

In ancient Egypt, *Ba* was the name given to an immaterial manifestation of a mummified human which flew away after death but always returned, bringing light and nourishment. Like the *Ba*, the ghost of ancient Egypt haunts the collective memory in an eternal return and by reflecting itself in the changing mirror of history. *Immortal Egypt* is a series of international workshops devoted to the way artists looked at the land of the pharaohs – before the discovery of the Rosetta Stone which marked the birth of modern Egyptology – and how their artworks have mirrored Egypt through the ages.

These workshops, held in London, Rome and Paris, will question the complex interactions between continuity, discontinuity, survival and rebirth by employing the tools of art history, visual anthropology and the history of ideas. Participants will reflect on the heritage of a strange, complex, changing, close and distant Antiquity, as well as on the creative processes that have ensured its posterity. We adopt a novel approach lying at the crossroads between Egyptology and Egyptomania, a term we use in the global sense of interest in Egypt. Archaeologists and art historians will trace interrelated themes, identifying the metamorphoses and anamorphoses of *ægyptiaca* and considering its realisation in different artistic media and modalities of artistic expression at multiple scales. Crossing the many paths of creative process, we will explore an Egypt that is less a place than an idea, less a historically determined reality than a figure of cultural memory. Egypt as it has been artistically re-imagined is a land both without geographical confines and without temporal limits, since its origins lie in a bygone past, back to the beginning of the world.

This triptych of workshops will take place in three prestigious institutions – the Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, the Bibliotheca Hertziana, the Warburg Institute – in three cities whose history is particularly linked to Egypt. Each of them represents a facet of the prism of European receptions of *ægyptiaca* and their iconic and cultural circulation, as well as the multiple forms taken by their reproduction.

We will contribute to the understanding of these “figures of memory” along with their mutations and ramifications by offering an overview of the history of the representation of Egypt in Europe – a history of illuminating knowledge, of magical beliefs, of antiquarian mania and of political greatness which has a prominent place in the history of Western civilisation.

#### CONCEPT

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#### ORGANIZATION

LAURENT BRICAULT  
LUISA CAPODIECI  
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#### BIBLIOTHECA HERTZIANA

MAX PLANCK INSTITUTE  
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#### FOR PARTICIPATION

ONLINE ON VIMEO CHANNEL  
PLEASE FOLLOW THIS LINK:

April 13, 3:00 pm:  
[https://vimeo.com/  
event/3225930](https://vimeo.com/event/3225930)

April 14, 9:30 am:  
[https://vimeo.com/  
event/3226048](https://vimeo.com/event/3226048)

#### IMAGE

G.B. Piranesi, *Egyptian mural decoration for the Caffè degli Inglesi, Piazza di Spagna, from *Diverse maniere d'adornare i cammini*, Rome, 1769.*

# Immortal Egypt

## The Afterlife of Egypt in Early Modern Visual Art / 2

### INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP

Roma, 13–14 April 2023

**Bibliotheca Hertziana,  
Max Planck Institute for Art History**



## Thursday, 13 April 2023

### Afternoon session

15.00 | **Welcome**  
TRISTAN WEDDIGEN, *Bibliotheca Hertziana*

15.15 | **Introduction** LUISA CAPODIECI and LAURENT BRICAULT

Chair: TRISTAN WEDDIGEN, *Bibliotheca Hertziana*

### HIDDEN GODS

15.30 – 16.00 | **“Inventio Aegypti”**: Transmission, Knowledge and Interpretation  
GIUSEPPINA CAPRIOTTI VITTOZZI, *Istituto di Scienze del Patrimonio Culturale – Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche*

16.00 – 16.30 | **The Veil of Symbol or the Hieroglyphic Illusion: Egyptian Gods and Writing and their Uses in Sixteenth-Century Emblematic Collections**  
ANNE ROLET, *Université de Rennes 2*

16.30 – 17.00 | Discussion and coffee break

### ISIS OF A THOUSAND NAMES

17.00 – 17.30 | **Isis myriomorphos**  
LAURENT BRICAULT, *Université Toulouse Jean Jaurès*

17.30 – 18.00 | **Was Pierio Valeriano an Egyptologist? Considerations on the 39<sup>th</sup> Book about Isis in the “Hieroglyphica” (1556)**  
STÉPHANE ROLET, *Université Paris 8 Vincennes Saint-Denis*

18.00 – 18.30 | Discussion and concluding remarks

18.30 | **KEYNOTE Egypt in Medals before Champollion. Obelisks, Sphinxes and Pyramids: between Antiquarianism and Freemasonry**  
FRANÇOIS DE CALLATAÏ, *Bibliothèque Royale de Belgique, Bruxelles*

## Friday, 14 April 2023

### Morning session

Chair: SERGIO BOTTA, *Sapienza Università di Roma*

### PETRIFIED SUNBEAMS

09.30 – 10.00 | **Life and Survival of Egyptian Obelisks through Centuries and Countries**  
FRANCESCO TIRADRITTI, *Università G. D'Annunzio, Chieti*

10.00 – 10.30 | **Roman Obelisks “ad maiorem Dei gloriam”:  
Athanasius Kircher and Egyptian Monuments as the “membra disjecta”  
of the “prisca theologia”**  
JEAN WINAND, *Université de Liège*

10.30 – 11.00 | Discussion and coffee break

### DIVINE ANIMALITY

11.00 – 11.30 | **A Reflection of Divine Light: Bestiaries on Graeco-Egyptian Amulets**  
THOMAS GALOPPIN, *Université Toulouse Jean Jaurès*

11.30 – 12.00 | **Another Rome: The Enchanted Bestiary of Giovanni Battista Piranesi**  
ELISA BOERI, *Politecnico di Milano*

12.00 – 12.30 | Discussion and concluding remarks