

## Palmyra-Talks

### The State of Egyptian Heritage Post 2011

lecture by

**Dr. Monica Hanna**

**Head of the Cultural Heritage Unit – The Arab Academy for Science, Technology and  
Maritime Transport in Aswan**

**Thursday, September 27, 2018, Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna, 6 p.m.**

**Rsvp: [www.icom-oesterreich.at](http://www.icom-oesterreich.at)**

Since the uprising of 2011, looting has been pandemic in Egypt. It has attacked Ancient Egyptian, Coptic, Islamic and contemporary sites. This continual desecration of Egyptian Heritage for the past years is reaching the antiquities market that has expanded and grown. New markets in the Gulf Region, Far East and Eastern Europe are adding to the continuous demand in North America and Western Europe on Egyptian artefacts. The Gulf Region has turned into a huge market place for Islamic objects, while North America and Europe are the biggest markets for Egyptian artefacts. The profits made of the illegal trade in cultural and ethnographic Egyptian objects are going into the money laundry channels and sometimes are used to fund extremism. This lecture will document whenever possible the events and dynamics of looting, the areas of illegal digging and the ways by which these objects leave the country.



## PROGRAM

### Welcome

**Dr. Georg Plattner, Director of the Greek and Roman Antiquities Collection & Ephesos Museum, Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna**

**Mag. Elke Kellner, Managing Director, ICOM Austria**

### Keynote

**“The State of Egyptian Heritage Post 2011”**

**Dr. Monica Hanna, Head of the Cultural Heritage Unit – The Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport in Aswan**

Born in Heliopolis, Egypt she began her academic studies at the American University in Cairo, where she majored in Egyptology with a minor in Archaeological Chemistry. She then pursued her doctorate at the University of Pisa with a dissertation on the "Problems of Preservation of Mural Paintings in the Theban Necropolis: a Pilot Study on the Theban Tomb 14 using 3D Scanning Techniques." Throughout her studies and especially since completing her PhD, she has been actively involved with protecting Egypt's archaeological sites, but also with issues of cultural identity and education of these important aspects. She has been a member of archaeological expeditions at Saqqara and Thebes as well as several cultural resource management projects around Egypt, notably at Serabit el-Khadim. She furthered her research and engagement through a post-doctoral fellowship at the Humboldt Universität zu Berlin. 2016 she was appointed as Associate Professor and Founding Dean of the newly founded College of Archaeology of Cultural Heritage at the Arab Academy of Science, Technology, and Maritime Transport. The Academy is part of the Arab League University system with campuses in Cairo, Alexandria, and Aswan.

During her Post-Doc in Berlin, she decided to return to Egypt to document the looting situation there in light of the 2011 uprising. Making use of the power of social media, Dr. Hanna created and maintains the Egypt's Heritage Task Force, which documents these losses of cultural heritage around Egypt and brings them to the attention of the world stage. She has worked tirelessly to reduce the illicit trade in antiquities and worked with government officials to protect Egypt's cultural heritage. For her work, she received the 2014 SAFE Beacon award and was appointed UNESCO Monuments Woman.

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