career as an accomplished academic and artist, including his four-year period as AUB acting president, when amid raging war, he held the fort at AUB, sleeping in College Hall, maintaining a defiant stance in a hostile environment.

In her speech, Curator Panayot quoted the story of when Aristotle was asked, "where dwell the Muses", and he answered, "In the souls of those who love work." She added, "Throughout his life, Samir was such a soul, precise, rigorous, hardworking and perseverant, and at the same time, refined, sophisticated, and elegant, with a dash of panache".



Prof. Samir Tabet with Nadine Panayot, Curator of the AUB Archaeological Museum

Later, against an iconic backdrop of museum statues, Mezzo-Soprano Eliane Saadeh accompanied by string quartet Camil Mucca, Rita Asdikian, Joe Daou, and Nayiry Ghazarian, with Armen Kechek, on piano, delighted the audience with their accomplished musical performance.



Mezzo-Soprano Eliane Saadeh

Decades of Devotion

by Maureen Ali.

Working undercover, a crack team from the AUB Museum and Friends of the Museum was on track to complete its secret operation. Invitations prepared, speeches written, power point presentation assembled, food ordered, plaque delivered, photo album almost ready for print, the final touches for the planned tribute Honoring Former Director Leila Badre, 45 Years of Curatorship were almost in place.

The time had come to reveal the plot to the guest of honor, who till then was completely oblivious to all this frenetic activity on her behalf.

Scheduled to take place on May 18, the International Museum Day's The Power of Museums, the tribute was a much-anticipated event for Leila's friends, family, colleagues, and supporters of the AUB Museum. They were not disappointed.




It was a mild, sunny evening as people arrived amid hugs, greetings, and broad smiles, filing into the lecture room and settling down as Curator Nadine Panayot took to the podium. But where was Leila? As Nadine began her speech it became apparent that the guest of honor had disappeared. Leila had gone AWOL in search of her beloved sister who had just arrived from Damascus. Once she reappeared, it took a few minutes while she reorganized the seating arrangements before Nadine could begin again. Quintessential Leila!!

Saluting Leila's years of dedication to the development and renovation of the museum, Nadine said, "Dear Leila, in the face of wars, invasions, destruction, tragedy, and all in between, you are an example of devotion, tenacity, determination, and resilience".




Former Director Leila Badre thanks colleagues, staff and friends



The impossible task of summarizing Leila's long and successful career befell longstanding Friends Committee member and archaeologist manqué, Dean Arda Ekmeji. Aided by a slick power point photographic presentation, Arda took the audience through a whirlwind tour of events, excavations, trips, and triumphant milestones in Leila's remarkable tenure at the AUB Museum.

“...Empowerment, in fact all those who have worked with Leila have been empowered by her professionalism, honesty, determinism, stubbornness and perseverance?”

AUB President Fadlo Khuri saluted Leila: “... One of the reasons the arc of history bends towards justice is because faithful individuals, rare individuals like Leila Badre who devote their lives to keeping that thread of history alive, through curating, through discovering, through



documenting, through protecting... This is an individual who has left her imprint in keeping the arc of History inexorably bending towards Justice, thank you Leila.”



Stepping into the limelight, Leila delivered a speech filled with wit and wisdom, gratitude and grace. She thanked all those who had helped and supported her throughout her tenure, the museum staff, the Society of Friends of the Museum, and Former Provost Samir Tabet for appointing her to turn, “...this space into a real cultural center for AUB and Ras Beirut. More so for bringing together people of ‘East and West Beirut’ as they were referred to then.” She concluded by wishing Nadine, her successor, “...an optimistic future full of hopes.” After which she exhorted all present to use their voting ‘finger’ towards a better future in the upcoming national elections!

But there was more to come... Gently steered through the museum she so lovingly nurtured, Leila was brought up short next to the plaque commemorating its restoration. As the audience gathered around her, her curiosity was piqued by a strange new addition under wraps on the adjacent wall. With a big smile and a flourish, President Khuri stripped away the cover to reveal, to Leila's delight, a facsimile plaque honoring her 45 years of service to the museum.

The surprise was complete, but not quite. Minutes later, Leila was delighted to receive a souvenir photo album, Leila Badre's Memories, lovingly assembled by Friends Committee newcomer Najla Saab and the trusty museum team.



