



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Everybody's Darling? A Look Beyond the Iconography of the Nude Hero

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Abstract

The so-called Nude Hero with his wild hairstyle is a monster well-known in Ancient Near Eastern iconography from the 3rd to the 1st millennium BC. Depicted on a wide range of different objects, like cylinder seals, reliefs, figurines, or terracotta plaques, the motif can be found on official artworks as well as in private households. Due to the wide chronological and geographical distribution the image makes an excellent test case to evaluate how an image conveys a message. Looking beyond the mere iconographic aspects of the Nude Hero this paper will address the following questions: How does the composition of an image affect its memorability and thus its suitability to convey a certain message? How strong are the interdependencies between an inscription and the object it is written on? And in what way does the social context change the conception of an image?

Keywords

Nude Hero, longevity, social context, message transmission

Session

4. The materiality of inscribed and figurative objects

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