January Teacher Professional Learning Day
Harvard Semitic Museum

Art Power: Teaching History with the Art of Mesopotamian Kings

WHO: 6th -11th grade social studies teachers
WHAT: An offsite day of professional learning about Mesopotamia
WHY: To improve teacher understanding of Mesopotamia and practice teaching activities for use with students.
WHEN: 9 am to 2:30 pm, Friday, January 19, 2018
HOW: Visit reservations to reserve your spot. Deposit required.

Spend a day in ancient Assyria as you practice exercises designed to help students build their historical and aesthetic understanding through personal reflection about ancient sculpture. You will see the way the propaganda and world view of Mesopotamian kings is reflected in royal art and become more capable of employing museum exhibits with your students. Using these activities on future field trips will help your students become more comfortable and engaged in museum settings. Experience an overview presentation about Assyria to provide context and social studies content. Visit the museum’s collection study room with Curator Adam Aja to compare replicas to original artifacts and discuss why reproducing this history matters. Leave having practiced and discussed the exercises with teacher peers so you feel comfortable using them in any history or art museum setting. Support materials and links to the original artworks are included.

Teachers who complete the workshop may bring up to 2 classes free of charge to the Harvard Semitic Museum from January 2018-January 2019. Reservation required.
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The leader of the professional learning day is Dr. Annie Storr, an expert in Art History and deeply engaged with ways to help people learn more from museum exhibitions. She is on the faculty of Montserrat College of Art, is a leader of gallery-based teaching and learning courses at the Harvard Summer School and was the founding chair of the Department of Art Education at the Corcoran College of Art/Corcoran Gallery of Art.

COST: Free. $25 deposit required to reserve your space. The deposit will be refunded upon completion of the workshop. Lunch is on your own.

DIRECTIONS: Take the redline subway to Harvard square and walk 10 minutes or drive but reserve a parking space in advance ($17) for Harvard’s 52 Oxford Street garage. Use code 2021 if prompted.

Call 617-495-2916 with questions.

ABOUT: By developing ancient Near Eastern exhibitions, the Harvard Semitic Museum explores the rich history of cultures connected by the family of Semitic languages. Exhibitions include a full-scale replica of an ancient Israelite home, life sized casts of famous Mesopotamian monuments, authentic mummy coffins, and tablets containing the earliest forms of writing. The galleries span three floors and are fully accessible by both stairs and elevator.

HSM phone is 617-495-4631.