

## "Museums Reimagined: Egypt's New Exhibit Spaces"

**Dr. Marissa Stevens**, University of California, Los Angeles

Lecture: Apríl 13, 2024 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m

Ticketed Onsite Event: Free for Bowers and ARCE

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Marissa Stevens is the Assistant Director of the Pourdavoud Institute for the Study of the Iranian World. Trained as an Egyptologist who studies the materiality, social history, and texts of the Third Intermediate Period and Late Period, she first earned an Honors B.A. in History and Sociology from Washington & Jefferson College and an M.A. from the University of Chicago, before completing her Ph.D. at the University of California, Los Angeles in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures. Her dissertation focused on 21st Dynasty funerary papyri to determine funerary iconography's role in defining an individual's social identity, specifically with respect to titles, social position, family lineage, and gender of the Theban elite. Combining art historical and linguistic approaches, her research interests focus on how objects can solidify, maintain, and perpetuate social identity, especially in times of crisis when more traditional means of self-identification are absent.

Museums in Egypt have undergone radical changes in the past years. With the construction of the long-awaited Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM), keystone institutions such as the Egyptian Museum in Cairo and the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization (NMEC) have undergone many changes. Their collections, as objects have been earmarked for the GEM, have been negotiated. Their spaces have been renovated for new permanent collections to be displayed. Their futures as repositories of knowledge on a global stage have been reimagined. This talk will provide an overview of the current state of the GEM, the Egyptian Museum, and NMEC and provide viewers with recent images that show the state of the collections and buildings.



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ARCE-OC - American Research Center in Egypt Orange County Chapter

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