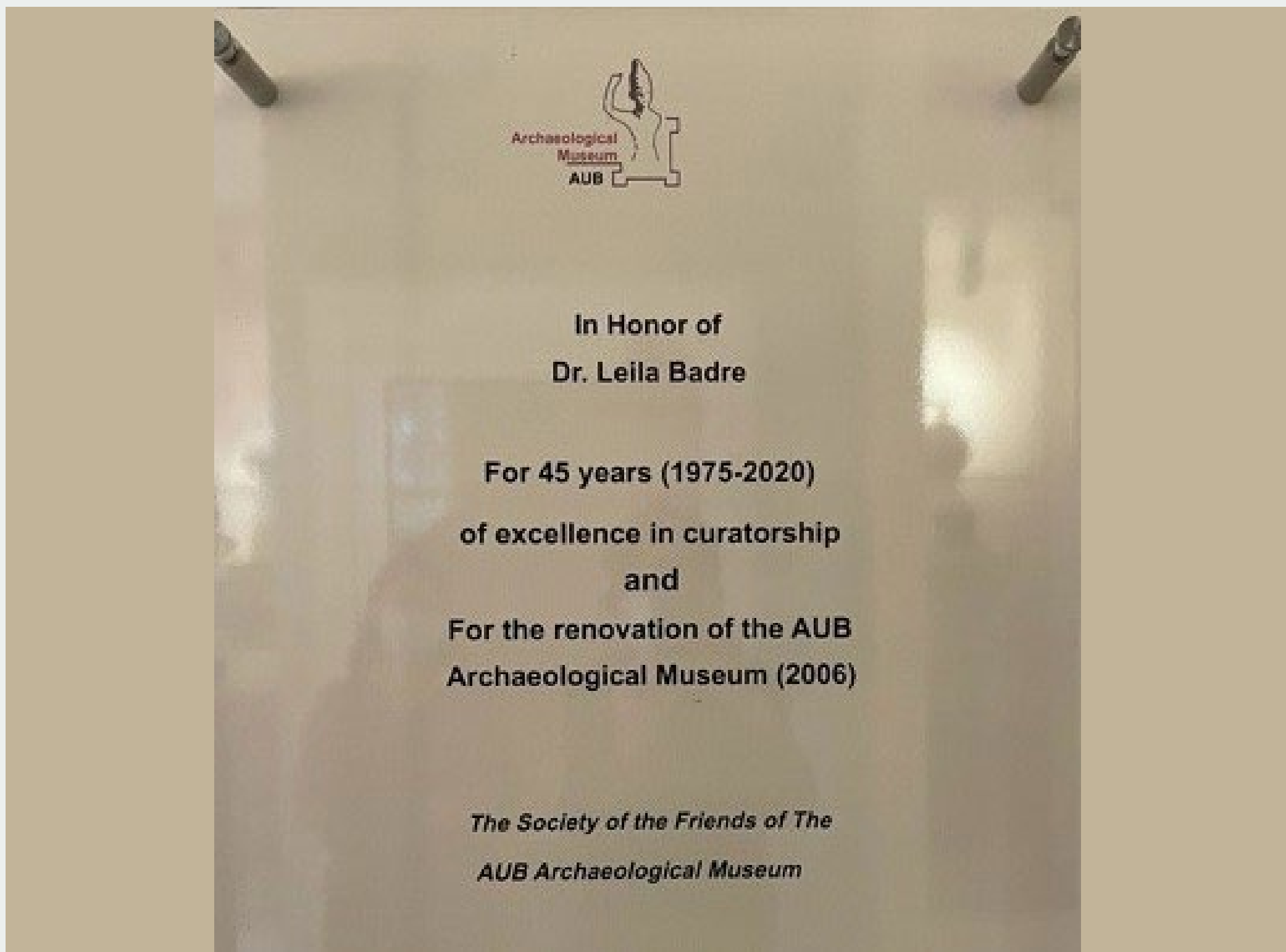
As the crowd spilled out into the garden, the music struck up and drinks were poured. A magnificent chocolate cake dominated a food-laden table, replete with vases of fresh spring flowers. Veteran Friends committee members Amal Saab and Shirine Daouk once again demonstrated their legendary expertise in mounting a magical museum garden party, which Leila enjoyed to the full.

Installed behind a large round table, she chatted and joked for the rest of the evening, relishing time spent with fellow museum curators, an endless succession of well-wishers and cherished friends who had shared and supported her work across the decades.



Former Director Leila Badre surrounded by her friends and AUB Museum team

It was truly a well-deserved tribute and a happy occasion for all present.



Prestigious Award by Maureen Ali.

On 17, June 2022, Former Director Leila Badre was awarded the Academic Prize from the Académie des Inscriptions et Belles Lettres for her contributions to archaeological works in the Levant:

Lors de son comité secret du vendredi 17 juin, l'Académie a approuvé la proposition de la commission de la Fondation Louis de Clercq, réunie le 3 juin, d'attribuer sa subvention annuelle à Mme Leila Badre pour soutenir ses travaux en archéologie levantine et couronner l'ouvrage intitulé : *Nuit de pleine lune sur Amurru. Mélanges offerts à Leila Badre* (Paris, Geuthner, 2019).

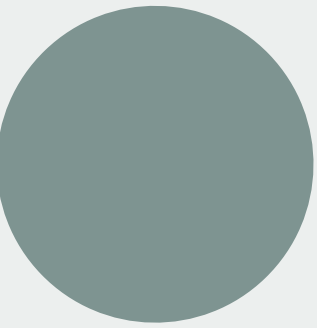
Gone but not Forgotten

Martha Sharp Joukowsky

By Leila Badre, Former Director of the
Archaeological Museum

The sad passing of Martha Sharp Joukowsky on January 7, 2022, marks the end of a long and generous association between the Joukowsky family with AUB, and with the AUB Archaeological Museum in particular.

