

Saving the Art and Archaeology of Nimrud: An Ancient Assyrian Capital



Katharyn Hanson, Ph.D.
Postdoctoral Fellow, Nimrud Recovery Project
Museum Conservation Institute

The ancient city of Nimrud, also known as Kalhu or Biblical Calah, was the lavish capital of a Neo-Assyrian empire that stretched from the Gulf to the Mediterranean around 800 BC. Human habitation at Nimrud dates back to the late fourth millennium BC and at its height in the ninth century BC, its ancient walls encircled over 900 acres that included temples, palaces, elaborate monumental buildings, a ziggurat, and some of the world's most famous archaeological artifacts. Nimrud's remarkable remains can be seen at major museums around the world, and its renowned carved reliefs, gold burial goods, and sculptures of giant winged lions and bulls are a reflection of the political power and artistic skill in ancient Iraq.

Located just 20 kilometers south of Mosul, Nimrud suffered greatly from intentional destruction by ISIS. Today Nimrud is under Iraqi military control and Smithsonian is working the with the Iraqi State Board of Antiquities and Heritage (SBAH) and their Rescue Nimrud Team from Nineveh Province on developing rescue skills, planning documentation and salvage work. This lecture will highlight the ancient art and archaeology of Nimrud, as well as provide an update on the Rescue Nimrud Team's work.

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Topics in Museum Conservation

October 20, 2017
10:45 am
Friday

MCI Theater

MUSEUM SUPPORT CENTER
4210 Silver Hill Road
Suitland, MD 20746
301-238-1240



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