

POINTE-À-CALLIÈRE

# EGYPT

☀️ THREE MILLENNIA ON THE NILE ☀️

Exhibition until October 15, 2023



# EGYPT

• THREE MILLENNIA ON THE NILE •

With its three thousand years of history, Ancient Egypt is one of the world's most long-lived and brilliant civilizations. Both mysterious and distant, it has continued to fascinate people throughout history, as shown by the excitement over each new discovery about this society.

Through an exceptional historical circuit, the exhibition *Egypt. Three Millennia on the Nile* presents 320 authentic objects from the magnificent collection of the Museo Egizio in Turin, Italy, in a North-American exclusive.

From the origins of this civilization to the Roman conquest, the exhibition immerses visitors in a moving portrayal of daily and domestic life in Ancient Egypt by way of its power structures, animal worship, and funerary and religious practices.

The exhibition shines a light on our latest knowledge about this society that developed along the cradle of the majestic Nile River and the reasons for its extraordinary longevity.

Don't miss this exciting exhibition on a civilization that never ceases to amaze!



WITH THE FLOW  
OF THE NILE

Life in Ancient Egypt revolved around the Nile's highs and lows. In addition to providing water, game and fertile silt that led to abundant harvests, the river teemed with fish, such as perch that were not only a dietary staple and also a form of payment and compensation.



Model of boat | Carved, stuccoed, and painted wood  
First Intermediate Period — Middle Kingdom (2118–1700 BCE)  
49 x 86 x 215 cm



Limestone statue of the god Ptah holding two scepters: one of power (*was*) and one of stability (*djed*)

Statue of the god Ptah  
Early New Kingdom (1390–1353 BCE)  
106 x 41 x 71 cm; 400 kg



Egyptian art was above all utilitarian. Skilled artisans learned their art from a master, who maintained a continuity of style in the beautiful objects made for both the living and the dead. These craftspeople were protected by Ptah, the god of artisans, who created the world using his will and his words.

Starting in the 1st millennium BCE, artisans continually produced shabtis, or funeral statuettes that were generally made from faience.

Shabti of the Pharaoh Psamtik | Faience  
Start of the Late Period (664–525 BCE)  
17.3 x 5 x 3.6 cm

ARTIST OR ARTISAN?



# LIFE IN ANCIENT EGYPT

Social classes, people and family values governed Egyptian society. Many documents testify to marriages being loving and affectionate, and the average family had 6 to 8 children. Since education was reserved for the wealthier classes, most children began helping their parents at around the age of five. Although the nature of work was gender-based, women enjoyed greater freedoms compared to most of their contemporaries in the ancient world.

Except during ceremonial occasions, Ancient Egyptians walked barefoot most of the time.

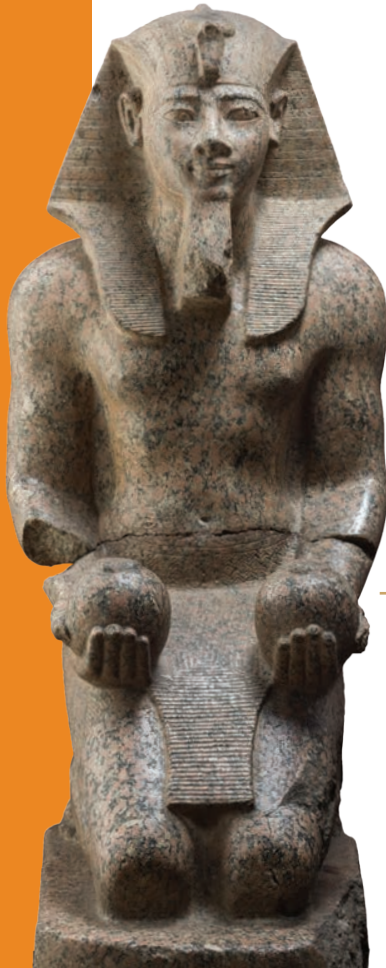
Pair of sandals | Plant fibre  
New Kingdom (1539–1076 BCE)  
14 x 11.7 x 36.5 cm



In funerary contexts, statues of couples expressed the strong bond between two people in life and beyond.

Statuary group of Panehesi and Tarenu | Sandstone  
Middle of the New Kingdom (1292–1190 BCE)  
90 x 54 x 51 cm; 290 kg

# POWER AND HIERARCHY



This statue of pharaoh Amenhotep II is considered a masterpiece of New Kingdom art. A highly regarded military leader, he is kneeling in a sign of great humility while offering two jars of wine to the gods in a ritual to seek their protection.

Statue of Pharaoh Amenhotep II | Granite  
Early New Kingdom (1539–1292 BCE)  
152 x 57 x 79 cm; 635 kg

# ANIMALS AND GODS

Omnipresent in the Egyptians' daily lives and religious beliefs, animals were thought of as embodiments of the gods. For example, they associated cats with the goddess Bastet, protector of maternity, and invoked her to resolve domestic disputes. The worship of Bastet became so prevalent that it spread into the Mediterranean basin.



This cat mummy, wrapped in coloured bandages to create complex geometric designs, illustrate the extraordinary quality of Late Period embalming techniques.

Cat mummy | Animal organic material and linen  
Late Period – Ptolemaic Period (722–30 BCE)  
39.5 x 8.5 x 10 cm

Unusually for a civilization of this period, Ancient Egypt had a complex and stratified administrative system. Power was concentrated in the hands of one person, the pharaoh, who maintained order in society with the help of the vizier, his "right hand." Other officials included nomarchs, priests, nobles, architects, soldiers, and artisans. At the bottom of society, farmers and servants spent their lives serving their rulers and the elite.



# ACHIEVING ETERNAL LIFE



This magnificent stele depicts the deceased received by a series of gods rendered in bright chromatic combinations.

Stele of Paiuhor | Wood, probably coniferous, stuccoed and painted  
Ptolemaic Period (332–30 BCE)  
56 x 35 x 13 cm

The high social status of Ibi, an important religious figure in Thebes, is reflected in his sarcophagus. The lid portrays Ibi in the deceased's ideal form—the appearance of the god Osiris. His wonderfully polished face borders on perfection in its harmonious forms.

Sarcophagus lid of Ibi | Greywacke.  
Start of the Late Period (664–525 BCE)  
195 x 26 x 62.5 cm; 560 kg

Ancient Egyptians imagined the afterlife as a paradise where one lived forever. For the deceased person to pass over, the body had to be preserved through mummification and embalming techniques. Next, according to their mythology, the deceased's soul would be judged by the god Osiris, and their heart had to be lighter than the feather of justice. This meant that the life they lived now would follow them... for eternity. The quest for the afterlife gave their daily lives purpose and inspired their dazzling culture that clearly influenced the peoples who came later. We owe Ancient Egypt our intellectual heritage, our writing, the birth of architecture, and the concepts of space, time, and eternal life. Perhaps they also gave us the expression "to be lighthearted"!



The Ancient Egyptians believed in multiple gods, who shared kinship and certain attributes and explained the world around them, for example, by causing the sun to rise, the seasons to change, or the Nile to flood.

Fighting alongside pharaohs and represented as a human with a lioness head, this goddess of war could massacre her enemies with her ferocious breath. The number of statues depicting Sekhmet is extremely high—some scholars number them at over 700!

Statue of Sekhmet | Granodiorite  
Early New Kingdom (1390–1353 BCE)  
218 x 41 x 56 cm; 445.4 kg

## A POLYTHEISTIC RELIGION