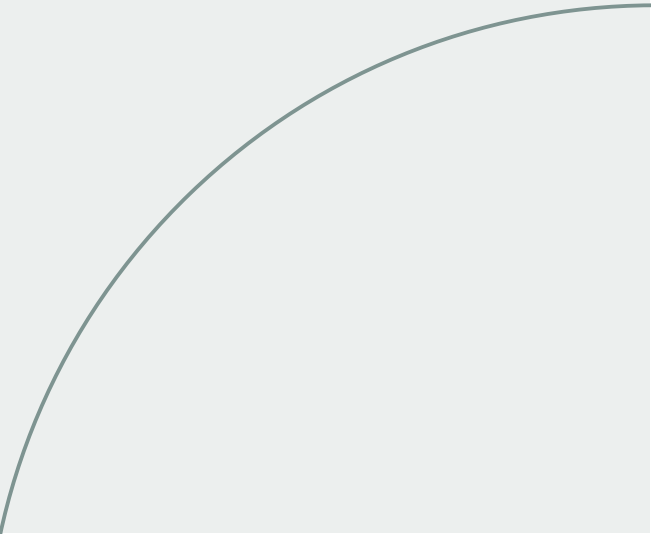
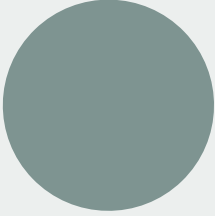


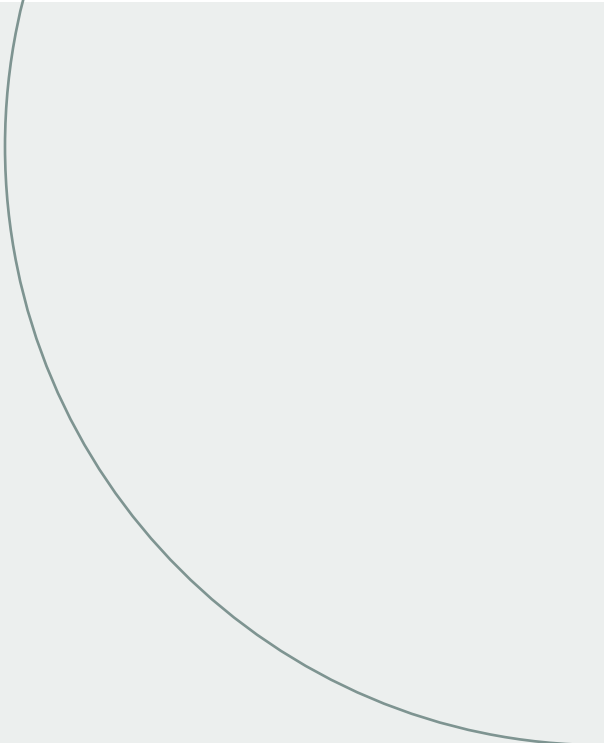


Former Director Leila Badre recalls the life and academic achievements of her dearest lifelong friend and colleague of over 50 years and pays tribute to Martha as a gifted archaeologist and generous donor.

Martha, her husband, Artemis, and their three children, Nina, Timi, and Misha, arrived in Beirut in 1966. They remained in Lebanon for eight years during which time Martha developed a deep interest in the ancient Middle East, earning an MA in archaeology from AUB in 1972. She later pursued her PhD at the Sorbonne Paris I University where she received her Doctorate d'Etat in 1982, with a thesis on the prehistory of Aphrodisias, Western Anatolia (published in 1996).

Her passion for field archaeology began in 1969 when she joined the excavation team at the Phoenician site of Sarafand directed by Prof. James B. Pritchard of Pennsylvania University (1969-74); and also, the AUB Museum project of Tell el Ghassil led by Prof. Dimitri Baramki. She wrote her MA thesis on the Bronze and Iron Age pottery from that site.








Thus, a career in archaeology was born and everywhere that Martha lived thereafter, she engaged in local excavations among them the Neolithic Sham Wan site in Hong Kong in 1974 and the NYU expedition to Aphrodisias, Turkey (1975–1986). Her great enthusiasm in the field led her to write *A Complete Manual of Field Archaeology* (1980).

Martha taught archaeology extensively at New York University and later at Brown University where she was appointed as professor of Old World Archaeology in 1984 until her retirement in 2002. During these years she conducted her major excavation project of Petra in Jordan, where she discovered the Great Temple (published in three volumes 1998, 2001, 2016).


In all Martha published 10 books and over 250 articles.






Due to her continuous success in the field, Martha held several honorary positions including president of the Archaeological Institute of America (1989-1993) and vice president of American School of Oriental Research. She was appointed AUB trustee in 1987 and became a trustee emerita in 2010. She was also trustee emerita of Brown University and a professor emerita in the Department of Anthropology and Center for Old World Archaeology and the Joukowsky Institute of Archaeology. Along with these honors came a further series of honorary degrees and awards: honorary doctorate from Brown University (1985), the Brown University's President's Medal, and the King Hussein Gold Medal.

Martha and her husband, Artemis, were very generous supporters and cared deeply about the AUB Archaeological Museum. Their first donation was contributed for the transformation of the museum storage space into a multifunction activity hall for lectures, exhibitions, children's programs, deeply enhancing the life and attendance at the newly renovated museum.






