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Metropolitan Museum of Art

Caring for Archaeological Materials: Ethical Considerations and Practical Approaches

FEBRUARY 24, 2023, 3:30pm
ART 003 or on Zoom

The stewardship of artifacts from archaeological contexts is an increasingly complex practice. It demands not only an understanding of an artifact's material properties but also engagement with complicated (and often contradictory) ethical frameworks. From the impact of the climate crisis on collections management practices to reckoning with the intertwined legacies of archaeology and colonialism, conservators of archaeological materials are often faced with challenging decisions for which there is no clear "right" answer. Conservators have increasingly acknowledged that our work is not neutral, and that our actions have the capacity to highlight - or obscure -

aspects of an artifact's biography. This lecture will present several case studies which address these issues, from the story-telling capabilities of materials science and conservation intervention to highly complicated negotiations between sustainability and access.



Anna Serotta is an Associate Conservator in the Department of Objects Conservation at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.

To attend this talk via Zoom, please register here:

<https://washington.zoom.us/meeting/register/tjwodOGhpjkoGtA-f6LXNnf21p1tjhIP7zop>

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