



“Sacred Writing, Hidden Power: Egyptian Cryptography”

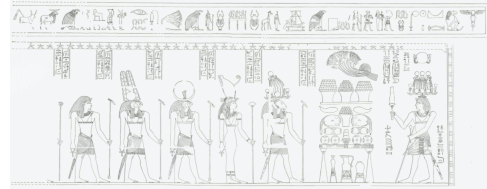
Dr. Jonathan Winnerman, (University of California, Los Angeles)

Lecture: May 4, 2024 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m

Ticketed Onsite Event: Free for Bowers and ARCE Members | General \$15

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Dr. Jonathan Winnerman is Academic Administrator for Ancient Studies at UCLA and Assistant Director of Global Antiquity. He joined UCLA in 2018 after receiving his PhD from the University of Chicago. An expert in ancient Egyptian literary and visual culture, his research focuses on comparative systems of sacred kingship and power in Egypt and across ancient worlds. He is also interested in the relevance of such ancient systems of power today.

The ancient Egyptian hieroglyphic script was always figurative by nature. This writing system allowed scribes to take advantage of the dynamics of both textual and visual spheres to combine them and create new meaning. One particularly intriguing example of this are so-called cryptographic texts, which occasionally appear on the perimeter of Egyptian temples. These inscriptions, which can be a challenge to read even for experts, employ unique arrays of deities and divine icons to create a text whose meaning was intentionally hidden. This talk will explore three examples of this phenomenon to discuss the interplay between hidden and visible worlds, ask why such texts appear where and when they do, and propose how they may shed new light on larger aspects of Egyptian kingship and religion.

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