This was followed by a second munificent two-million-dollar donation partly for museum endowment and partly to complete renovations of the museum renovation helping to transform it into the vibrant gem of a museum and an asset to AUB.

In all these years, Martha's attachment to the AUB Museum always remained strong. In 2018, she welcomed an invitation by Leila Badre to attend—along with eight of the world's most important museum curators—the historic International Colloquium From Collection to Museum on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the AUB Archaeological Museum. There was no better or more enthusiastic keynote speaker who spoke with jubilation about her long association with the AUB Museum.





Remembering Martha with love and respect, I wish to conclude, “Dearest Martha, you were by nature a great teacher, and having been your roommate throughout many years at the digs in Lebanon, I have learned so much from you: from your wisdom, imagination, kindness, and penetrating thoughtfulness. Through our 53 endearing years of friendship, you have been my mentor, my inspiration in countless ways, and a dear loving friend. As I wrote in my contribution for your 65th birthday book: ‘You have been and always will be a real LESSON OF LIFE to me.’

May your soul, dear Martoushka, rest in Peace.”



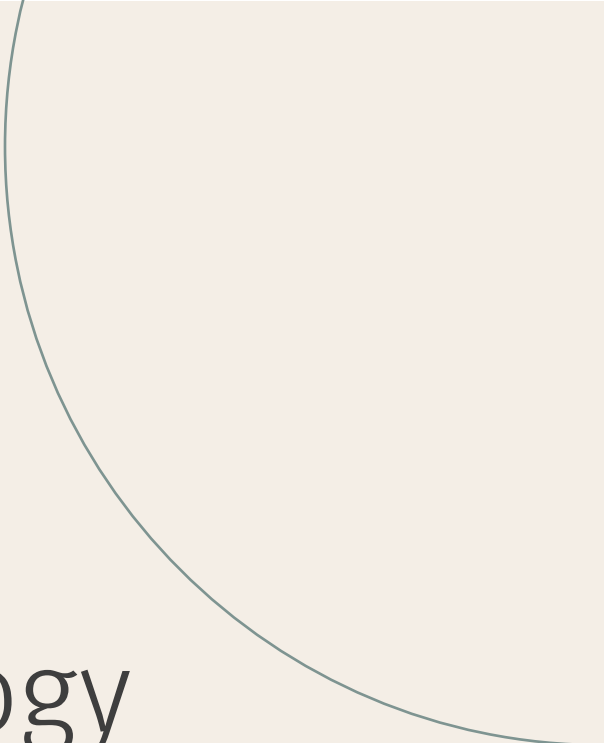
Vassos Karageorghis

By Leila Badre, Former Director of the
Archaeological Museum

It is with great sadness that we also share the news of the passing away of Prof. Emeritus Vassos Karageorghis on February 1, 2022, at the age of 92.

Former Director Leila Badre pays tribute to Karageorghis as a brilliant archaeologist who worked tirelessly to preserve and promote Cypriot archaeology, including his keen professional interest in the Cypriot collection of the American University of Beirut Archaeological Museum.



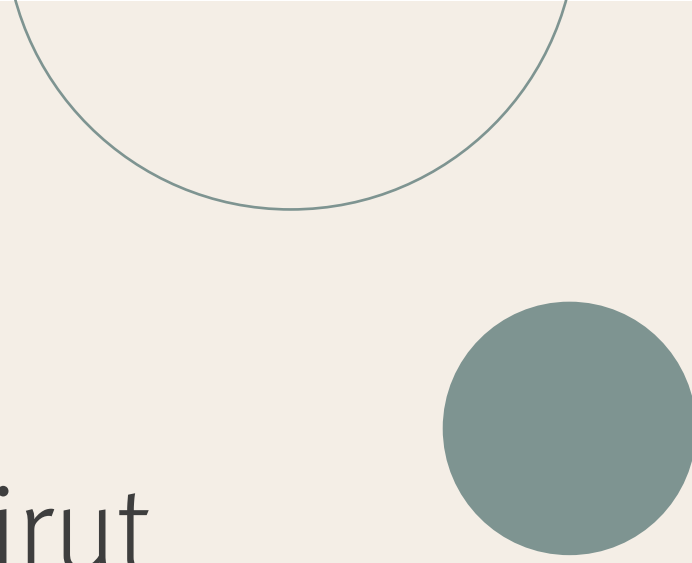


Vassos Karageorghis studied archaeology at the Institute of Archaeology of the University of London (1948–1952). He received his doctorate from the same university in 1957. After completing his studies, he returned to Cyprus and embarked on a brilliant career as an archaeologist at the Department of Antiquities, where he became director in 1963 until his retirement in 1989.

The department flourished under his leadership: several archaeological museums were established throughout Island and many sites were excavated bringing to light impressive discoveries (e.g. the royal necropolis of Salamis, the monumental temples of Kition, the settlements of the Late Bronze Age in Pyla and Maa, and many others).

Along with these locally organized Cypriot excavations, Karageorghis invited eminent foreign archaeologists to excavate. He organized a series of international scientific conferences bringing together distinguished archaeologists from all over the world to discuss the archaeological exchanges between the Aegean and the Levant. These excavations and conferences served to promote Cypriot archaeology at an international level.







We at the American University of Beirut (AUB) Archaeological Museum were privileged to be included among the many lectures he gave abroad on subjects of Cypriot archaeology.

Between 1989–2010, Karageorghis served as director of the Leventis Foundation. During his tenure, 10 important collections of Cypriot antiquities, from the largest and most important museums in the world (the British, the Louvre, the Metropolitan, Moscow, Oxford, Athens, Royal Ontario Copenhagen, etc.), were re-exhibited and published.

Moreover, with his unlimited interest and profound enthusiasm for Cypriote archaeology, Karageorghis himself published no less than 125 books and more than 485 articles.

As an advisor to George Vasileiou, president of the Republic of Cyprus (1989–92), Karageorghis played an important role in the establishment of the Archaeological Research Unit (ARU) in 1991. He served as its director until 1996.


With the power given to him by the Antiquities Law, Karageorghis fought many battles to save Cypriot archaeological sites under threat from tourist developments.



Similarly, in his position as UNESCO advisor for the conservation of the archaeological sites during the reconstruction project of Beirut Town Center, he managed to push for saving the oldest part of 11nd millennium and Phoenician Beirut. Lebanon owes him a lot for this legacy as well as the one he left behind in Cyprus.

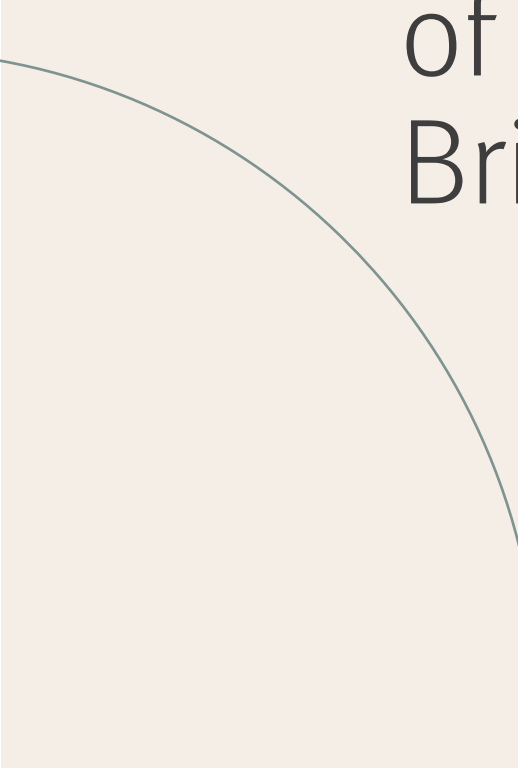
We, in Lebanon, are also proud that in 2009, the Cypriot collection at the AUB Museum attracted Karageorghis' interest enough to add us to his list of international museums and publish our collection along with all other Cypriot collections worldwide. This collection, which was part of the Cesnola Cypriot collection, is of primary importance to AUB as it was the very first archaeological contribution to the newly established Syrian Protestant College (later AUB) in 1866. It formed the nucleus of the AUB Museum established 1868, making it the third oldest museum in the Near East.

Additionally, in 2003, Karageorghis paid a special visit to Tell Kazel, the AUB excavation site on the Syrian coast.



Located on the main passage between the Mediterranean coast and the Syrian hinterland at the unique break point between the two long al Ansariyeh mountain chains, Tell Kazel played an important strategic role in controlling access to this major trade route. The extremely rich imported Cypriot and Mycenaean material discovered on this site captured Karageorghis' interest and we profited from his great expertise on this very important subject. But for Karageorghis, *la cerise sur le gâteau* was the Hamidiyeh village near Tell Kazel, inhabited by people of Cretan origin who all still speak Greek. It was an emotional meeting for him; stories from which he shared back home in the local Cypriot press.

Karageorghis was widely recognized at home and abroad for his brilliant career in archaeology. He received the highest awards from many universities and research institutes including the Academy of Athens, the British Academy, French Academy, Swedish Academy, and the Academia dei Lincei. He was also honored with prestigious international prizes, while in May 2008, Karolos Papoulias, president of the Hellenic Republic, awarded him the Brigadier General of the Order of Honor.





This was followed in 2011 with the State Award for Archaeology of Cyprus, the highest award given by the Republic of Cyprus for the preservation and promotion of the cultural heritage. In 2016, he was appointed as one of the four founding members of the Cyprus Academy of Sciences, Letters and Arts.

I would like to end this obituary by quoting the description by Karageorghis' colleagues at the University of Cyprus: "A man whose great vision for the promotion of the cultural heritage of his country, leaves behind a tremendous and long-lasting oeuvre that will remain indelible in the memory of many who knew him".

We, in Lebanon, will miss not only this great figure of culture in general and of archaeology in particular, but also his charming character and exceptional warmth.

Vassos Karageorghis RIP



Trip to Tyre

by Maureen Ali

At 8 am on June 4, bright and early, a bus full of Friends set off for the first AUB Museum trip for four years. There was a sense of liberation as they took the road south to Tyre UNESCO World Heritage Site, the site of yet another remarkable discovery! An international team currently excavating there had just revealed the remnants of a Roman period temple complex.



Curator Nadine Panayot and Prof. Francisco J. Nuñez



Prof. Francisco J. Nuñez of the University of Warsaw in Poland guided the AUB Museum Society members at the recently discovered Roman temple at Tyre

Prof. Francisco J. Nuñez of the University of Warsaw in Poland greeted the group on arrival and generously shared his time on site explaining the latest findings. Working alongside Prof. Nuñez, Prof. María Eugenia Aubet, also from University of Barcelona, and Tyre Regional Director Ali Badawi (Directorate General of Antiquities Lebanon). Their findings are just the latest of many key sites that make Tyre such a remarkable location as Prof. Nuñez explained:

“From an archaeological perspective, the almost-five-millennia of uninterrupted occupation make Tyre both a fascinating object of study and a difficult one.”



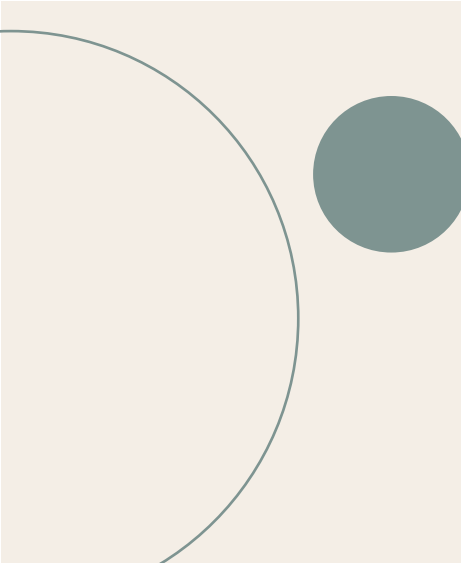
Prof. Francisco J. Nuñez on the site of Tyre

He went on to outline the challenges the team face as they unearth the layers of the Roman temple currently under excavation, at a site adjacent to the medieval cathedral.



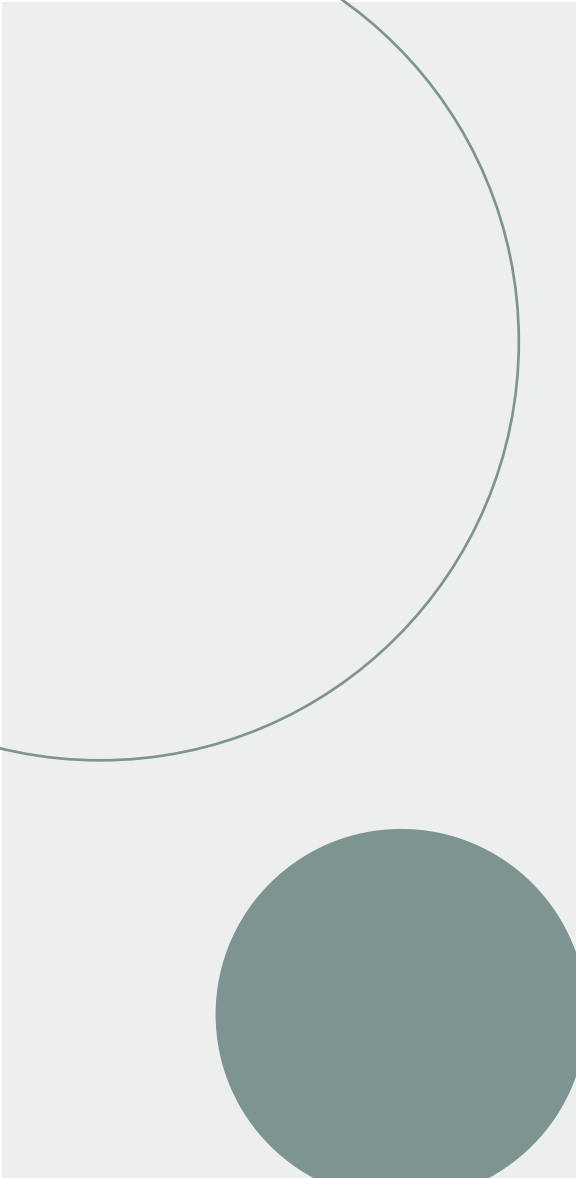
The recent discovered Roman temple

The visitors had been well briefed on the history of Tyre and its archaeology by Curator Nadine Panayot as they made their way south enjoying the sea views and the banana plantations still tenaciously hugging the coast, almost a remnant of history themselves. Curator Panayot reminded the group that excavations have uncovered remains of the Graeco-Roman, Crusader and Byzantine civilizations, but that most of the remains of the Phoenician period lie beneath the present town.




Then in 2012, Leila Badre recovered the first complete Phoenician temple of Lebanon in Tyre, previously excavated but unidentified as such by Emir Maurice Chehab. Panayot circulated enlarged pictures of the temple as a reminder of the many contributions by the AUB Museum team to the archaeology of Lebanon.

Known as the “Queen of the Seas”, Tyre was one of the first Phoenician metropolises, said by Herodotus to have been founded around 2750 BC. It prospered greatly under the Phoenicians, and in so doing, became an object of desire from the time of Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon to Alexander The Great and well beyond. Alexander coveted Tyre as part of his conquest of the Persian Empire, and in 332AD, he laid siege to the city for seven months finally conquering it by linking its island to the mainland creating a causeway and thus seizing and demolishing the city and killing or selling its citizens. He was followed by many other conquerors including the Crusaders whose mark has been left of the long-suffering city.



After a long and interesting tour of the site conducted by Prof. Nuñez, the Friends returned to the Al Fanar Hotel—historically the AUB Museum excavation base—where they were received like kings and served the catch of the day and a traditional Lebanese Mezze.

Wending their way home, they pressed Curator Panayot for more anecdotes and information about Tyre, arriving back at Medical Gate both sated and stimulated. The resounding conclusion—
more trips please!!



New Initiatives and Collaborations

Connecting Collections Initiative:

Connecting Collections, an initiative founded by leading US university museums, highlights and promotes relationships between museum collections across the globe through the production of shared social media content. This initiative includes over 20 institutions around the world. It comprises thematic monthly stories shared on social media sites such as Instagram and Facebook and promoted by partnering institutions to increase public awareness of the collective works.

AUB Archaeological Museum continues to take part in this initiative.

Museum assistant Reine Mady is collating the AUB stories and following up on this initiative through social media.

Oct. 28, 2021

The #connecting collections themes were on:

#Clay theme: pottery vessels at the AUB Museum .

[Click here](#)

Nov. 18, 2021

#Museum Professions theme:

1. Museum assistants at the AUB Museum

[Click here](#)

2. Volunteers at the AUB Museum (Nov. 23, 2021)

[Click here](#)

#Ancient Celebrations theme: Incense burner (Dec. 23, 2021)

[Click here](#)

#Museum Firsts theme: Cesnola collection
(Jan. 25, 2022)

[Click here](#)

February 10, 2022

the AUB Archaeological Museum
and the National Museum of Beirut
received a #MuseumLoveLetter from
Yalebabyloniancollection in recognition of
their wonderful work following the Beirut
blast of August 4th, 2020.

#Love theme: Eros & Psyche
(Feb. 14, 2022)

[Click here](#)

#FacilitiesChallenges (March 29, 2022)

[Click here](#)

#Provenance/Provenience:
Our archaeological collection at the AUB
Museum (April 23, 2022)

[Click here](#)

#Architecture: Model houses at the
Museum (May 31, 2022)

[Click here](#)

#Color: Glass objects with vibrant colors
(June 29, 2022)

[Click here](#)

Official Visits to the Museum

January 4, 2022

Kristina Hayden: Public Affairs Officer (U.S. Embassy Beirut)



February 23, 2022

Visit of Mr. Takeshi Okubo, Japanese Ambassador



April 19, 2022

Visit of Mr. Jesús Santos Aguado, Ambassador of Spain



March 4, 2022

In coordination with Qatar Scholarship-EAA Program, Adriana Lima (Brazilian model and actress) visited the AUB Museum.



March 12, 2022

Visit of Dr. Andrea L. Balbo (ALIPH)

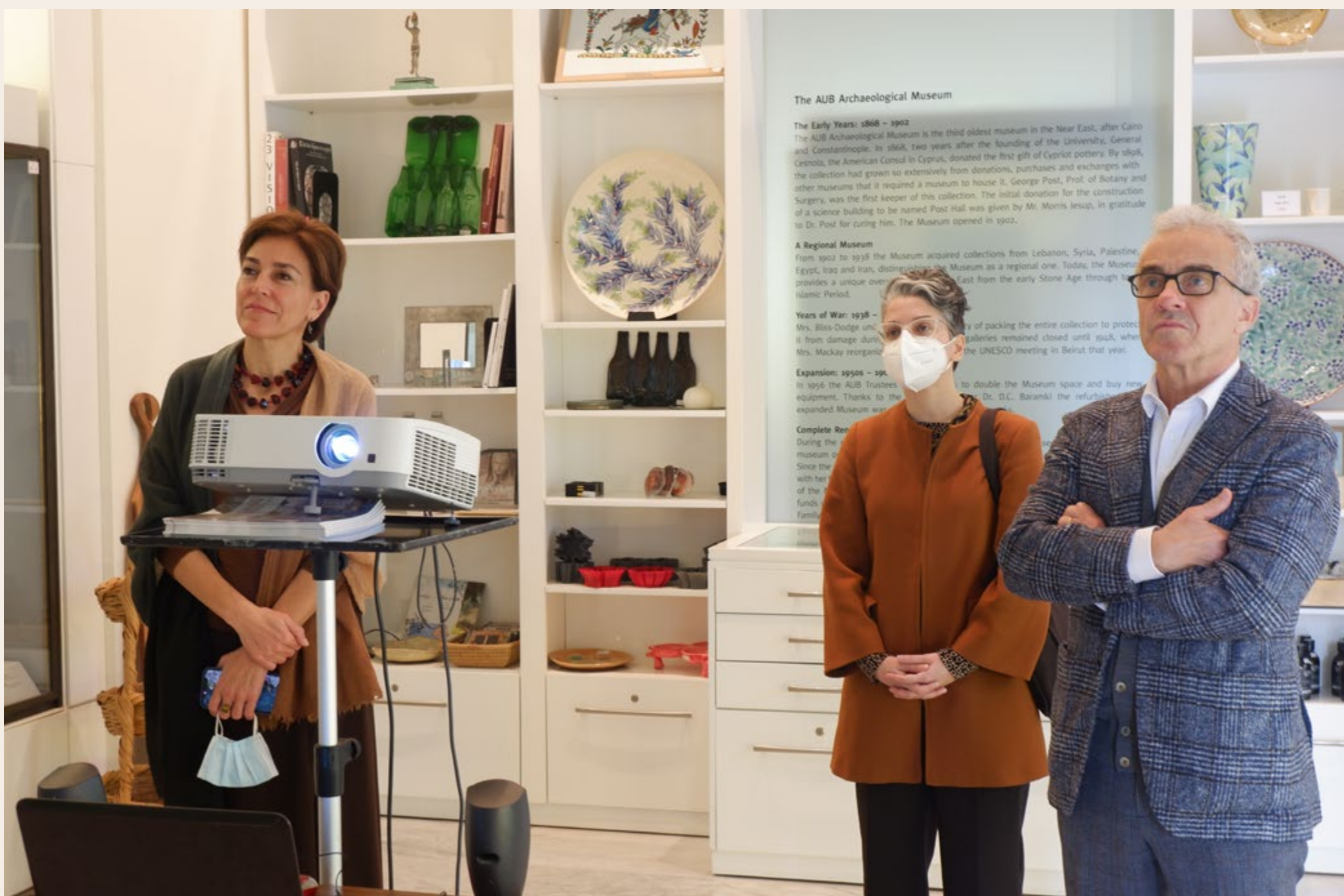
March 14, 2022:

Visit of a Group from the U.S embassy



March 15, 2022

Mr. Hermano Telles Ribeiro, Ambassador of Brazil



Museum in the Media

Article on the International Colloquium “Through Shattered Glass”

Jan. 18, 2022

L’Orient Le Jour :

Musée de l’AUB : un nouveau souffle pour les verres antiques balayés par les explosions du 4 août 2020
by May Makarem

[*Click here*](#)

Article by Claire Cuyaubère :

« Sauvetage et conservation-restauration de verres du musée archéologique de l’Université Américaine de Beyrouth après l’explosion du 4 août 2020 »

Publication: November 2022

Report on the AUB Archaeological Museum by Iraqia Beirut

شبكة الإعلام العراقي - قناة العراقية مكتب بيروت
(Amin Nasser)

Articles and videos on the International women’s day:

March 8, 2022

ICI Beyrouth : “Mother Earth”, l’installation/sculpture d’Andrée Hochar Fattal by May Geha Badawi

[*Click here*](#)

March 10, 2022:
Nidaalwatan Watch

video

احتفالاً بالمرأة في الجامعة الأميركية في بيروت
”أمننا الأرض“ و”يوميات شهرزاد

تقرير: جورج بوعبدو

March 10, 2022:
Nidaalwatan

Click here

أمننا الأرض“ و”يوميات شهرزاد“ احتفالاً بالمرأة في
الجامعة الأميركية في بيروت

Snippets from the guided tour of Andrée Hocha Fattal’s Mother Earth exhibition by Dr. Nadine Panayot, curator of the AUB Archaeological Museum:

Link 1

Link 2

Link 3

Link 4

الدورة الإقتصادية:

معرض ، أمنا الأرض لمنحوتات أندره هوشار فتال في
متحف الجامعة الأميركية في بيروت

Link 1

Link 2

adwaaalkhalej.press/archives/7990

minbeirut.online/archives/15801

alnarjes.online/archives/22305

**Inauguration au Musée Archéologique de
l'AUB de Mother Earth, une installation des
sculptures d'Andrée Hochar Fattal**

Click here

**International Museum Day (May 18,2022) :
Cette semaine, nous irons au musée !**

18 mai 2022

Click here

**إلى المتاحف دُر: دعوة من وزارة الثقافة لغاية ٢٧
أيار... وأخرى ”ضابطة للإيقاع“ ليوم واحد**

18-05-2022

Click here



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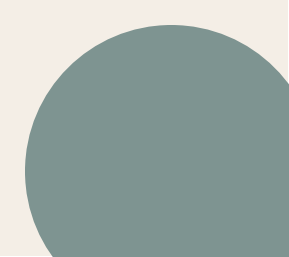


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The AUB Archaeological Museum is now open for visits by the members who have received their COVID-19 vaccinations. If you have any questions, please email us at museum@aub.edu.lb or call us +961-1-759665 or +961-1-350-000, ext. 2660 or 2661.

We look forward to welcoming you at the museum soon.

About the Society

Founded in 1979 to encourage public support and use of the museum, members in the Society participate in many activities including lectures, children's activities, cultural trips and excursions as well as many social events. All society members receive a subscription to the Museum Newsletter.

Due to the restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic, Society activities were put on hold throughout academic year 2020-21 but not the memberships of our Friends.

We would like to invite you to renew your membership for the year 2022-23.

Your continued support would be much appreciated.

Annual Membership fees:

Membership	200.000 LL
Family	300.000 LL
Contributors	400.000 LL
Fellow	1.000.000 LL
Student	20.000 LL



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The Museum Recovery Fund:

click here to watch

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